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IN SCHOOL **《** 

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## Hong Kong scientist fights to save endangered cockatoos

Although the birds are native to East Timor and Indonesia, one-tenth of those left are found in Hong Kong and now, their future hangs in the balance

HONG KONG: Above the teeming shopping streets of Hong Kong's Causeway Bay district, a fight to save one of the world's most endangered species is unfolding high in the branches of a decades-old cotton tree.

Nestled among its sprawling boughs is a nest box designed for the yellow-crested cockatoo, of which only 1,200 to 2,000 remain in the world.

Although the birds are native to East Timor and Indonesia, one-tenth of those left are found in Hong Kong — one of the "largest cohesive remaining wild populations" globally, according to Astrid Andersson, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Hong Kong.

Their future now hangs in the balance, due to habitat loss and, some suspect, a black market for the rare birds.

The cockatoos' numbers have stagnated, with far fewer juveniles than when Andersson began monitoring almost 10 years ago.

The birds don't make their own nests but depend on natural cavities in trees — about 80% of which have vanished in recent years, because of typhoon damage and government pruning. The nest boxes set up by Andersson are an attempt to rectify this, designed to resemble the \_ hollows sought out by the birds.

She plans to place about 50 around the city.

"Without the nest boxes, I believe that the cockatoos will have fewer and fewer opportunities to increase or replace individuals that die in their population," she said. The boxes will also allow observation of their reproductive behaviour, which has never been comprehensively studied.



This picture taken on July 28, 2025 shows Astrid Andersson (left), a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Hong Kong, and urban animal habitat designer Harry Wong prepare an artificial bird nest equipped with a camera, which will be installed on a cotton tree in Victoria Park in Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

#### Black market?

Merchants at Hong Kong's bird market certainly know the difference. A one-year-old bird was being sold for a whopping HK\$56,000 (\$7,000), while a two-month-old chick could sell for HK\$14,000.

It has been illegal since 2005 to trade wild-caught yellow-crested cockatoos. Selling ones bred in captivity is allowed, but the breeders must have valid licences under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

(CITES). There are no such registered breeders in Hong Kong. Sharon Kwok Pong, founder of Hong Kong Parrot Rescue, believes there may

"There have been people that find out where these birds are, they raid them," she said.

#### Human-wildlife coexistence

be a "black market".

The cockatoos' existence in Hong Kong has been "a very positive story about human-wildlife coexistence", said Andersson. The population in Hong Kong is an introduced one, with one urban legend recounting they originated from an aviary set free by the British governor of Hong Kong before surrendering to the Japanese in 1941. There is no evidence to support that story, however – the modern flock's ancestors are in fact believed to be escaped pets. Hong Kong's urban parks, full of mature trees bearing fruit, nuts and other food, became a "sanctuary" for them, Andersson said. The cockatoos are now part of the city's fabric, their loud squawks echoing through the sky at nightfall. Perched on streetlights, they sit calmly observing the humming traffic along city flyovers. Many people don't realise they are looking at an endangered species in their neighbourhood. "We genuinely thought they were just like an average parakeet," resident Erfan, who lives near a flyover, said. Yellow-crested cockatoos are often mistaken for sulphur-crested cockatoos, commonly found in Australia rummaging through bins. The two are genetically

distinct though, and the Australian species is not endangered.



#### 'A backup population'

Andersson has developed a forensic test that analyses a cockatoo's diet to determine whether it was recently taken from the wild.

She hopes this will help enforce the ban on illegal

In their native habitats, poaching, rapid habitat loss and climate change have devastated the

cockatoos' numbers. The financial hub's birds may one day be able to help revive them.

"Hong Kong's population could have genetic lineages that are now gone," she said.

It could function "as a backup population for the wild Indonesian counterparts". AFP

## Karnataka farmer wins award for ingenious tweak to cow-dung composting

BENGALURU, KARNATAKA:

Engineer-turned-farmer Avinash Desai, who won the season 2 TAFE's Massey Dynastar Contest, beating more than 16,000 applicants, has yet again proved that necessity is often the mother of invention.

The core of his award-winning idea is a simple mechanism, but a solution that would be a boon to farmers, especially dairy farmers, said Desai.

He tweaked the existing solutions for cow dung processing or composting —something that Desai said most farmers struggle with as it requires time and space — and came up with a 'mobile slurry dewatering machine' that could be operated by TAFE's tractors, a pre-condition for participating in the competition.

The Desai family own 100 acres in his village Chachadi, in Saudatti taluk, growing sugarcane, channa and jowhar. They also take care of at least 20 cattle at any given point of time.

"So, disposing of cow dung has been something that has always weighed heavy on us. We tried bio-digester, but the slurry was so heavy that it burst. We went back to dumping the dung in a pit and letting it rot for a year at least, like most people around us do," said Desai.

#### 'A win-win'

Desai said he realised most large-holding farmers, who invest in a bio-digester initially, go back to the age-old 'dump it in pit' practice as the output of bio-digester, slurry, which is 70% to 80% water content, is difficult to handle in large quantities.

"Even after being processed by a bio-digester, we needed to let it dry outside before we could use it. Sure,



Representational image. PHOTO: REUTERS

bio-digester cut down the time required drastically. If traditionally it took us a year before cow dung can be converted into manure, with bio-digester it took us a little over a month. But it is still not optimal," said Desai, an electronics and communication engineer.

This is where his 'mobile slurry dewatering machine' comes into the

Attached to a tractor like a trailer, and powered by the tractor's PTO or Power Take-off, the machine allows a farmer to immediately separate slurry from bio-digester into nutrient rich liquid and manure with a simple 'screw press' technology. A screw press is a mechanism that utilises a rotating screw to apply pressure and separate solid from liquid.

It's a win-win, said Desai, because the farmers also have access to nutrient-rich liquid, which was wasted earlier.

"We could instantly 'water' the fields with slurry water and use the solid waste as manure," said Desai.

Incidentally, Desai had also participated in season one of the contest, held in 2023 "That is when I realised that the cow-dung composting problem could do with some tweaks" PTI



How much do you know about the country of Armenia?

Armenia is a country in

What is the traditional Armenian flatbread called \_\_\_\_

What is the official currency of Armenia?

Armenia's national sport.

— Armenia is Dordered by how many countries?

Answers on page 3

# Antarctic climate shifts threaten 'catastrophic' impacts globally

Since 2014, sea ice has retreated on average 120 kilometres from the continent's shoreline; Antarctica could essentially become ice free in summer sooner than the Arctic.

paris, france: Abrupt and potentially irreversible changes in Antarctica driven by climate change could lift global oceans by metres and lead to "catastrophic consequences for generations", scientists warned

More broadly, a state-of-knowledge review by a score of top experts revealed accelerating shifts across the region that are often both cause and effect of global warming, according to a study published in Nature.

"Antarctica is showing worrying signs of rapid change across its ice, ocean and ecosystems," lead author and Australian National University professor Nerilie Abram

"Some of these abrupt changes will be

Shifts in different facets of Antarctica's

accelerated the pace of warming globally as well, she said. The study looked at evidence of abrupt

change — or "regime shifts" — in sea ice, regional ocean currents, the continent's ice sheet and ice shelves, and marine life. It also examined how they interact.

Floating sea ice does not add to sea level when it melts. But its retreat does replace white surfaces that reflect almost all of the Sun's energy back into space with deep blue water, which absorbs the same amount instead.

#### Retreating sea ice

After increasing slightly during the first 35 years that satellite data was available, Antarctic sea ice cover plunged dramatically over the last decade.

Since 2014, sea ice has retreated on average



120 kilometres from the continent's shoreline. That contraction has happened about three times faster in 10 years than the decline in

Arctic sea ice over nearly 50.

The "overwhelming evidence of a regime shift in sea ice" means that, on current trends, Antarctica could essentially become ice free in summer sooner than the Arctic, the study

This will speed up warming in the region and beyond, and could push some marine species toward extinction.

Over the last two years, for example, helpless emperor penguin chicks perished at multiple breeding grounds, drowning or freezing to death when sea ice gave way earlier than usual under their tiny feet.

Of five sites monitored in the Bellingshausen Sea region in 2023, all but one experienced a 100% loss of chicks, earlier research reported.

Unlike sea ice, ice sheets and the ice shelves to which they are connected are on - or

supported by — land.

The world would need to heat up by five degrees Celsius compared with pre-industrial levels to melt the entire Antarctic ice sheet, which would lift global oceans an almost unimaginable 58 metres (nearly 200 feet).

#### Point of no return

But global warming to date — on average about  $1.3^{\circ}$ C — is fast approaching a threshold that would cause part of the ice sheet to generate at least three metres of sea level rise, flooding coastal areas inhabited today by hundreds of millions, the study

"Unstoppable collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet is one of the most concerning global tipping points," said Abram.

'The evidence points to this being triggered at global warming well below 2°C." AFP

climate system amplify each other and have

difficult to stop."



## 20-MINUTE ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN - 1322



#### GK Corner (3 mins)



A breathtaking aerial view shows people kayaking in the crystal-clear waters off La Jolla's shoreline in San Diego, California. Kayaking is a popular water sport where people paddle through rivers, lakes, or even the sea using a small, narrow boat called a kayak. It's not just for fun, it is also an Olympic sport and a favourite for adventure lovers worldwide. Did you know this was originally developed by indigenous Arctic people for hunting and transportation. Can you name these indigenous people? PHOTO: AFP

Ans: The Innit (or Eskimos).

#### Two-minute comprehension

Read the paragraphs below and answer the questions

In San Francisco Bay, salt ponds created more than a century ago are reverting to marshland. Along the New York and New Jersey coasts, beaches ravaged by Superstorm Sandy underwent extensive restoration. In Alabama, a rebuilt spit of land is shielding a historic town and providing wildlife habitat.

Coastal communities nationwide are ramping up efforts to fend off rising seas, higher tides and stronger storm surges that are chewing away at coastlines, pushing saltwater farther inland and threatening ecosystems and communities.

The need for coastal restoration has been in the spotlight this month after Louisiana officials cancelled a \$3 billion project because of objections from the fishing industry and concerns about rising costs. The Mid-Barataria project was projected to rebuild more than 20 square miles (32 square kilometres) of land over about 50 years by diverting sediment-laden water from the Mississippi River.

But work continues on many other projects in Louisiana and around the country, including barrier islands, saltwater marshes, shellfish reefs and other natural features that provided protection before they were destroyed or degraded by development. Communities are also building flood walls, berms and levees to protect areas that lack adequate natural protection.

The work has become more urgent as climate change causes more intense and destructive storms and leads to sea-level rise that puts hundreds of communities and tens of millions of people at risk, scientists say. In the U.S., perhaps nowhere is more vulnerable than the hurricane-prone Gulf Coast. Louisiana alone has lost more than 2,000 square miles (5,180 square kilometres) of coastline — more than any other state — over the past century, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

- 1) Why was the Mid-Barataria project shelved?
- 2) What are the efforts taken by the coastal communities?

#### LIT-WIT IN TWO MINUTES

#### Guess the author



1. This author's most famous work is the

Princess Diaries series. 2. This author is a recipient of the Evergreen Young Adult Book Award.

3. This author has published over 80 novels from the young adult fiction genre.

4. Some other works by this author include: Avalon High, Royal Wedding Disaster, etc.

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Answer: Meg Cabot

#### **WORD BUILDER**

How many words can you make with the letters in the word

**CONVERGENCE** 

| W <sub>i</sub> O <sub>i</sub> | R | D | S |   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| SEA.                          |   | 4 | - | 2 |

## Unscramble - in a minute

| U | S | M | U | C | C | В |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

A verb, it means failing to resist pressure, temptation or die from the effect of a disease or injury.

**∀**иѕмек: Succumb

#### **Character Crossover**

Given below are two characters from different fictional worlds. How would a conversation between them go? Continue the conversation provided.



#### Word of the Day - 2 minutes

#### **ENSCONCE**

Pronounced as: uhn·skonst

#### Meaning:

(verb): to settle someone in a comfortable and safe position, place, or situation.

#### Origin:

The verb was borrowed from Latin word tenãx, an adjective meaning "holding fast," or "persistent."

The politician ensconced himself in a safe seat.

**Activity**: Use the word in a sentence or two of your own.

# MINI QUIZ 2 mins...

Today's quiz is on badminton

1 Which country has won the most Olympic gold medals in

badminton?

2 How many points are needed to win a standard game of

badminton?

- 3 True or False: Badminton was originally called Poona in India.
- 4 Which international body governs badminton worldwide?
- 5 Who was the first Indian to win an Olympic medal in badminton?



Badminton World Federation 5) Saina Answers: 1) China 2) 21 3) True 4)



In how many



## Journal Writing

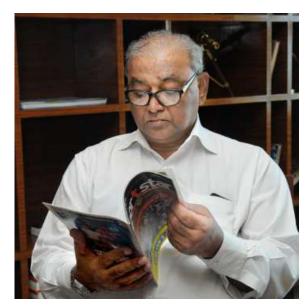
5 minutes

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#### Are you someone with a keen eye and great observation? Get ready to challenge yourself



This sports icon was a member of the 1972 Munich Olympic Games bronze-winning Indian men's hockey team. A sports medicine doctor, he worked as a medical consultant with several sports bodies. He is also the father of legendary tennis player Leander Paes.

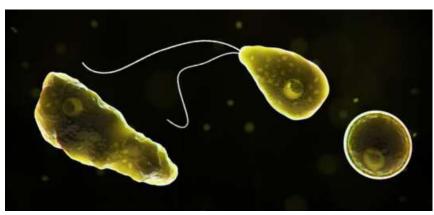


 $2^{\,\mathrm{He}}$  is an Indian politician who has been currently serving as the Governor of Maharashtra since July 2024. Previously he had served as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, as well as the Governor of Telangana and Jharkhand. He is the NDA vice-president candidate after former vice-president Jagdeep Dhankar announced his resignation from the post.



5 An entrepreneur and innovator, he is the chief executive officer and chairman of Hon Hai Technology Group (FOXCONN), a Taiwanese multinational electronics manufacturer. He was conferred with Padma Bhushan, the third-highest award of India, in 2024.

3 Primary amoebic meningoencephalitis or PAM is caused by Naegleria fowleri, an amoeba that thrives in warm freshwater lakes, ponds and rivers. Recently, three cases and one death from this infection were reported in this district of Kerala. Can you name it?



PHOTOS: THE HINDU, PTI, REUTERS, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



6 She is a Danish politician who has been the prime minister of Denmark since June 2019, making her the youngest and second woman to hold the post. She is also the leader of the Social Democrats party. She became the European Union's longest-serving incumbent female head of state in December 2021.

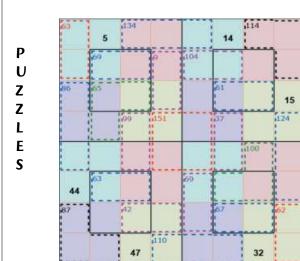
6) Mette Fredrisken มม่า ดูกมอฯ (2 %Z.2 (4 3) Kozhikode 2) СР Вадһактынан 1) Vece Paes Answers



Fill the empty cells using numbers from 1 to 64 each only once such that 1) Each row, column and two main diagonals of each 4 x 4 square give the magic sum of 130.

2) Each 2 x 2 square marked in the same colour gives the sum of 130. 3) The centre 2 x 2 marked in black border in each 4 x 4 sub square give a sum of 130.

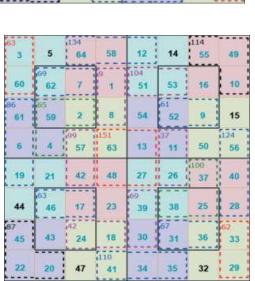
4) Group of cells in boxes within dotted lines in a cage. Cage sum is mentioned at the top in respective colours.

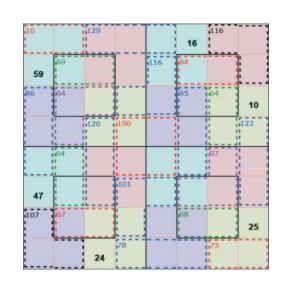


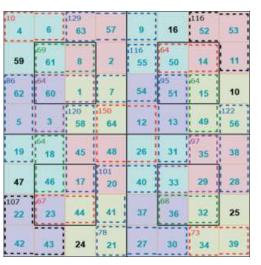
 $4^{\text{The unemployment rate is the percentage of the labour force that is}$  currently unemployed but actively seeking work. According to the

Periodic Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate in July slowed to

\_% compared to 5.6% in June.







www.magicsquarepuzzles.com

#### THE HINDU

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Disclaimer: Readers are requested to verify & make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/o damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

#### TODAY'S QUIZ: ANSWERS

- 1) Asia
- 2) Lavash
- 3) Dram 4) Chess
- 5) Four

## **LEARNING TREE**

## What is CPI?

The Consumer Price Index is the measure of change in prices of everyday goods and services over a period of time.

The CPI is a key indicator

of inflation. Central banks

like the RBI use the CPI to

make decisions about

interest rates and

monetary policy. If CPI

shows a high rate of

inflation, the central bank

might raise interest rates

to slow down the

economy.

Periodically, this basket is changed to suit evolving customer preferences. A "weight" is assigned to each item in the basket according to how important it is to the typical household's budget.

The CPI tracks the average price change of a "basket" of common goods and services, like food, housing, transportation, and healthcare.

In India, wages and pensions are indexed to the CPI to account through the mechanism of Dearness Allowance (DA) for employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners.

> The National Statistics Office of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation releases the CPI data. With a retail inflation rate of 1.55% in July, India saw its lowest annual inflation rate since June 2017.



# Kenyan farmers use bees, sesame to keep away marauding elephants

With help from conservation organisation called Save The Elephants, Shika is one of 50 farmers who have hung beehives from wires between poles around their farms

TAITA TAVETA, KENYA: For farmers in the Taita hills in southern Kenya, elephants are a menace: they raid crops and will occasionally injure or even kill people.

Farmer Richard Shika, 68, has had some close encounters. "One time, I was trying to chase away an elephant that was in my maize field, but it turned and charged me," Shika remembers. "

It stopped when it was right in front of me, and I managed to jump out of the way." He feels lucky to be alive. Almost exactly two years ago, local media reported that a 3-year-old girl had been trampled to death by an elephant in Taita Taveta county, her mother injured.

The area where Shika has his farm is almost surrounded by Kenya's biggest National Park. The border of Tsavo East National Park is less than 10 kilometres to the east, and Tsavo West curves around to the north, west and south. The parks have

always been unfenced, allowing animals to migrate. Increasingly, that puts them in the path of humans.

'The places and infrastructure that we humans develop hinder the migratory routes and paths which elephants used to take," explains Yuka Luvonga, who researches human-elephant coexistence for conservation organisation Save The Elephants.

Elephants eat about 150 kilograms of vegetation a day, so keeping them off farms is tricky, especially if forage is scarce elsewhere. "Elephants are clever creatures," says Shika. "They will try touching a fence, and once they realise that it is not electrified, they charge through." If farmers try to chase them off, as Shika did, the

Richard Shika demonstrates how he uses fire to scare away elephants around his farm in Voi town, Taita-Taveta County, Kenya,



Elephants cross a road at Tsavo-East National Park, Voi town in Taita-Taveta County, Kenya, on Aug. 7, 2025. PHOTOS: AP

elephants will sometimes turn and defend themselves. Kenya Wildlife Service and conservation organisations tracking human-elephant conflict estimate that 30-35 people are killed every year in elephant-related incidents across Kenya.

#### Other solutions

Communities will sometimes retaliate by spearing or poisoning elephants, but there are other solutions, as farmers here have found. One of them is bees.

"Elephants don't like getting stung by bees, so they keep away from areas where hives are," Shika says.

With help from Save The Elephants, Shika is one of 50 farmers who have hung beehives from wires between poles around their farms. If an elephant touches the wire, the hives are rocked, disturbing the bees. It's an army of tiny security guards that keeps elephants well away from the farm.

"With hives acting as a fence, I can continue crop-farming and also earn a livelihood from honey," Shika says. This year, he's made almost USD 250 selling honey.

Changing crops can also make a difference. Elephants love maize and watermelons. But sesame? Blegh.

Sesame plants produce a scent that actively repels elephants, so for 70-year-old Gertrude Jackim, swapping out maize and green grams for sesame was a no-brainer. "Look at me, I'm ageing, so I can't fend off the elephants or chase them away," she says.

She is one of 100 farmers who have been supported to adopt sesame seed production. The change was urgently needed, she says. "Over the years, the elephants have become too destructive." Farming practices that deter elephants – like beekeeping and growing sesame – have made coexistence much easier for farmers like Shika and Jackim.

Conservationists hope that in the long run, this will win hearts and minds in an area where human-elephant conflict had reached worrying levels.

"We have to live harmoniously with these elephants," says Yuka Luvonga from Save the Elephants, "and to create awareness and sensitize the communities to change their attitudes towards the animals that we have." Only then can both people and elephants here continue to thrive. AP

#### CRACK IT

#### Samples from competitive exam

Sometimes questions that seem complex, actually need just logic and common sense. Can you solve this question which appeared in CISF AC (EXE) LDCE exam, 2023Go ahead and work your brain...



#### Question

A father's age is 2 years more than 4 times the age of his son. His age is also 2 years more than 5 times the age of his daughter. The average age of the father, the son and the daughter is 20 years. What is the age of the daughter?

- (a) 6 years
- (b) 12 years
- (c) 10 years (d) 8 years

.8 = 0 sovig es by 29 gives D = 8.

Multiplying the entire equation by 4 to clear the fraction gives 24D + 5D = 232, which simplifies to 29D = 232.

Finding the Age of the Daughter Rearranging 4S = 5D gives S = (5/4)D. Substituting this into 6D + S = 58 gives 6D + (5/4)D = 58.

= 58. We can solve these equations simultaneously.

S + Ga han GS = SP: snorthone equations are always and SP = SP and SP = SP

Solving the Equations 1 and 2, we can set 4S + 2 = 5D + 2. Which simplifies to 4S = 5D.

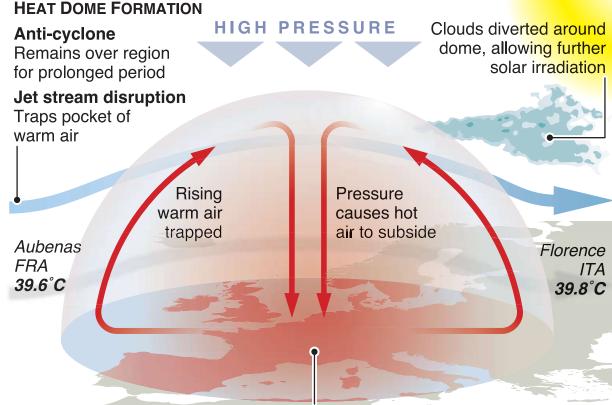
Given Equations 2. F = 4S + 2 2. F = 5D + 2 3.  $(F + S + D) \setminus 3 = 20$ 

Danighter Let's denote the age of the son as 5, the age of the daughter as D, and the age of the father as

Answer: Option (d) 8 years Explanation: Calculating the Age of the

## Heat dome causes Europe's deadly heatwave

A "heat dome" developing over southern Europe is expanding north, engulfing much of the continent in a long-lasting heatwave, with August temperatures breaking historical records



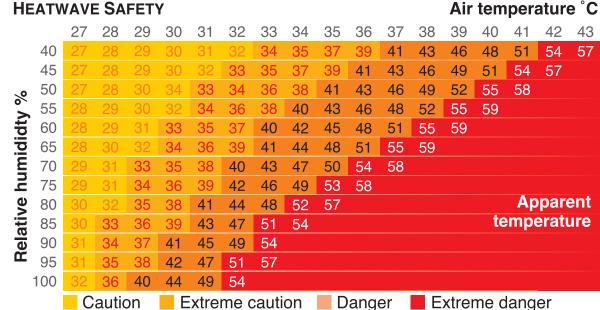
Plasencia ESP **41.5°C** 

Warming surface
Dries out, increasing temperature

Danilovgrad MNE 42.5°C

Mildfires from Iberian Peninsula to Balkans

Heat dome typically lasts four days but can persist for two weeks or more



Sources: Geographical, Severe Weather © GRAPHIC NEWS

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#### **QWIKIPEDIA: A DAILY SEARCH-AND-LEARN ACTIVITY**

Ever been on Wikipedia to search for something? More often than not we start with one topic, click a few links and within no time, are eagerly reading something else. Qwikipedia is a game that tries to quench our curiosity to learn something new. Start with one search from a specific article in this newspaper, and get started on a journey of learning with multiple clicks. Surprise yourself by finding new routes each time!

#### SATURDAY SAUNTER: MOLECULAR CLOUD → PLANTATION ECONOMY



#### **MOLECULAR CLOUD**

A molecular cloud is a vast area of gas and dust in space. These clouds are only a few degrees above absolute zero, with a temperature of roughly -263°C! Atoms travel very slowly at such low temperatures and can cling to one another to form molecules, primarily hydrogen (H2). Often referred to as stellar nurseries, these clouds are the birthplaces of stars and planets. Molecular clouds often appear as dark patches in space because the thick gas and dust inside them absorb visible light from stars and galaxies behind them. Their main gas, hydrogen, is hard to detect directly. So, astronomers use radio and infrared telescopes to study them. Giant Molecular Clouds, one of the molecular clouds, were discovered through radio telescopes and surveys, common in radio astronomy. The pioneer of radio astronomy is Grote Reber.



**GROTE REBER** 

Grote Reber was an American pioneer of radio

conduct a systematic survey of the sky's radio

astronomy. He is recognised as the first person to

build a purpose-built radio telescope and use it to

emissions. After learning of Karl Jansky's discovery

of radio waves from space in the 1930s, Reber, an

amateur radio enthusiast and engineer, decided

backyard in 1937. This was the world's first large,

Corporation in New York and moved to Hawaii.

to build his own equipment. He constructed a

9.5-metre parabolic dish radio telescope in his

steerable radio telescope. Starting in 1951, he

received generous support from the Research

So, the path we have travelled today is Molecular Cloud  $\rightarrow$  Grote Reber  $\rightarrow$  Hawaii  $\rightarrow$  Plantation есопоту Send in your paths for the above to school@thehindu.co.in with the subject: Qwikipedia

#### **HAWAII**

Hawaii is the 50th and most recent state to join the United States, admitted on August 21, 1959. Located in the central Pacific Ocean, it is the only U.S. state located entirely in Oceania and the only one composed entirely of islands. The islands were first settled by Polynesian voyagers who arrived in double-hulled canoes between 300 and 900 A.D. With a sophisticated social structure and a strong spiritual bond with the land and sea, they created a distinctive culture. Historically, Hawaii is dominated by the plantation economy.



#### **PLANTATION ECONOMY**

A plantation economy is an agricultural system characterised by large-scale farms, often monoculture, focused on producing one or a few commodity crops for export, frequently relying on a significant labour force, sometimes enslaved or indentured. These economies are often tied to colonial or post-colonial contexts, with historical roots in the exploitation of land and labour for profit. Plantations in the Caribbean, Brazil, and the American South were the global hub of sugar production from the 16th to the 19th Centuries. The immense demand for sugar in Europe drove the transatlantic slave trade. British and Dutch colonial powers created plantations in Southeast Asia to produce agricultural commodities such as coffee, tea, pepper, and other spices, as well as palm oil and rubber. In many places, large-scale agricultural production is still going on.



PHOTOS: AFP, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, PEXELS, REUTERS

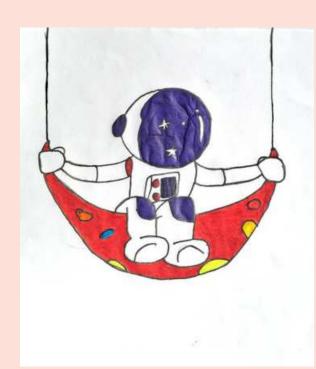
## IN SCHOOL INBOX

## Showcase your creativity

A couple of Artivity entries sent in by students

## **ARTIVITY**

Read the newspaper and create an original artwork based on a news item that interests you and send your entry in JPEG format (not as PDF) to school@thehindu.co.in with the subject - Artivity. ONLY artworks based on current news or issues relating to Science, Space, Environment, Wildlife and Sports will be considered for publication. Please AVOID mailing other works. Mention your name, class, school and city in the same mail (not in separate mails).



Name: Jay Class: 5 School: Rockwoods international school, Wanaparthy, Telangana.



Name: Safiya Z Class: IX School: Zion MAtric HR SEC School -Sembakkam Chennai, Tamil Nadu

## MARK OF TRADITION



This photograph taken on July 14, 2025 shows a villager in traditional attire pointing to an indigenous tattoo inked on a woman's face at the Ponjo Kolhi village in Pakistan. The practice of elder women needling delicate shapes onto the faces, hands, and arms of younger generations stretches back centuries in the Hindu villages that dot the southern border with India. PHOTO: AFP

#### **GUESS WHO?**



He is an Indian economist who had served as the Chief Economic Officer to the Government of India from 2014 to 2018. He was also an economist with the International Monetary Fund. He has written numerous books related to the economies of India and China.

Answer: Anind Subramanian

|   |   |   | <u>SU</u> | DC | KU |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|-----------|----|----|---|---|---|
|   |   | 6 |           |    |    | 9 | 7 |   |
| 9 | 5 | 7 |           |    | 4  | 9 |   | 1 |
|   | 2 |   | 6         |    |    |   |   |   |
| 5 |   |   |           | 2  |    |   |   | 7 |
|   |   | 4 |           |    |    | 1 |   |   |
| 2 |   |   |           | 7  |    |   |   | 8 |
|   |   |   |           |    | 3  |   | 5 |   |
| 7 |   | 5 | 9         |    |    | 3 | 1 | 4 |
|   | 9 | 1 |           |    |    | 2 |   |   |

DIFFICULTY RATING:

A mind game and a puzzle that you solve with reasoning and logic. Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any. The solution to today's

puzzle is at right.

## Changing of the guard as Serie A clubs reset for title challenge

The season is shaping up to be one focused on teams laying the foundation for success; Inter Milan is entrusting coach Cristian Chivuking to lead the team.



A soccer match between Inter Milan and Napoli at the San Siro Stadium, in Milan, Italy, on March 17, 2024. PHOTO: AP

The Serie A odds point to another Scudetto showdown between Napoli and Inter Milan, though their rivals start the campaign reshaped after a turbulent close season that could see them close the gap after the top two finished clear of the pack.

With several clubs changing coaches, the season is shaping up to be one focused on teams laying the foundation for success. For sides battling below the contenders in the title race last term, securing a place in Europe is the main ambition.

#### Atlanta without Gasperini

The Bergamo outfit who came third last season will for the first time since 2016 be without Gian Piero Gasperini at the helm. The 67-year-old wanted a change and took over at AS Roma, with former Roma manager Ivan Juric replacing him.

Atalanta face a struggle in attack, with last season's Serie A top scorer Mateo Retegui deciding to leave for Al-Qadsiah and key striker Ademola Lookman seemingly on his way out. Gasperini built Atalanta's identity on relentless pressing, fluid attacking patterns and a high defensive line. Juric prefers a grittier, more pragmatic approach.

The Croatian is known for favouring physicality, man-to-man marking and defensive organisation, often prioritising control and discipline over free-flowing play. It represents a radical change for a side that became one of Europe's most entertaining under Gasperini and the challenge now lies in whether Juric can adapt his

methods to Atalanta's existing squad or has to reshape it entirely to fit his vision.

#### Rebuilt Milan

Inter Milan enter a new era this season by entrusting inexperienced coach Cristian Chivu to heal the wounds of the previous campaign and restore confidence to a side left reeling from the collapse of their treble bid.

Last season, Inter's title defence crumbled in the final stretch as they lost out on the Scudetto to Napoli by a point. Their domestic struggles were compounded by a Coppa Italia semi-final defeat by city rivals AC Milan but worse was to come. The campaign ended in brutal fashion, with a 5-0 Champions League final loss to Paris St Germain, a result that marked the end of Simone Inzaghi's four-year spell at the helm. In a bold move, the club opted for inexperience to lead the next

Chivu, an ex-Inter player who spent six years managing the club's youth teams, replaced Inzaghi despite having coached just 13 senior matches, guiding Parma to Serie A safety last term.

The Romanian began his tenure by taking Inter to the last 16 at the Club World Cup, which gave him the chance to assess two new signings — 21-year-old Croatian midfielder Petar Sucic and Brazilian winger Luis Henrique. But the real challenge begins now, as domestic and European campaigns loom large.

While Inter have retained the core of their experienced squad, Chivu's arrival offers hope to new signings and younger players eager to make their mark.

He already has a strong connection with striker Francesco Pio Esposito, who he coached with Inter's youth teams. After an impressive loan spell at Serie B side Spezia, the 20-year-old returned to Inter and scored on his first start at the Club World Cup.



Inter Milan coach Cristian Chivu



Napoli coach Antonio Conte during training. PHOTO: REUTERS

#### Napoli favourites to repeat success but Conte stresses need for patience

Napoli manager Antonio Conte exceeded expectations last season by guiding the club to their second Scudetto in three years but this time they are favourites to retain the crown. Conte is again downplaying lofty ambitions, mindful that this season they must juggle Serie A with the Champions League, having missed out on European football last term, while he works to mould a squad reshaped by

Victor Osimhen and Giacomo Raspadori have now officially left the club -Osimhen to Galatasaray after a transfer soap opera throughout the close season after a year on loan, while Raspadori will play in Laliga with Atletico Madrid.

"It's true we won the title, which was extraordinary and incredible, but now we need to take the second step before we can think about taking the third," Conte told reporters. "Balance is essential for all teams. When I say we are a work in progress, I mean also that we are trying different solutions. We did it throughout last season too," he added.

The arrival of midfielder Kevin De Bruyne from Manchester City could prove a match made in heaven alongside Scott McTominay, who enjoyed a remarkable

The Scot is thriving in Naples, hailed as a hero after driving the club to the Scudetto and winning Serie A's Most Valuable Player award. He will now join forces with Belgian playmaker De Bruyne, renowned for his vision, precision passing, creativity and match-winning influence. REUTERS

## HAVE YOU READ TODAY'S IN SCHOOL?

Here's how you can engage yourself in the learning process with the newspaper. Maintain a book and write down the activities date-wise. Besides honing your language skills, it will also help you sharpen your critical thinking and relate better to the world around you.

#### THE THREE WORDS I LEARNT TODAY



Meanings

#### BACKGROUND CHECK

Select an article that interests you, do some research on the subject and write down three interesting points on the subject.

#### PICK A PICTURE, TELL THE STORY....

Go through the newspaper, select one picture, and write five lines about it.

Picture / Page number

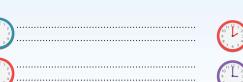


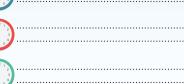
#### **LEARNING CURVE**

Two facts that I learned from today's newspaper.

#### MY DAILY 8 TO 8 PLANNER

Use this chart to plan your day.















## **MY MOOD BOARD**

Draw an emoji to express how you feel today. Get as creative as possible.



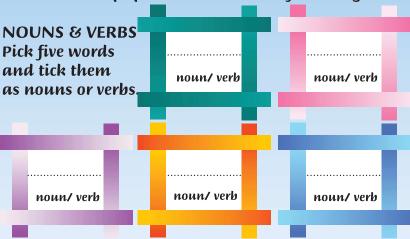






## **MY GRAMMAR PINS**

Read the newspaper and answer the following.



## PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Pick two words each in the Past, Present and Future tenses.

