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Hindustan Times
PACE



PARTNERSHIPS
FOR ACTION
IN EDUCATION



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

WISE WORDS »

Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.



Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

t20 wc

PROTEAS RIDE WHIRLWIND 50 BY MARKRAM TO CRUSH WINDIES >P6



South Africa's Aiden Markram AP

located 28 mn light-years away

A FIRST: PLANET FOUND IN GALAXY BEYOND MILKY WAY

The possible Saturn-sized planet spotted by Nasa's Chandra X-Ray Telescope is part of the Messier 51 galaxy, that is also known as the Whirlpool galaxy. >R5

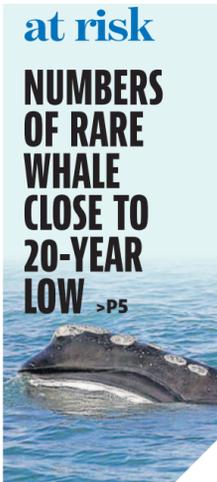


The Milky Way. The discovery of the first planet outside our galaxy is significant because nearly 5,000 exoplanets which have been found so far are located within the Milky Way. SHUTTERSTOCK



run-up to cop26

2020 WAS ASIA'S HOTTEST YEAR ON RECORD: UN >P4



NATION

Natural disasters cost India \$87 bn last year, says WMO State of Climate in Asia report

NEW DELHI: India lost \$87 billion last year due to natural disasters such as tropical cyclones, floods and droughts, according to the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) "State of the Climate in Asia" report released on Tuesday. The development came just days before a UN-led summit on climate change, COP26, starts in Glasgow, Scotland.



Cars submerged in floodwaters at the Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand on October 19 AP FILE

The disasters that hit India resulted in an average annual loss (AAL) of several hundred billion dollars, as estimated by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which the WMO referred to in its report. China recorded the highest loss, at \$238 billion, followed by \$87 billion in India and \$83 billion in Japan. The highest AALs were associated with drought, the WMO said.

average.

There were many heat extremes, including an all-time record of 38 degrees Celsius at Russia's Verkhoyansk, which is the highest temperature recorded anywhere north of the Arctic Circle, according to the report.

The South and East Asian summer monsoons were both unusually active last year, combined with frequent tropical cyclones, caused floods and landslides, leading to loss of life and displacement in many countries.

The report also highlighted the impact of climate change days ahead of the COP26 UN summit that begins on October 31, saying that last year was the warmest year on record in Asia with a mean temperature 1.39 degrees Celsius above the 1981-2010

(Related report on p4) HT

Shah pays tribute to CRPF jawans killed in 2019 Pulwama attack

SRINAGAR: Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday paid homage to 40 CRPF jawans who were killed in the deadly Pulwama terror attack in February 2019, an incident which had nearly brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war.

Shah, who was on a four-day visit to the Union Territory, laid a floral wreath at the memorial constructed last year for the victims of the attack carried out by Jaish-e-Mohammad.

The home minister was scheduled to return to Delhi on Monday, but extended his stay to spend the night with CRPF jawans at CRPF Campus in Lethpora in Pulwama. The venue is at a stone's throw distance from the site of the deadly car bomb attack.

Shah's visit to the martyrs memorial has an added layer of symbolism as it comes on a day marking 74 years of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India.

Following the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, October 26 has been declared a public holiday in the Union Territory. PTI

12,428 new Covid-19 cases reported, lowest in 238 days

NEW DELHI: India saw a single-day rise of 12,428 new Covid-19 cases, the lowest in 238 days, while the active cases declined to 1,63,816, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Tuesday.

With the fresh cases, the total tally climbed to 3,42,02,202, while the death toll climbed to 4,55,068 with 356 fresh fatalities, according to the data updated at 8 am. Kerala has reconciled 228 fatalities from the previous period, officials said, adding that 53 deaths have been reported from the state in the last 24 hours.

The daily rise in new coronavirus infections has been below 30,000 for 31 straight days and less than 50,000 daily new cases have been reported for 120 consecutive days now.

The active cases comprise 0.49% of the total infections, the lowest since March 2020, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.18%, the highest since March 2020, the ministry said. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.10%, according to the ministry. PTI

CITY LIGHTS

City's rainfall recorded this year is highest since 1901

NEW DELHI: Having already received 1,502.8 mm of rainfall so far this year, Delhi is poised to break the all-time record for annual precipitation. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the national capital gauged 1,534.3 mm of rainfall in 1933, the highest annual precipitation in the 1901-2021 period. This is only the fourth time in 121 years - after 1933, 1964 and 1975 - that Delhi has received more than 1,200 mm of rainfall. The Safdarjung Observatory, considered the official marker for the city, has recorded 1,502.8mm of rainfall till Monday evening. It is the second-highest rainfall in the capital since 1901 when the IMD started maintaining data, an official said. To put things into perspective - Delhi had recorded 773.2mm of rainfall last year. PTI



This year marks only the fourth time in 121 years - since 1933, 1964 and 1975 - that Delhi has received more than 1,200 mm of rainfall PTI FILE

Demand for reopening of DU campus grows louder

NEW DELHI: The chorus for reopening the Delhi University campus has grown louder with several teachers and students demanding resumption of offline teaching as the Covid-19 situation has normalised in the national capital. The university, however, plans to tread a cautious path and is awaiting guidelines from the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA). Members of the All India Students' Association are on a 48-hour hunger strike to press for their demand of reopening the campus for students. Akshit Dahiya, president of the Delhi University Students' Union, said laboratory classes resumed for final-year students last month but the attendance is still poor. "Online classes do not fulfil the same objectives as offline teaching," he said. PTI

IIT Delhi to offer MTech in Machine Intelligence

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi will start a new post graduate programme focused on artificial intelligence from next year, according to officials. "The School of Artificial Intelligence (ScAI) at IIT Delhi will start a new post graduate programme focused on artificial intelligence. IIT Delhi's Senate, the faculty body responsible for taking all major educational decisions, has approved the proposed programme titled "M Tech in Machine Intelligence and Data Science (MINDS)," a top official of the institute said. MTech in MINDS will be a flagship educational programme for the school and is expected to begin in July 2022. This will be the second degree offered by the department. Earlier, the school started a PhD in Artificial Intelligence. PTI

SCHOOL EVENT

JPS, FBD, TEACHERS HOST FRUIT & VEGETABLE FIESTA

The educators at Jiva Public School (JPS), Faridabad, organised a fruit and vegetable

fiesta for its students to teach them about the significance of fruits in their daily diet. The year 2021 has been declared



as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) to raise awareness about the nutritional and health benefits. More on p2

WORD POWER

Imperceptible

Im-per-sep-tuh-buhl

Adjective

Meaning: So slight, gradual, or subtle as not to be perceived.

Origin: Late Middle English from French, or from medieval Latin imperceptibilis, from in-'not' + perceptibilis, from the verb percipere.

Synonyms: impalpable, inappreciable, indistinguishable, insensible

Antonyms: appreciable, discernible, palpable, perceptible, ponderable, sensible

Usage: His head moved in an almost imperceptible nod.

WORLD

US to lift travel curbs for fully vaccinated foreigners from Nov

WASHINGTON: The US will lift all restrictions for fully vaccinated international travellers, including from India, from November 8 but they will have to show proof of a negative coronavirus test before boarding a flight to the country, the White House has announced. The updated travel guidelines issued on Monday also include new protocols around testing. To further strengthen protections, unvaccinated travellers - whether US citizens, permanent residents or the small number of accepted unvaccinated foreign nationals - will now need to test within one day of departure. PTI

Study finds 'robust' evidence that Covid is seasonal infection

LONDON: Covid-19 may be a seasonal infection linked to low temperatures and humidity, much like seasonal influenza, according to new "robust" evidence found by researchers. The study, recently published in the journal Nature Computational Science, also supports the considerable contribution of airborne SARS-CoV-2 transmission and the need to shift to measures that promote "air hygiene." A research team led by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Spain, noted that a key question regarding SARS-CoV-2 is whether it is behaving, or will behave, as a seasonal virus like influenza, or whether it will be equally transmitted during any time of the year. PTI

Japan's princess Mako gives up title as she marries commoner

TOKYO: Japan's Princess Mako, the niece of the emperor, married college sweetheart Kei Komuro on Tuesday, giving up her royal title and saying she was determined to build a happy life with her "irreplaceable" husband after a tumultuous engagement. "I'm aware that there are various views on our marriage. I feel very sorry for those (for) whom we have caused trouble ...," said Mako, who will from now be known as Mako Komuro, having had to give up her royal title after marrying a commoner, in line with Japanese law. REUTERS

SCHOOL REPORTS

JPS, Fbd, teachers host fruit & vegetable fiesta



The children took part in a number of interesting activities during the event

The educators at Jiva Public School (JPS), Faridabad, organised a fruit and vegetable fiesta for its students to teach them about the significance of fruits in their daily diet.

The year 2021 has been declared as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) to raise awareness about the nutritional and health benefits.

The fiesta began with the educators introducing the students to cool and soothing watermelon and mint mojito, fruit ice-cream, kiwi, corn, mango and vegetables sprouts and many more that are part and parcel of learning and activity plan.

The playful learning and activity included various aids and tools for an everlasting knowledge. The kids were first introduced with a fruit and were asked to draw and colour it in their scrapbooks. It raised their interest level. With their teachers, they learnt how to prepare watermelon mojito or mango shake, enhancing their culinary skills.

The kids took part in an interactive discussion on the fruit wherein the teachers skillfully informed them about its health benefits, explaining the biological and geographical place of origin.

The 'grandma tale activity' mesmerised the toddlers and they also enjoyed the 'kiwi party'. They learnt about slicing and decorating ideas, besides the basic table manners and right usage of cutlery.

The fun and frolic was further extended by engaging them into other interesting activities such as crafts work, singing and reciting, and watching the visuals through relevant videos.

Such a detailed fun-filled learning activity helped the toddlers learn about the importance of fruits in their regular diet, take precautions and use home remedies for minor ailments such as mint mojito for cold.

Playing and learning are natural for the children. Play-based learning is driven by intrinsic motivation and creates a free environment for experimentation and team work and enriches key skills such as enquiry, expression and creativity.

One of the salient features at JPS is to impart knowledge to its students for their holistic development in a playful and interesting manner. Its pedagogy stimulates the learners to explore every realm of knowledge -- be it the origin, history or geography, with a judicious inclusion of technology for visuals through relevant videos.

Such a detailed fun-filled learning activity helped the toddlers learn about the importance of fruits in their regular diet, take precautions and use home remedies for minor ailments such as mint mojito for cold.

LFPS, SHIVAJI PARK, MANAGING DIRECTOR GETS CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

It was a proud moment for Little Flowers Public Sr. Sec School (LFPS), Shivaji Park, when its managing director Rohit Dua was honoured with the certificate of appreciation by prestigious and leading organization Optimal Media Solutions for his excellent contributions in the field of education.

The award was given to highlight the top effective 'Times Education Icons' under the Challengers category. The school was felicitated for securing Rank 4. Principal Neeta Dua congratulated Rohit Dua for his achievement. Manager CM Patel lauded the LFPS team for its commendable endeavour and gave her best wishes for its future success.

The apt intensity of eminence and a prestigious platform is all it entails to bring the exceptional efforts taken by innovative leaders for inspiring the future education of the world to their due adulation.



School managing director Rohit Dua, right, was honoured by prestigious organisation Optimal Media Solutions

2ND K-12 EDU LEADERS SUMMIT

Focus on impact of Covid-19 on education and role of technology

Universal Mentors Association (UMA) in association with Asia Africa Consortium (AAC) will host the 2nd K-12 Edu Leaders Summit, India's biggest school leaders' summit, in New Delhi on Saturday. It is India's one of the biggest offline conferences in the education sector, with the participation of over 150 schools.

The day-long conference with over renowned 50 speakers from across the country will throw light on the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on education fraternity.

Various education leaders will discuss the strength, weakness, opportunities and threats in the current education scenario, especially when the schools have started to reopen, and the role of technology and its impact on the education.

The objective of event is to interact physically with the speakers, attendees and more than 10 technology partners who will discuss the future of education.

This event will also witness participation from CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education), NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training), NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation) and other key government bodies.

Besides CBSE director Dr Biswajit Saha, over 50 CEOs, owners and principals of the K-12 segment, more than 10 government authorities and over 10 partners from Ed-Tech Space will also attend the event.

The highlights of the inaugural session will be the launch of AAC, education magazine Source, the peace ambassador project, and the safe school certification followed by a media interaction session.

There will be three panels discussions on the key issues faced by the schools and the way forward for the reopening of schools.

In addition, there will also be a round table discussion with 15 school principals who will discuss about the key issues and solutions in the K-12 segments.

In the award ceremony, the top 50



During the October-30 summit, the education leaders will discuss various aspects of the current education scenario, especially when the schools have started reopening, and the role of technology and its impact on the education (REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE) SANCHIT KHANNA/HT

CBSE schools of North India will be awarded for their exemplary work in the Covid-19 times. Peace ambassadors across the world will be appointed during the peace ambassador coronation event.

The event partners are: gold partner Jabra, mentoring partner Dr Varun Gupta, education technology partner Practically, music partner Torrins, supporting partner The Puri's Global Immigration, associate partners Apar Technologies, Connexim and Quest, and exhibitors Seneca College, Law School Admission Council and Education Initiatives, and media partner Postman News.

The new appointees of Peace Ambassadors 2021 in accordance with the UNSDG goals of promoting peace, equality, health, education and global partnership for sustainable growth and well being are: Rockwoods Group of School director Deepak Sharma, Immiglobal Services Pvt Ltd director Rajeev Tiwari, Jagran Group of Institutions CEO Dr Chandrashekhar DP, Kamal Model Sr Sec School principal Vandana Tandon, Pinnacle International School

principal Arun, and Delhi International School principal Dr Priti Ojha.

AAC founder and renowned educationist Dr Varun Gupta informed that these profiles have been short-listed under the category of Promotion of Peace through Education. We appreciate their great work and are hopeful that these dignitaries will continue spreading the message of peace, love, humanity and brotherhood throughout the country. These young leaders have an excellent track record of promoting peace building, conflict resolution, and community building.

Despite the health, social and economic challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, these peace ambassadors have used their experience and expertise to create meaningful change, said Dr Gupta.

UMA founder Sandeep Gulati said it is the need of the hour that we discuss the reopening of schools post-Covid and the necessary steps to be taken by schools to not only ensure the safety of the students but also giving emphasis on the learning outcomes for the students.

JMV, GTK Road, students take up mantle of leadership



The student council event was live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook

The student council members of Jain Bharati Mrigavati Vidyalaya (JMV), GTK Road, assumed the mantle of leadership during a virtual event.

JMV co-chairman DK Jain, manager Manish Kumar Jain, principal Anupma Bhardwaj, former Meghalaya DGP SK Jain (retired IPS officer), PTA executive committee vice-chairperson Anand Dhiman, alumni Simran Jain (fashion designer) and Shradha Khapra (Microsoft software engineer), students, their parents and teachers attended the event. The event was live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook platforms.

The event began with the invoking of the blessings by the chanting of the pious Namokar Mahamantra. Thereafter the council members were introduced. The House Flag and

School Flag ceremonies added to the grandeur of the occasion. Bhardwaj administered the oath to the cabinet.

The head boy and head girl (senior section) shared their mission of upholding the legacy of the Vidyalaya and realising the vision of Acharya Vijay Vallabh Surishwarji Maharaj and Sadvi Shree Mrigavati Maharaj. This was followed by an excellent dance performance by JMV artists.

The guest alumni expressed their exuberance at being invited and felt proud of their alma mater. They emphasised on the role of school's core values -- vinay (politeness), vivek (wisdom) and vishwas (faith) -- in the shaping of one's personality.

The programme culminated with a vote of thanks proposed by JMV head boy Akant Ratan.

Inspire School, Paschim Vihar, celebrates festive season

Inspire School, Paschim Vihar, celebrated the festive season with a lot of zeal and festive fervor. That event resonated with spectacular performances of victory of good over evil.

On that occasion, the students took part in a plethora of activities which varied from musical ballet, story yoga, Ramayana skits, to dance and recitation. All those activities performed by the students left everyone spellbound.

The soulful and pious spirit

enhanced the occasion. The skits reverberated with thought-provoking presentations by the students.

The school believes in the equitable access to quality education which is of paramount importance for the holistic development of a child.

The school teachers keep the students engaged and motivated through their structured plans and goals for the students to help them (the students) acquire creativity, oratory and organizational skills and virtues.

The holistic development of the child is of utmost priority for the school. It is achieved through online learning as it is the panacea for the kids in the new normal in the Covid-19 times.

The celebration of festivals is a reminder to live in harmony as it fosters good values like humility, perseverance, kindness, empathy and many more. Inspirations were given the perspective that one can learn from each character.



The students took part in a plethora of activities

MIND GAME

SUDOKU

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

SCRAMBLE

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

ILVAA	*		*		
ELLIS		*	*		
BENONT			*		*
DELNOB	*				

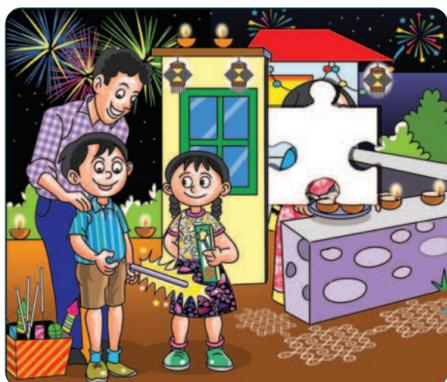
Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.

It is easier to ___ than to restrain. -- French Proverb (7)

Answer: It is easier to abstain than to restrain. -- French Proverb

COMPLETE THE PICTURE

Which jigsaw piece completes the picture?



Amrita Bharati Features

Answer: b.

MATHDOKU

10+			7+		10x
1-			10+		
				5:	
12x					
			8x		24x
6:					

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.

'MONUMENTAL' TRIBUTE



A girl poses for a photograph in front of 'The Hero Monument' sculpture made by Italian sculptor Sergio Furnari, in Manhattan's Grand Army Plaza in New York on Monday. A symbol of hope and love, this sculpture has been dedicated to the health care workers around the world. AP

Solutions

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

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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

MATHDOKU SOLUTION

SCRAMBLE Solution Words: Avail, Lisle, bonnet, blonde

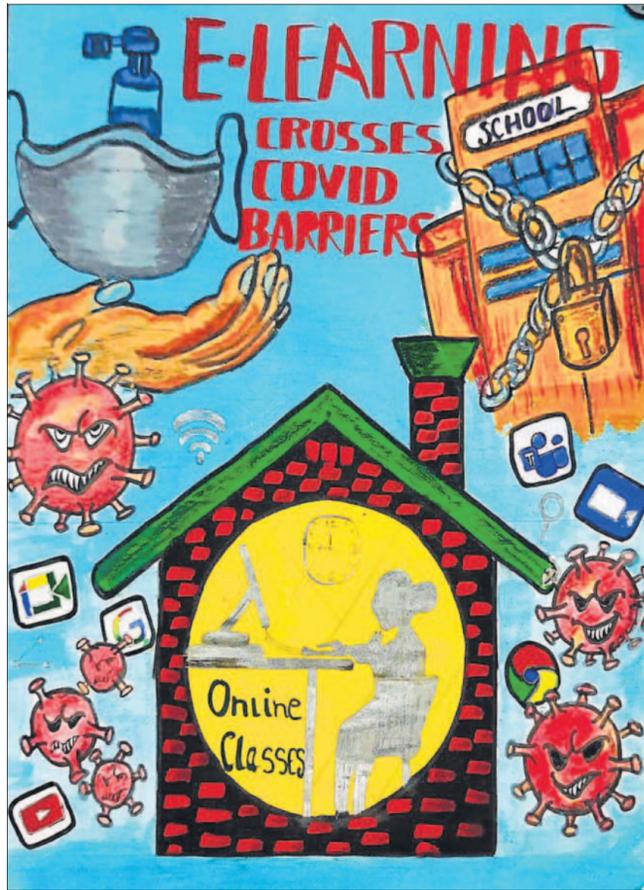
Students keeping their spirits high with art and verse

Students are giving free rein to their imagination by indulging in artistic works such as paintings and poetry. Along with studies, students are engaging in creativity. Here are some wonderful works done by children.



Kumlesh Guglani
Class 11 E,
St. Mark's Sr Sec
Public School
Janakpuri

Atharva Tyagi,
Class 4 A,
DAV Public
School, Sector 14,
Faridabad



VERSE ZONE

Struggle for freedom

The chains, with which we were once trammelled, are now broken.
Today we breathe free in our country so beautiful.
From the deep blue oceans,
To the snowflakes on a mountain,
Everything appears flawless,
In this newly found freedom.
The sky appears boundless,
The aura is filled,
With the scent of liberty.
Today we stand here as people not bondsmen.
The eyes which had seen,
The departure of their kin to the beyond,
Are now filled with tears of victory.
The scars of long fought battles and prejudice, are now healing.
The myriad of martyrs finally ends here.
The golden bird can finally stretch its wing
And fly heights above heights
In the unceasing celestial sphere.
But, Oh there! What do we see!
The golden bird can't reach the heights.
Its wings are still bruised from the past.
It is unaware of the hurdles,
The present and the future hold.
From what is known, freedom reigns our land,
But are we truly free?
We won't be free unless,
Each one of us is liberated
Of all the humanly sins and repugnant actions.
We won't be free as long as,
The innocent souls are followed
By baleful shadows.
We won't be free unless,
Those who don't confine themselves
Within brackets of "girls" and "boys"
Feel safe and at home.
We won't be free as long as,
Taboos massacre imagination.
We won't be free unless,
We place humanity above all.
We won't be free as long as,
The cruel lords enjoy the warmth of luxury
While the helpless poor shiver on the streets.
In the book of freedom,
The past was just a few chapters.
The story is yet to be written.
The ending is yet to be found.
The greater struggle is yet to come,
With greater minds and hearts
Forged ahead to make this land free.
For there is no covenant
That freedom once found cannot be lost.
The struggle for liberation
Is prolonged.
Many have been lost and will still be lost
To this greater cause.
The past doesn't dampen our spirits
The future doesn't appal us
The present awaits us
Its our turn to keep this land safe
And never cease
to fight for our share, our right
and our freedom.



Shambhavi Gupta, Class 10 E, Ryan
International School, Vasant Kunj



Vanshika Lamba, Class 8 A,
Adarsh Public School, Vikaspuri



Aarav Arora,
Class 6 B,
Rukmini Devi
Public School,
Pitampura



Nachiketa Dwivedi
Class 4,
St. Columba's
School,
Ashok Place

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INDIA'S CLIMATE-RELATED LOSSES \$87 BN

Asia suffered hottest year on record in 2020: UN

Agence France-Press

GENEVA: Asia suffered its hottest year on record in 2020, the United Nations said Tuesday ahead of the COP26 summit, with extreme weather taking a heavy toll on the continent's development. In its annual State of the Climate in Asia report, the UN's World Meteorological Organisation said every part of the region had been affected. "Extreme weather and climate change impacts across Asia in 2020 caused the loss of life of thousands of people, displaced millions of others and cost hundreds of billions of dollars, while wreaking a heavy toll on infrastructure and ecosystems," the WMO said. The report also laid bare the total annual average losses due to climate-related hazards. China suffered an estimated \$238 billion, followed by India at \$87 billion, Japan with \$83 billion and South Korea on \$24 billion.

Prolonged displacement

Increased heat and humidity are forecast to lead to an effective loss of outdoor working hours across the continent, with a potential cost of many billions of dollars. "Weather and cli-

mate hazards, especially floods, storms, and droughts, had significant impacts in many countries," said WMO chief Petteri Taalas.

Many weather and climate-related displacements in Asia are prolonged, with people unable to return home or integrate locally, the report said.

In 2020 floods and storms affected 50 million people in Asia, resulting in more than 5,000 fatalities. Asia's warmest year on record saw the mean temperature 1.39° Celsius above the 1981-2010 average.

Glaciers shrinking

In 2020, average sea surface temperatures reached record high values in the Indian, Pacific and Arctic Oceans.

Sea surface temperatures and ocean warming in and around Asia are increasing more than the global average. They have been warming at more than triple the average in the Arabian sea, and parts of the Arctic Ocean. Arctic sea ice minimum extent (after the summer melt) in 2020 was the second lowest on the satellite record since 1979.

There are approximately 100,000 sq km of glaciers on the Tibetan Plateau and in the Himalayas – the largest volumes of ice outside the polar regions and the source of 10 major Asian rivers. "Glacier retreat is accelerating and it is projected that glacier mass will decrease by 20% to 40% by 2050, affecting the lives and livelihoods of about 750 million people in the region," the report said.

A quarter of Asia's mangroves are in Bangladesh. However, the tropical storm-exposed country's mangroves decreased by 19% from 1992 to 2019, the report said.



In 2020, floods and storms affected 50 million in Asia, resulting in more than 5,000 fatalities. AP

Climate holdout Australia sets 2050 net zero emissions target

SYDNEY: Coal-rich Australia unveiled a much-delayed 2050 net zero emissions target Tuesday, in a plan that pointedly dodged thorny details or near-term goals ahead of a landmark UN climate summit. Widely seen as a climate laggard, Australia is one of the world's largest coal and gas exporters.

For the last eight years, its conservative government has resisted action to reduce emissions, routinely approving new coal projects.

Under domestic and international pressure, Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Tuesday announced a shift in approach and acknowledged the "world is changing". Australians want policy that "does the right thing on climate change", he said, adding the phenomenon "is real, it's happening. We understand it and we recognise it."

Just how Australia will get to net zero by 2050 carbon emissions remains unclear, with the government refusing to release its modelling.

The plan would invest US\$15 billion in low-emission technologies over the next decade, but it also leans heavily on unproven technologies and carbon offsets, which critics deride as an accounting gimmick.

And Morrison was keen to stress he was not dropping long-running sup-

port for the country's lucrative fossil fuel industry. "It will not shut down our coal or gas production or exports," Morrison told a press conference. "It will not cost jobs, not in farming, mining or gas."

The announcement comes just days before Morrison departs for COP26 climate summit in Glasgow.

Australia's reluctance to act had been criticised by close allies such as the United States and Britain.

Indigenous Australians sue gov't over climate change

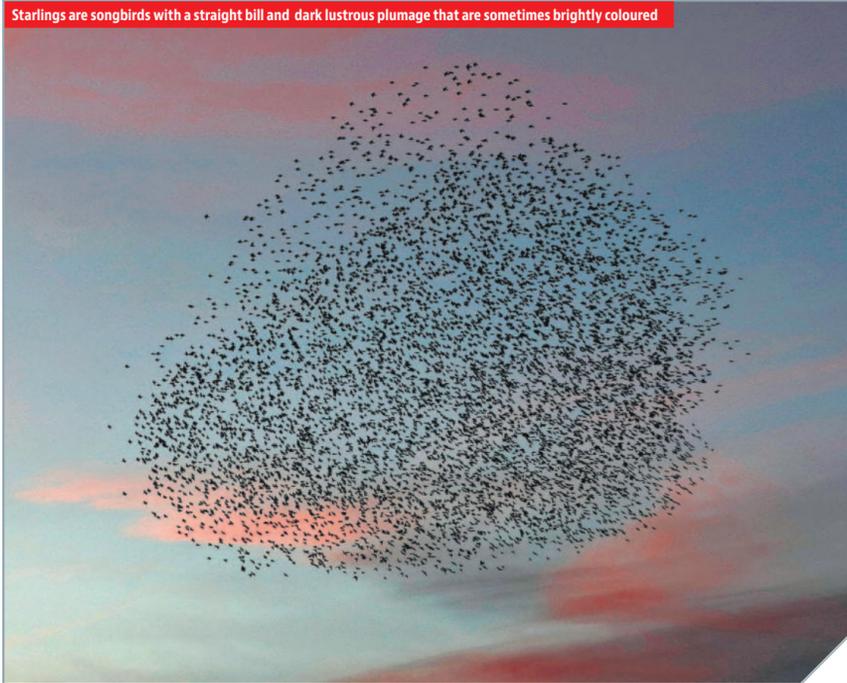
Indigenous residents of low-lying islands off northern Australia filed a landmark lawsuit on Tuesday aimed at forcing the government to protect them from climate change through deeper cuts to carbon emissions.

The Torres Strait Islanders say rising sea levels represent an existential threat to their homelands and culture, putting them "on the frontline of the climate crisis". Lawyers for traditional land owners from Boigu and Saibai – among the worst-impacted islands – want the Federal Court to order the government "to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a level that will prevent Torres Strait Islanders from becoming climate refugees". AFP

Flocks of starlings form a murmuration in Catterick, Britain



Starlings are songbirds with a straight bill and dark lustrous plumage that are sometimes brightly coloured

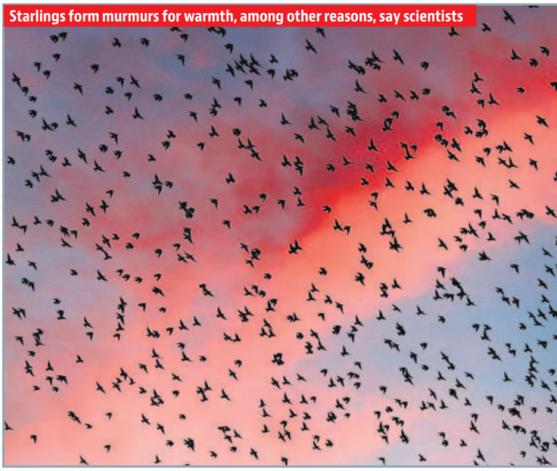


STERLING SHOW BY STARLINGS

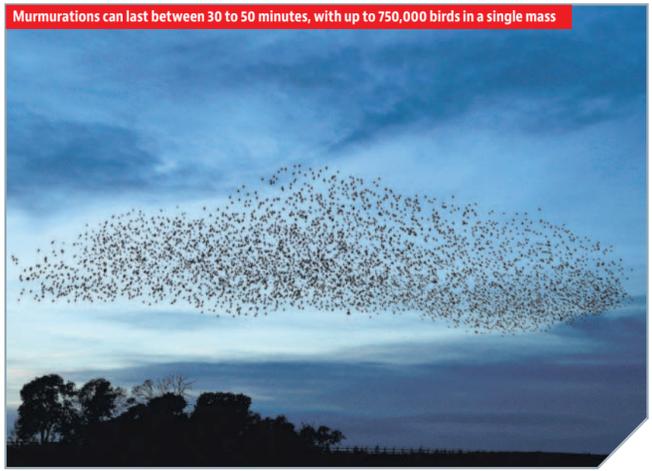
Flocks of starlings recently put on a breathtaking display as they gathered in massive clusters, known as murmuration, at sunset in Catterick, located in North Yorkshire, Britain. Scientists who study murmurations believe they provide the birds warmth and a space to share information, like good feeding areas. A study by the University of Gloucestershire indicates that starlings may also form murmurs to ward off predators like the peregrine falcons and sparrowhawks. Such spectacles have become less common lately due to a fall in starling populations caused by habitat loss and changing farming techniques which affect food supply.

REUTERS

Starlings form murmurs for warmth, among other reasons, say scientists



Murmurations can last between 30 to 50 minutes, with up to 750,000 birds in a single mass



HT CHRONICLE October 27 >> from the archives of the Hindustan Times



They come running for peace

New Delhi – The "First Earth Run" torch arrived here today bringing with it the international message for peace and harmony in the strife-torn world.

The torch was received at the Indira Gandhi International Airport amid arti and bhajan-singing by school children. About 5,000 children had already appealed for peace on various days in a campaign starting from September 16.

Mayor Mahinder Singh Saathi flagged off the First Earth

Run peace march from the National Stadium. Bare-foot children from a local gurukul and many athletes from National Stadium joined the march. Many children, too young to understand the significance of the occasion, joined the march for fun sake.

The peace march went through Connaught Place before the symbolic touch at Rajghat. At Rajghat, the torch was handed over to Milkha Singh, the legendary athlete, who was

joined by runners from the United States, Canada and Nigeria. These runners are accompanying the Earth Run torch till Delhi.

T-shirts, banners and placards sporting the logos like "Children need peace" and "We want peace", drilled home the message of a possible nuclear holocaust due to escalating arms race.



Woman killed, 32 hurt in twin blasts

New Delhi – Diwali shopping turned tragic with two powerful bombs exploding in the congested Karol Bagh area this evening. A 25-year old woman, who was shopping for her trousseau, was blown apart while



32 others were injured, six of them seriously. The devastation would have been worse but for the Act that two explosive devices were detected and defused before they could go off.

Today's incident is the latest in a series of twin blasts which have rocked the Capital since January this year with at least four twin blasts this month alone. The police appear to be clueless. No militant group has claimed responsibility for the explosions.

The first one took place inside the popular Roshan di Kulfi sweets shop on Ajmal Khan Road at 7 p.m. This happened barely minutes after a police team on a routine patrol had passed the

shop. A team of sniffer dogs had also been inside the shop at around 6.30 p.m.

The police team, which was barely three shops away, immediately rushed to the shop to the aid of the injured. The sweets shop was jampacked, and the explosion set off a wave of panic among the customers. The bomb had apparently been kept under a seat in the eatery. The police suspect that this seat was occupied by Sonia, 25, who brunt the brunt of the explosion and was killed on the spot, with her chest being blown away. Most of the victims received injuries on their lower limbs. The legs of at least three persons were blown off.

WATCH OUT THIS SPACE FOR QUIZ ON FRIDAYS

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

IPKF wipes out LTTE resistance

Colombo – The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) today wiped out isolated pockets of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) resistance in Jaffna and embarked on a two-fold programme of providing succour to refugees and searching out guerrillas on the run.

The State-run Sri Lanka Radio reported that 1,200 LTTE guerrillas including its leader V. Prabhakaran had escaped through advancing

IPKF columns and were hiding in other parts of the Jaffna peninsula.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman in New Delhi said five IPKF personnel were killed and 28 injured, mostly in mine blast in the operations against the LTTE guerrillas. The LTTE casualties totalled 20 killed.

The IPKF also unearthed huge ammunition and explosives dumps in two houses adjoining the Nallur

temple. After the end of the 16-day siege of Jaffna last night, Indian troops defused hundreds of land-mines and booby-traps across the battle-scarred city.

A full-scale search has been launched for the guerrillas and maximum force will be used against them, the State Radio said quoting Army Commander Lt-Gen. Depinder Singh.

LOCATED SOME 28 MN LIGHT-YEARS AWAY FROM MILKY WAY

Planet found in Whirlpool galaxy, first to be discovered outside our own Milky Way

Nearly 5,000 exoplanets - worlds orbiting stars beyond our Sun - have been found so far, but all have been located within Milky Way galaxy

Susmita Pakrasi

NEW DELHI: For the first time, signs of a planet transiting a star outside of the Milky Way galaxy may have been detected.

"Chandra scientists have found the first possible planet candidate outside of our galaxy! Located about 28 million light years from Earth in galaxy M51, it's thousands of times farther away than all the other exoplanets detected in our Milky Way," the Chandra X-ray Observatory tweeted on Monday.

The potential exoplanet, called M51-ULS-1b, lies 28 million light-years away in the spiral galaxy Messier 51 (M51), also known as the Whirlpool galaxy.

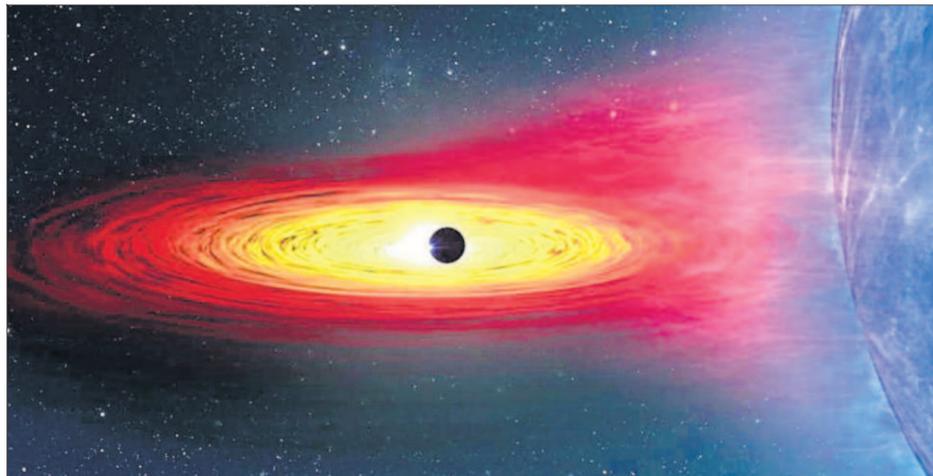
"We are trying to open up a whole new arena for finding other worlds," Rosanne Di Stefano, an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics who led the study which found this object, said in a statement.

According to the Chandra X-ray Observatory, this new discovery is based on transits, where the passage

of a planet in front of a star blocks some of the star's light and yields a characteristic dip in brightness that can be detected by telescopes. This general technique has already been used to find thousands of exoplanets.

For this study, astronomers used Nasa's Chandra X-ray Observatory and the European Space Agency's XMM-Newton space telescope to look at three galaxies beyond the Milky Way.

In total, they looked at 55 different systems in M-51, the Whirlpool galaxy, 64 systems in Messier 101 (M-101), or the "Pinwheel galaxy," and



The discovery is based on transits, according to the Chandra X-ray Observatory. The transit, the astronomers witnessed, lasted a total of about three hours and the X-ray emissions dipped all the way to zero. CHANDRA X-RAY OBSERVATORY/TWITTER

119 systems in Messier 104, or the "Sombrero galaxy".

To spot the planet, the team, led by Di Stefano, used Chandra to look for dips in the brightness of X-rays. They found the possible exoplanet in the Whirlpool galaxy in a binary system orbiting two large objects: either a

neutron star or a black hole which orbits a massive companion star.

The transit, they witnessed, lasted a total of about three hours and the X-ray emissions dipped all the way to zero.

This helped them to figure out that the object is likely approximately the

size of Saturn and it orbits the neutron star (or a black hole) at a distance twice that of Saturn's distance from our sun.

The first exoplanet discovered was in 1992 and since then most exoplanets found have been less than 3,000 light-years away from Earth.

RAREST MARINE MAMMAL-- NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

Endangered whale population sinks close to 20-year low



A North Atlantic right whale feeds on the surface of Cape Cod bay off the coast of Plymouth, Mass. The North Atlantic right whale numbered only 366 in 2019, and its population fell to 336 in 2020, the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium said.

Associated Press

PORTLAND, MAINE: A type of whale that is one of the rarest marine mammals in the world lost nearly 10% of its population last year, a group of scientists and ocean life advocates said on Monday.

The North Atlantic right whale numbered only 366 in 2019, and its population fell to 336 in 2020, the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium said. The estimate is the lowest number in nearly two decades.

Right whales were once abundant in the waters off New England, but were decimated during the commercial whaling era due to their high concentrations of oil.

They have been listed as endangered by the US government for more than half a century.

The whales have suffered high

mortality and poor reproduction in some recent years. There were more than 480 of the animals as recently as 2011.

They're vulnerable to fatal entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with large ships, and even when they survive, they often emerge less fit and less able to feed and mate, said Scott Kraus, chair of the consortium.

"No one engaged in right whale work believes that the species cannot recover from this. They absolutely can, if we stop killing them and allow them to allocate energy to finding food, mates and habitats that aren't marred with deadly obstacles," Kraus said.

The whales feed and mate off New England and Canada.

They then travel hundreds of miles in the fall to calving grounds

off Georgia and Florida before returning north in the spring.

The whale consortium was founded in the mid-1980s by a group of science institutions including the New England Aquarium and today includes dozens of members from academia, industry, government and elsewhere.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the arm of the federal government that monitors and regulates ocean issues, cautioned that the group's estimate is preliminary and has not yet been peer reviewed.

However, the agency shares the consortium's concern about the loss of right whales, said Allison Ferreira, a spokesperson for the agency.

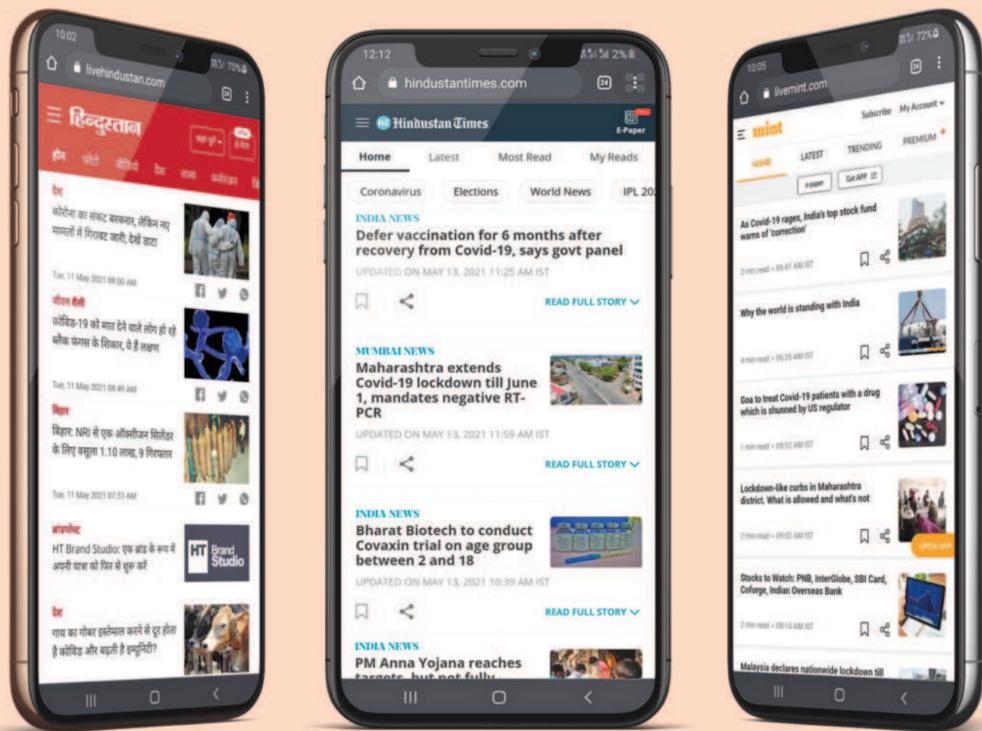
"North Atlantic right whales are one of the most imperiled species on the planet, and the latest estimate

shows that the substantial downward trajectory of right whale abundance documented over the last decade continues," Ferreira said.

The whales, which can weigh 61,235 kilos have been a focus of conservationists for generations. Recently, efforts to save the whales have resulted in new restrictions on US lobster fishing, and pushback from the fishing industry about those new rules.

The rules are designed to reduce the number of rope lines that link buoys to lobster and crab traps, and went into effect this year.

However, the rules also resulted in a flurry of lawsuits, and a federal judge ruled this month that fishermen can continue to fish until further notice in an area off the coast of Maine that had been slated for restriction from their gear.



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TENNIS

Matteo Berrettini seals ATP Finals spot

VIENNA: Matteo Berrettini has become the sixth player to qualify for the season ending ATP Finals in Turin next month after the Italian reached the second round of the Vienna Open on Monday, the ATP said. The 25-year-old, who will make his second appearance at the ATP Finals, defeated Australia's Alexei Popyrin 7-6(3), 6-3 in the opener.

The ATP Finals is played between the top eight men's singles players and doubles teams and will be held from November 14-21. "My words aren't going to describe the happiness I feel in my heart," said the world No.7. "2020 was a tough year

for me on and off the court. Here I am about to play my second (ATP) Finals and I can't believe it. I always have to remember where I started. I didn't dream about this, because it was so big, but now it's happening. I want to do my best."

Berrettini joins world No.1 Novak Djokovic, US Open champion Daniil Medvedev, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Alexander Zverev and Andrey Rublev in sealing spots for the ATP Finals, with Casper Ruud and Hubert Hurkacz next in line to qualify.

Rafa Nadal is eighth in the standings but the 20-time major winner has already ended his season due to injury. Berrettini's compatriot Jannik Sinner is also in contention, with the 20-year-old 10th on the leaderboard after winning in Antwerp.

Murray bags 1st win over top 10 opponent in over a year

Andy Murray secured his first win over a top 10 player in 14 months on Monday after the former world No.1 beat Hubert Hurkacz 6-4, 6-7(6), 6-3 at the Vienna Open. Murray had lost to the world No.10 in Cincinnati and Metz earlier this year but got the better of the Pole at the third attempt, emerging with the first round victory after a gruelling contest lasting two hours and 41 minutes.



Italy's Matteo Berrettini.

AFP

BOXING

Shiva, Akash win opening bouts at Worlds

BELGRADE: Five-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) stormed into the second round of the AIBA World Boxing Championships after out-witting Kenya's Victor Nyadera in his opening bout here on Tuesday.

Thapa, competing in his third World Championships, produced a fine tactical performance to prevail 5-0 against a spunky rival.

The Indian countered the height and reach of Nyadera with his measured counter-attacking approach. The Assam boxer, who won a bronze at the showpiece in 2015, will face Sierra Leone's John Brown on October 30 in the Round of 32.

Earlier on Monday night, debutant Akash Sangwan (67kg) also sailed into the second round with a comprehensive 5-0 triumph over Turkey's Furkan Adem. Sangwan, a reigning national champion, will next face

German Deniel Krotter, who got a first round bye.

The Indian dominated Adem in a lopsided contest.

Another debutant Rohit Mor (57kg) gave India a winning start by outpunching Ecuador's Jean Caicedo 5-0 in a confident opening round performance. Next up for him is Bosnia and Herzegovina's Alen Rahimic.

Asian champion Sanjeet (92kg) received a first round bye, along with Sachin Kumar (80kg).

While Sachin will face American Robby Gonzalez in the second round on October 30, Sanjeet will be up against Russian Andre Stotskii in his opening bout on October 29.

With more than 600 boxers from over 100 countries in fray, a lot of competitors will have to win at least three bouts in some categories to get to the quarter-final stage.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Mirabai sets sights on 2nd world title

NEW DELHI: After the high of the Tokyo Games, India's Olympic silver medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has turned her focus on winning a second World Championships title and is ironing out the chinks in her armour ahead of the event.

Chanu had clinched gold at the 2017 World Championships but since then a medal at the event has eluded her. She was unable to defend her title a year later after she decided to give the tournament a miss due to a back issue and in 2019, she missed the bronze by a whisker.

The event was cancelled last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic but it is slated to take place between December 7 to 17 in Tashkent and Chanu is all geared up. "I am working on my shortcomings and weakness in the technique in training. I will be trying my best to become a world champion a second time," Chanu said.

Chanu, who holds the world record in the clean and jerk event in the 49kg category after she successfully heaved 119kg in the Asian Championships last year, has struggled to stay at par with her Chinese opponents in the snatch section. The 27-year-old has, in her own words, struggled



Saikhom Mirabai Chanu.

PTI

while lifting weights in the snatch due to an imbalance that affects her right shoulder and back. "I have a world record in clean and jerk so my will be focus on snatch in the World Championships. I have to increase my weight in the snatch section," she said.

Chanu had also consulted Dr. Aaron Horschig, a former weightlifter-turned-physical therapist and strength and conditioning coach in the US, which helped her immensely in winning the silver at Tokyo. However, Chanu still feels the pain while lifting heavy weights. "The issue is sorted, but sometimes, I still get pain in the right shoulder and back because of the imbalance. But there is a lot of improvement from before."

FAREWELL



Tributes are laid at Ibrox Stadium in memory of former Scotland, Rangers and Everton manager Walter Smith, who died aged 73, in Glasgow on Tuesday. The coaching great won 10 league titles with Rangers over two spells. AP

T20 WORLD CUP



South Africa's Aiden Markram (C) plays a shot against West Indies at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

AFP

Markram's fifty helps Proteas crush Windies

Press Trust of India

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

DUBAI: Aiden Markram struck a whirlwind unbeaten fifty as South Africa produced an all-round effort to bounce back strongly from their opening defeat and beat West Indies by eight wickets to secure their first win in the Super 12 stage of the ICC T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

Both South Africa and West Indies started their Super 12 campaign on a losing note. While the Proteas were handed a five-wicket defeat by Australia, West Indies sank to six-wicket loss against England.

South Africa will next play Sri Lanka in their third Group 1 match on October 30 while West Indies will take on Bangladesh a day earlier.

South Africa first weathered Evin Lewis' (56) initial onslaught to restrict West Indies to 143/8 and then rode on solid batting displays from

Markram (51* off 26), Rassie van der Dussen (43* off 51) and Reeza Hendricks (39) to comfortably chase down the target with 10 balls to spare.

Contrary to the end result, South Africa did not have the best of starts to their chase losing skipper Temba Bavuma early to a run out.

But Hendricks, who replaced Quinton de Kock dropped for not taking knee against racism, and van der Dussen then stabilised the innings with a 57-run second wicket stand.

After Hendricks' dismissal, van der Dussen and Markram then carried South Africa forward to bring down the equation to 44 off last six overs. While van der Dussen held one end up, Markram played an explosive knock to take South Africa home. Markram decorated his innings with two fours and four sixes.

Earlier, Lewis smashed a quickfire half-century before West Indies lost the plot to manage the modest score.

Lewis and Lendl Simmons (16) got West Indies off to a flier. The duo put on 73 runs off 63 balls for the opening stand before West Indies lost wickets at regular intervals.

Lewis did the bulk of the scoring in the partnership. He showed his aggressive intent from the beginning, hitting Kagiso Rabada for a boundary over backward point and then lofted the bowler straight over his head in the next ball. Next it was Markram's turn to face Lewis' wrath as the batter struck two sixes and a four in successive balls to garner 18 runs in the fifth over.

Lewis then smashed Anrich Nortje over mid-off but a ball later the bowler induced a thin edge from Simmons which wicketkeeper Henrich Klaassen failed to hold. Lewis was in ominous form as he didn't spare a single South Africa bowler. He brought up his fifty in style, slog sweeping Tabraiz Shamsi over deep

square-leg to reach landmark in just 32 balls.

Lewis continued in the same vein after his fifty and clobbered Keshav Maharaj for a six but finally perished a ball later in search of one too many, holed out to Rabada at deep mid-wicket. He struck three fours and six sixes during his 35-ball knock. Two more quick wickets, somewhat, put a brake on West Indies' charge after the brilliant start given by Lewis. But Simmons stay was a struggle as his 35-ball innings was the joint-longest in terms of balls without a boundary in men's T20 World Cup.

Nicholas Pooran's (12 off 7) stay was shortlived as he became Maharaj's second victim, caught by David Miller and then Simmons was castled by Rabada in the next over.

Shamsi was taken to task by West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard and Chris Gayle, hitting the left-arm spinner for a six each in the 16th over.

INDIAN CRICKET TEAM

Pandya's injury 'not serious' but team will 'wait and watch'

Press Trust of India

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

DUBAI: Flamboyant India all-rounder Hardik Pandya's shoulder injury sustained during the T20 World Cup opener against Pakistan is believed to be a minor one and he is likely to be available for the next game against New Zealand on October 31.

Pandya, who did not bowl in the IPL last month, is playing only as a batter right now and scored 11 off 8 balls on Sunday night, looking distinctly uncomfortable against pacers before being hit on the shoulder by a short ball.

"Yes, Hardik's scan reports have come and the injury is not very serious. Also the fact that there is a six-day gap between two games gives him enough time to recuperate," a senior BCCI official said on conditions of anonymity.

"But obviously, the medical team would wait and watch as to how he shapes up during the training sessions."

Pandya had recently said that he would be bowling during the knockout stages but India's chances hinge on the New Zealand game. Losing the match would seriously jeopardise their prospects of going ahead in the tournament.

The games against Scotland, Namibia and Afghanistan are expected to be easy wins for India, Pakistan and New Zealand.

Therefore, if India lose to New Zealand, it will hamper their chances of making it to the top two in the group.



Currently India all-rounder Hardik Pandya is in the team only as a batsman and not as an all-rounder. He injured himself against Pakistan. AFP

In this scenario, Pandya's fitness issues have seriously affected India's balance.

In fact, there are questions being raised about chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma assertions that Pandya will be bowling in the IPL to gear up for the World Cup.

He didn't bowl an over and the communication on Pandya's fitness status between the team management and selectors seems baffling at this time.

There have been conflicting reports about when he would start bowling.

Before the Pakistan game, the player said that he would perhaps bowl in the knockouts but the state-

ment did not look convincing.

Harmanpreet to captain

NEW DELHI: Indian women's white-ball skipper Harmanpreet Kaur is set to captain a team in FairBreak's inaugural Invitational T20 tournament next year, the organisers announced on Tuesday.

The tournament is an ICC sanctioned competition that will take place from May 1 to 15 in Hong Kong in conjunction with Cricket Hong Kong.

"FairBreak is excited to announce that Harmanpreet Kaur will captain one of the six teams in FairBreak's first Invitational T20 Tournament," FairBreak tweeted.

DRAVID FORMALLY APPLIES FOR INDIA COACH; LAXMAN IN FRAY FOR NCA?

Press Trust of India

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Celebrated former captain Rahul Dravid is all but certain to be the Indian cricket team's next head coach after he formally applied for the high-profile position on Tuesday.

With Dravid, the current head of National Cricket Academy applying, the job for the Cricket Advisory Committee becomes easier as there aren't any big names in fray who can match the batting great's stature. Also, it is reliably learnt that he is the first and only choice of BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah.

"Yes, Rahul has formally applied today as it's the last day of the deadline. His team at the NCA, bowling coach Paras (Mhambrey) and fielding coach Abhay (Sharma) have already applied. His application was just a formality," a senior BCCI official said on Tuesday.

Dravid had recently met the BCCI brass in Dubai on the sidelines of the IPL final between KKR and CSK where Ganguly and Shah spoke to him about taking up the position once Ravi Shastri steps down at the end of India's campaign in the T20 World Cup. Under Dravid, a new era in Indian cricket will start with the home series against New Zealand where he will take charge with a new T20 captain, which in all likelihood, will be Rohit Sharma. Former India batting great VVS Laxman could again be back in the fray to head the National Cricket Academy in case the post falls vacant in the coming days. It is learnt that Laxman might not continue as the mentor of IPL side Sunrisers Hyderabad.