



WISE WORDS >>
Faith is the bird that feels the light
when the dawn is still dark.



Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

PARKOUR MANIA RAGES DESPITE COVID

Parkour, also known as free running, is an extreme sport that originated in France in the 1990s. It has now found a sizeable following in Qatar and Lebanon. Parkour involves getting around urban obstacles with a mix of jumping, vaulting, running and rolling. It has captured a lot of interest despite Covid fears, high evening temperatures of around 40°C and zealous security guards unfamiliar with the sport. AGENCIES

Parkour is a mix of jumping, vaulting, running and rolling



Parkour originated in France in the 1990s



The sport is also known as free-running



Practitioners find their way around obstacles using a variety of techniques



Youngsters practise Parkour moves in Doha



NEW THEORY ON EARTH'S WATER

Our planet has had water ever since it formed, say scientists

WASHINGTON: Water covers 70% of the Earth's surface and is crucial to life as we know it, but how it got here has been a longstanding scientific debate. The puzzle was a step closer to being solved on Thursday after a French team reported in the journal *Science* that they had identified the space rocks responsible for the phenomenon, and suggested our planet has been wet ever since it formed. Cosmochemist Laurette Piani, who led the research, said the findings contradict the prevalent theory that far-reaching comets or asteroids had brought water to an initially dry Earth. Early models of how the Solar System was formed contended that the large disks of gas and dust that swirled around the Sun and formed the inner planets were too hot to sustain ice. This would explain the barren conditions on Mercury, Venus and Mars, but not our blue planet, with its vast oceans, humid atmosphere and well-hydrated geology. Scientists, therefore, theorised that water came along later and the prime suspects were meteorites known as carbonaceous chondrites that are rich in hydrous minerals. The problem with the above theory was that the chemical composition of carbonaceous chondrites does not closely match our planet's rocks. The former also formed in the outer Solar

SCIENTISTS HAVE FOUND THAT THE NITROGEN ISOTOPES FROM THE ENSTATITE CHONDRITE PLANETARY BUILDING BLOCKS ARE SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE EARTH'S - AND PROPOSED THAT THESE ROCKS COULD BE THE SOURCE OF WATER.

System, making it less likely they could have pelted the early Earth.

Planetary building blocks
Another group of meteorites called enstatite chondrites display a much closer chemical match as the contain similar isotopes (types) of oxygen, titanium and calcium, indicating they were the building blocks of the Earth and other inner planets. However, because these rocks formed close to the Sun, they had been assumed to be too dry to account for Earth's rich reservoirs of water. Piani and colleagues used mass spectrometry to measure the hydrogen content in 13 enstatite chondrites. The rocks are quite rare and are hard to find in a pristine, uncontaminated condition. The team found that the rocks contained enough hydrogen to provide Earth with at least three times the water mass of its oceans. They also measured two isotopes of hydrogen, because the relative proportion of these is very different from one celestial object to another. "We found the hydrogen isotopic composition of enstatite chondrites to be similar to the one of the water stored in the terrestrial mantle," said Piani, comparing it to a DNA match. The isotopic composition of the oceans was found to be consistent with a mixture containing 95% of water from the enstatite chondrites - more proof that these were responsible for the bulk of Earth's water. The authors further found that the nitrogen isotopes from the enstatite chondrites are similar to the Earth's - and proposed that these rocks could be the source of water. AFP



Experts have found that the enstatite chondrite rocks, which are planetary building blocks, contain enough hydrogen to provide Earth with at least three times the water mass of its oceans AFP

IN THE NEWS



In his broadcast Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister has asked entrepreneurs to develop computer games in and about India. SHUTTERSTOCK

India can become world's toy hub, time to be vocal about local toys: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India has talent and ability to become a toy hub for the entire world and called upon startups to work towards realising this potential while being "vocal about local toys". He said the global toy industry is over ₹7 lakh crore but India's share is very small, as he stressed on the need to work to increase it. Modi called upon start-up entrepreneurs to team up for toys and said it is time to get vocal for local toys. In his monthly Mann Ki Baat broadcast, the prime minister also said people have shown an unprecedented restraint and solidarity in their festivals during the Covid-19

pandemic. He also hailed farmers for increase in sowing area for different grains. "This is a time for festivals but at the same time, there is also a sense of discipline among people due to the Covid-19 situation... There is a close link between nature and our festivals," Modi said. He also asked young entrepreneurs to develop computer games in and about India. In his address, Modi also noted that India will complete its 75 years of independence in 2022 and suggested a host of measures to teachers to help bring to light contributions of thousands and lakhs of "unsung heroes" of the freedom struggle. It is important that our youngsters are aware of them, he said. PTI

'Three little pigs': Elon Musk's Neuralink puts computer chips in animal brains

SAN FRANCISCO: Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's neuroscience startup Neuralink on Friday unveiled a pig named Gertrude that has had a coin-sized computer chip in its brain for two months, showing off an early step toward the goal of curing human diseases with the same type of implant. Co-founded by Tesla Inc and SpaceX CEO Musk in 2016, San Francisco Bay Area-based Neuralink aims to implant wireless brain-computer interfaces that include thousands of electrodes in the most complex human

organ to help cure neurological conditions like Alzheimer's, dementia and spinal cord injuries and ultimately fuse humankind with artificial intelligence. "An implantable device can actually solve these problems," Musk said on a webcast on Friday, mentioning ailments such as memory loss, hearing loss, depression and insomnia. Musk presented what he described as the "three little pigs demo." He described them as "healthy, happy and indistinguishable from a normal pig." REUTERS



"We are the champions!! Congrats Russia!" Viswanathan Anand tweeted after the final. PTI

India & Russia win Chess Olympiad

CHENNAI: India and Russia were on Sunday declared joint winners of the 2020 Online Chess Olympiad after the final was marred by internet disconnection and server malfunction. Russia were initially declared winners after two Indian players - Nihal Sarin and Divya Deshmukh - lost out on time in the final after suffering a disconnection with the server. India lodged a protest against the controversial decision which was reviewed. It was the first time FIDE, the International Chess Federation, was holding the Olympiad in an online format, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. "FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovitch made a decision to give gold medals of FIDE Online Chess Olympiad to both teams - India and Russia," the world chess body tweeted. "We are the champions!! Congrats Russia!!" the legendary Viswanathan Anand wrote on his Twitter handle after the final. PTI

US Open: Djokovic, Serena chase history; Nadal, Barty among major absentees

NEW YORK: The US Open becomes the first Grand Slam of the Covid-19 era when it starts on Monday in a spectator-free bubble at Flushing Meadows following a troubled build-up that saw several top stars withdraw over coronavirus fears. Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams headline a tournament that will be unrecognisable from previous Slams due to strict safety protocols that were still not enough to convince some of tennis's biggest names to travel to New York. Defending champion Rafael Nadal and women's number one Ashleigh Barty are among high-profile absentees at the US National Tennis Center, which just months ago was transformed into an emergency coronavirus field hospital. Raucous crowds are a hallmark of the US Open, but this the cavernous Arthur Ashe



The US Open, which is due to open on Monday, is the first tennis Grand Slam of the Covid era. Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams will stay in private homes during the tournament. AFP

TITAN WHO PUT U.S. ON WORLD CHESS MAP

ROBERT 'BOBBY' FISCHER: This grandmaster, who won the World Championship in 1972, is considered among the greatest chess players. His brilliant achievements popularised chess in the United States.

Born in Chicago, Illinois on March 9, 1943, Fischer was raised by his mother Regina Wender Fischer single-handedly. At the age of six, he began to play chess with his sister Joan.

When Joan and Regina were unavailable to play with him, Fischer pitted his chess skills against himself.

During a family vacation in Long Island, New York, Fischer came across a book on chess which he read up thoroughly. Having watched her son spending too much time alone, Fischer even requested Brooklyn Eagle newspaper to feature an advertisement for any child who might wish to play chess with him. The newspaper declined her request but forwarded her query. In response, she received information about a chess event.

Fischer joined the event and, though he lost to a former Scottish master, his abilities impressed Brooklyn Chess Club president Carmine Nigro so much that the latter invited the youngster to join the club and began teaching him the game.

Even though in May 1956, Fischer took part in the US Amateur Championship in New Jersey at which he won 3 games, lost one and drew two. Soon after that, he joined the Hawthorne Chess Club members of which

gathered at the home of famous chess player Jack Collins twice a week. Fischer utilised his time there by taking part in practice and he also read up almost every book available in Collins' chess library.

During the same year, Fischer, then 13 years old, won the US Junior Chess Championship to become the youngest champion in the event. He attracted global attention when, in a tournament in New York, he defeated Donald Byrne in what became popular as the Game of the Century.

METEORIC RISE

In 1957-58, the United States Chess Federation invited 14-year-old Fischer to play the US Championship by dint of his strong ratings. In the tournament, Fischer won eight games and drew five to clinch the title and become the youngest US Champion. He won seven more US titles in 1958, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1965 and 1966. During the event in 1964, Fischer established a record by winning all 11 games, which made him the only player to script the stunning score. In August 1958, he achieved the grandmaster title at the Portoroz International in Yugoslavia after winning six and losing two games. During the same year, during a visit to the Soviet Union, he spent all his time at the

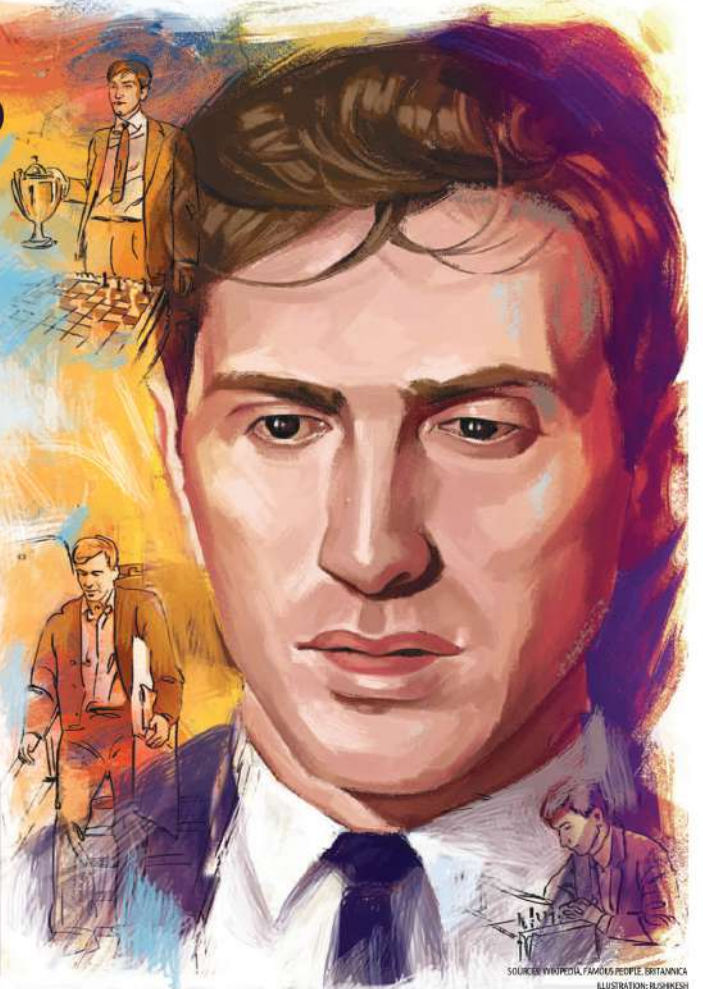
Moscow Central Chess Club and played with Tigran Petrosyan.

CLIMAX AND LONG BREAK

Between 1972 and 1975, Fischer won the World Chess Championship in Reykjavik, Iceland, by defeating Russian Boris Spassky. The game, which attracted a lot of publicity amid the US-USSR tensions during the Cold War, witnessed Fischer become the first native-born American to hold the title of world champion. In 1975, Fischer refused to defend his title when an agreement could not be reached with the International Chess Federation. Russian Anatoly Karpov was named the champion by default. Fischer took a long break from chess that lasted almost 20 years.

FINAL YEARS

He resumed participation in chess only in 1992, when he played against Spassky in Montenegro, Yugoslavia. At that time, Yugoslavia was under United Nations embargo and his participation had violated an executive order. The US government issued a warrant for Fischer's arrest. In 2004, he was arrested in Japan. Later, the US government seized his passport, Iceland gave him citizenship. He moved to that country and lived there till he passed away in 2008.



SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA, FAMOUS PEOPLE, BRITANNICA
ILLUSTRATION: RUSHNEE

INTERESTING FACTS

1 When Bobby Fischer won the world championship in 1972, it was a huge achievement for an American chess player who also became the first holder of the world title who was not from the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union was till that time the all-conquering power in the game and all the world champions since World War II were nationals of that country. Even in 1959, he became the youngest grandmaster.

2 Fischer published a book titled My 60 Memorable Games in 1969. Unlike other anthologies, the book analyses Fischer's games. It sheds light not just on his victories but also on nine drawn games and three losses.

3 In 1988, Fischer filed a patent for a clock which gave fixed time to each player from the beginning of the game even between the game for the competing the moves. He obtained the patent in 1989.

4 Soon after Bobby Fischer, at the age of 17, defeated Donald Byrne in match titled the Game of the Century, the teenager modestly said: "I just made the moves I thought were best. I was just lucky."

SALUTE TO A SYMBOL OF BRAVERY

Noor Inayat Indian-origin WWII spy honoured with blue plaque in London

Prasun Sonwalkar

LONDON: Noor Inayat Khan, the Indian-origin British spy who worked as an undercover radio operator in Nazi-occupied France in 1943 and was captured and killed in the Dachau concentration camp in 1944 at the age of 30, was honoured through another London landmark on Friday.

The Bloomsbury home of Khan - 4, Taviton Street - was marked prominently with a blue plaque by English Heritage, a charity organisation that manages and cares for over 400 historic monuments, buildings and sites.

Founded in 1866, the blue plaque venture celebrates links between notable figures of the past and the buildings in which they lived and worked. Khan was posthumously awarded the George Cross and the French Croix de Guerre, and in 2012 Princess Anne unveiled her bust in Gordon Square Gardens.

Born in Moscow in 1914 to a Sufi teacher and an American mother, Khan was educated in London and Paris. She worked for the Special Operations Executive in Paris in 1943 during World War II.

Khan evaded capture by the Nazis and continued to send messages to London for far longer than expected, but was betrayed, arrested and interrogated, but refused to give up secrets. She has been described as "one of the silent heroes of the Second World War".

FOUNDED IN 1866, THE BLUE PLAQUES VENTURE CELEBRATES LINKS BETWEEN ICONS OF THE PAST AND THE BUILDINGS IN WHICH THEY LIVED AND WORKED.

The blue plaque was unveiled on Friday by Khan's biographer, journalist-writer Shrabani Basu, English Heritage said.

Basu said: "When Noor Inayat Khan left this house on her last mission, she would never have dreamed that one day she would become a symbol of bravery. She was an unlikely spy. As a Sufi, she believed in non-violence and religious harmony. Yet when her adopted country needed her, she unhesitatingly gave her life in the fight against fascism". "It is fitting that Noor Inayat Khan is the first woman of Indian origin to be remembered with a blue plaque. As people walk by, Noor's story will continue to inspire future generations. In today's world, her vision of unity and freedom is more important than ever," she added.

Several Indians, including Ram Mohan Roy, Mahatma Gandhi, Vallabhbhai Patel and BR Ambedkar, have been honoured through blue plaques over the years on London houses and venues with which they were associated.

On September 11, 1944 Khan was sent with three other female agents on the 400 km journey to the Dachau concentration camp. Evidence given at the War Crimes trial and by surviving prisoners revealed that Khan was singled out for a night of torture and then, like her comrades, was shot in the head.

Some witnesses said that some women were still alive when they were cremated on the morning of September 13, 1944.

Khan had revealed nothing to her captors, not even her real name, and her last word was said to have been "liberty".

She was awarded the Croix de Guerre with Gold Star on January 31, 1945 and the George Cross on April 5, 1949.



British spy Noor Inayat Khan was killed by the Nazis during World War II

MIND GAME

SUDOKU

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

SCRAMBLE

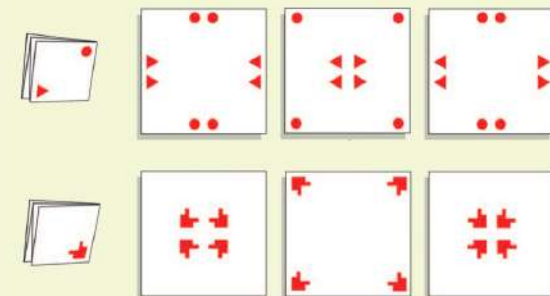
Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words.

LTAEE	* * * * *
ADIRT	* * * * *
AESCPY	* * * * *
CELSHP	* * * * *

Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.
You must _____ if you wish to secure blessing. -Andrew Jackson (3,3,5)
Answer: You must pay the price if you wish to secure blessing. -Andrew Jackson

FIGURE IT OUT

Two pieces of paper have been folded into four. If unfolded, what will both pieces look like?



Answer: Both pieces are squares with 4 dots and 2 matches with 'L'.

MATHDOKU

4+	10x	12x	1-	
		8+		
7+				10+
5+	7+	1-		
		2+		

Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-outlined cell contains 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.

GREENERY ON WHEELS



A man sits on the bonnet of an abandoned car that is innovatively used to grow plants in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Monday

Solutions

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

SCRAMBLE SOLUTIONS

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

SCRAMBLE SOLUTION WORDS:
EAT, TAKE, SPEAK, FEEL, BURN