

Headlines last week

Every Monday, we bring to you a snapshot of the main developments that made headlines the previous week. Here's the update for the past week.

U.S. lifts blockade of Iranian ports after Trump, Pezeshkian sign peace accord



The U.S. on Thursday lifted a blockade of Iranian ports imposed during the West Asia war after President Donald Trump signed a deal to end the conflict, as uncertainty surrounded planned talks in Switzerland aiming to take the accord further. Mr Trump and Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a deal on June 17 meant to end the war, with Tehran agreeing to dilute its enriched uranium in return for large-scale economic relief. The signing of the deal set in motion a 60-day period for talks on wider issues between the two sides. AFP

India's rainfall deficit 35% as monsoon stalls



Over a week past the monsoon's normal arrival date, the rain clouds have yet to reach Mumbai, driving India's nationwide monsoon deficit to 35% as of Tuesday. The shortfall in rainfall is concentrated in the regions the monsoon has failed to cover — Maharashtra, the Konkan coast, and the adjoining regions of central India — where its northward progress has been stalled for several days. India Meteorological Department (IMD) statistics show that apart from northwest India, which has received 5% more rain than normal for this time of the year, all other regions are in the red, including east and northeast India (-43%), central India (-61%), and the southern peninsula (-14%).

India's goods exports hit record high of \$45.2 billion in May; trade deficit widens

India's merchandise exports have jumped to a record high of \$45.2 billion in May 2026, 18% higher than \$38.3 billion in May last year, according to official data. Services exports rose 13.2% during the same period, to \$36.8 billion in May 2026. However, despite this, India's overall trade deficit widened to \$10.5 billion from \$6.8 billion in May last year due to a sharper growth in imports of both goods and services.

The data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry show that India's merchandise exports rose in May, due to higher shipments to Singapore, China, the U.K., Tanzania, Bangladesh, Germany, and South Africa, among others. This increase was also relatively broad-based in terms of sectors, with both petroleum and several non-petroleum sectors seeing strong growth in exports.



India and Slovakia expand ties with a series of MoUs from defence to education

India and Slovakia, on June 15, expanded their bilateral relationship with memoranda of understanding (MoUs) across defence, labour mobility, education, digital tech, and other sectors, officially branding their relationship a 'Comprehensive Partnership'.

The countries committed to significantly boost two-way trade and investment across areas such as the automotive, electronic, and advance manufacturing industries. An MoU between the Higher Education Ministries of the two countries to facilitate academic and institutional linkages was also signed. Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico agreed to promote the mobility of students and researchers — especially in STEM fields and humanities.

Ukrainian drones set key Moscow refinery ablaze; flight services hit

Ukraine struck a major Moscow oil refinery on Thursday for a second time in a week, sending huge plumes of black smoke over the capital and disrupting flights at its airports in one of its biggest drone attacks since Russia's invasion over four years ago, officials said. Ukraine has repeatedly targeted Russian oil facilities, aiming to cut Moscow's revenue for the war and make Russians feel the consequences of the invasion. Some areas have reported fuel shortages.



PHOTOS: AFP, AP, PTI, REUTERS

African farmers are using Sun to keep their harvest cool!

In the early morning, Yvonne Anyonyi Mumiah, a farmer in Kenya, walks through her fields of rosemary, basil, and other herbs that will soon be sent to supermarkets in Europe. In the past, she was always worried that her crops would go bad because of heat or delivery delays. Now, she uses a solar-powered cold storage service to keep her produce fresh and healthy.

The company providing this service, called **Soko Fresh**, uses a simple "pay-per-use" system. Farmers only have to pay based on how many kilograms of produce they store. This is part of a growing trend across Africa where farmers are using solar-powered fridges to stop one of the biggest problems in farming: food rotting before it can be sold.



Solar powered cold storage units are seen at Citadel Agri Merchants in Kitengela, Kajiado County, Kenya. PHOTO: AP

Food wastage

The Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates that up to 40% of food produced in Africa is lost between harvest and market, largely due to poor storage, transport, and processing infrastructure. Solar-powered, off-grid cold rooms, warehouses and cooling hubs allow farmers and traders to preserve perishable goods without relying on expensive and unreliable electricity grids.

This shift is gaining momentum across Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Rwanda and South Africa. "The biggest challenge was preserving the quality after harvest," said Mumiah, who, like many other smallholder farmers, could not afford the roughly \$30,000 upfront cost of a solar-powered cold storage

unit of her own. "You can do everything right on the farm, but if the produce is not stored properly, you lose both the product and income," she said.

"We are no longer forced to sell immediately because we fear the produce will spoil. We can wait for collection and still maintain quality." As food handling systems come under pressure from climate change, rising temperatures, and sometimes disrupting supply chains, cooling technology is increasingly vital.

Need for cold storage

In countries such as India, China, Japan, the Netherlands and the United States, sophisticated

cold-chain networks allow fresh produce to remain marketable for weeks. In many parts of Africa, however, farmers often lack access to cooling facilities and must sell their crops immediately after harvest, suffering significant losses.

The challenge is increasingly acute as temperatures rise since extreme heat accelerates spoilage of vegetables, fruits, dairy products and fish. Unreliable electricity supplies make conventional refrigeration expensive or impractical in many rural areas.

Soko Fresh says it has cut spoilage rates for its customers from up to 50% to under 2%, while helping farmers earn up to 50% more per kilogram. AP



Have you been following the news headlines?

- 1 The Revolution Will Not Be Televised is by which American musician?
- 2 Bella Ciao is a famous protest folk song in which language?
- 3 Which Indian state has launched the Priyadarshini scheme, allowing women and transgender persons to travel free on ordinary KSRTC buses?
- 4 Where has Tesla opened its fifth Experience Centre in India?
- 5 Which is India's first all-female hip-hop collective?

Answers on page 3

Stepping stones

This week, Dr. S Kulandaisamy explores how teachers can encourage the approach of "One step is enough"

PEACE TALKS

A Teacher for Peace, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and his idea that "one step is enough," helps students move from feeling overwhelmed to taking meaningful, small action.

1. She breaks big problems into small, doable steps. Instead of asking students to "solve pollution" or "end conflict," she guides them to identify one simple action — like reducing plastic use for a day or resolving one misunderstanding peacefully. This makes the problem feel manageable.

2. She connects action with purpose. A small step becomes powerful when it is driven by a sincere desire to improve something. She helps students reflect: "Why does this matter? Who will benefit?" When intention is clear, even a tiny action gains meaning.

3. She celebrates small efforts. A peace teacher does not wait for big

achievements. She appreciates honest attempts—whether it is one act of kindness, one day of discipline, or one effort to stay calm. This builds confidence and motivation.

4. She creates opportunities for practice. Through class activities, she encourages students to take one peaceful action daily—helping a classmate, listening without interrupting, keeping the classroom clean, or resolving a conflict calmly.

5. She shares inspiring examples. Stories of individuals who began with

small steps and created big change help students believe that their actions matter.

6. She encourages reflection after action. Students think about what happened: Did it help? How did I feel? What can I do next? This deepens learning and commitment.

7. She models the same approach. By taking small, consistent steps herself—with patience and dedication—she shows students that change does not require grand gestures, but steady effort.

In this way, a Teacher for Peace helps students understand that no action is too small when it is guided by a strong intention. Step by step, these small efforts grow into meaningful change.

(Peace Talks is a series that focuses on peace education. The author is the Secretary at the Gandhi Peace Foundation. You can get in touch with him at gpfchennai@gmail.com)

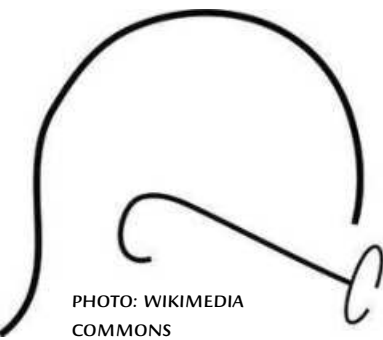


PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



GK Corner (3 mins)

A photograph of the Parthenon on the Acropolis in Athens, showing the temple's facade with its columns and pediment, surrounded by scaffolding for restoration work.

This ancient temple sits atop a rocky hill in Athens, Greece. Built nearly 2,500 years ago, it was dedicated to the city's patron goddess and is considered one of the greatest achievements of classical architecture. Can you name this famous monument? PHOTO: AP

Ans: Parthenon

Identify the odd character



In the list given below, three characters belong to the same novel/series and one is the odd one out. Identify the character and fill in the blanks. Don't let the image fool you!

Fagin
John Brooke
Rose Maylie
Bill Sikes

_____ is the odd one out and comes from the novel

PHOTO: AP

Answer: John Brooke is the odd one out and comes from the novel Little Women.

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

STATEMENTS

[illegible]

Today's quiz is all about zebras

1. How many types of zebras are there?
2. Apart from plains and mountain zebras, there is also the _____ zebra.
3. Zebra's _____ are unique, like fingerprints.
4. What is a baby zebra called?
5. True or False: Zebras can sleep standing up.



FILE PHOTO: THE HINDU

Answers: 1. Three, 2. Grevy's zebra, 3. Stripes, 4. Foal, 5. True, zebras can sleep standing up by locking their knees.

In how many minutes did you complete today's activities?



Read the paragraphs below and answer the questions

Malaysian scientists have discovered a new species of parasitic fungus in Borneo's jungles that preys on "zombie fungus", which is known to infect insects before subjecting them to a gruesome death. The new species was collected during multiple field trips conducted by the University of Malaysia Sabah's Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation.

It was dubbed a "hyperparasite" because it "effectively parasitises the primary pathogen," the institute's Deputy Director Jaya Seelan Sathiya Seelan told on Friday. "The fungus belongs to the genus *Pleurocoryceps* and acts as a specialised hyperparasite," Seelan said.

The new species targets ants already infected by *Ophiocordyceps*, or "zombie fungus", which manipulates the infected insect's nervous system and makes it behave erratically before killing it and bursting from its carcass. Named after its unique, distinctly horn-shaped structure, *Pleurocordyceps cornutusnematosa* was discovered after scientists studied a dead ant collected from the Danum Valley, a remote area in southern Sabah.

- 1) Who is the Deputy Director of the University of Malaysia Sabah's Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation?
.....
- 2) What did the Malaysian scientists discover?
.....
- 3) How did scientists discover *Pleurocordyceps cornusynnemata*?

[illegible]

An adjective, the word means unwilling to obey rules and is difficult to control.

Ans: Rebellious

The following sentences are incomplete. In each, the missing word is the anagram of the highlighted word/words. See if you can figure it out!

1. When the **veil** of the mysterious celebrity was removed on _____ T.V., viewers from around the world were shocked.
2. Rani **zoned** out in pure exhaustion after having completed a _____ complex math problems.
3. The mother noticed a **spark** of joy erupt from her son's eyes at the news that the three _____ in the neighbourhood would be reopened.
4. She **reset** the timer before preparing to sprint and touch one of the giant _____ in the park.
5. Your younger brother may try to **scare** you at times for fun, but know that deep down, he truly _____ about you.

An **anagram** is a word or phrase that is formed by rearranging the letters of another.

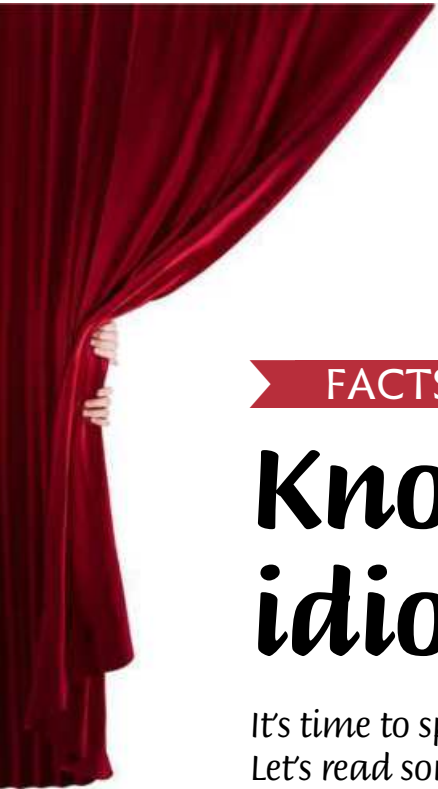
Answers: 1.live, 2.dozen, 3.parks, 4.trees, 5.cares.

5 minutes

Dear Diary,

If one song can describe my teenage life accurately, it would be...

[illegible]

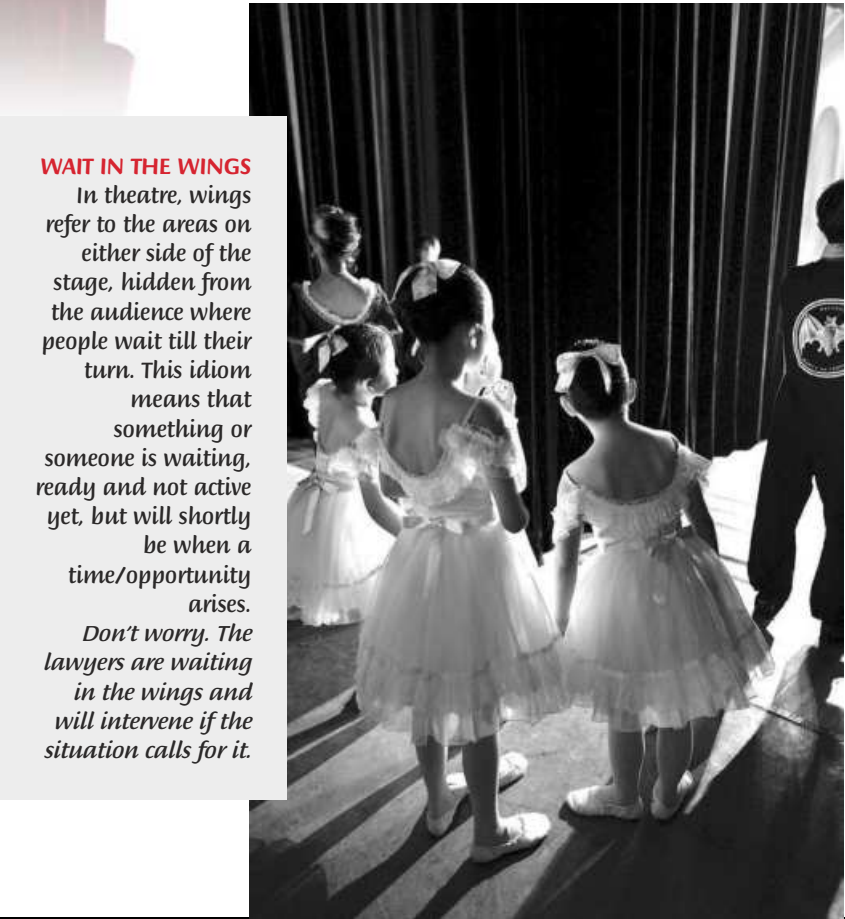


BE CURTAINS FOR SOMEONE
In theatre, curtains come in to mark the end of a performance. This idiom means to be the end, failure, or death of someone or something. *Ravi, listen to me! It'll be curtains for Hanan if he doesn't stop what he is doing right now. You're the only one he listens to. Please keep Hanan safe.* PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

FACTS AND FRAMES

Know your idioms

It's time to spruce up your language. Let's read some idioms and phrases related to or from the 'theatre'!



WAIT IN THE WINGS
In theatre, wings refer to the areas on either side of the stage, hidden from the audience where people wait till their turn. This idiom means that something or someone is waiting, ready and not active yet, but will shortly be when a time/opportunity arises. *Don't worry. The lawyers are waiting in the wings and will intervene if the situation calls for it.*



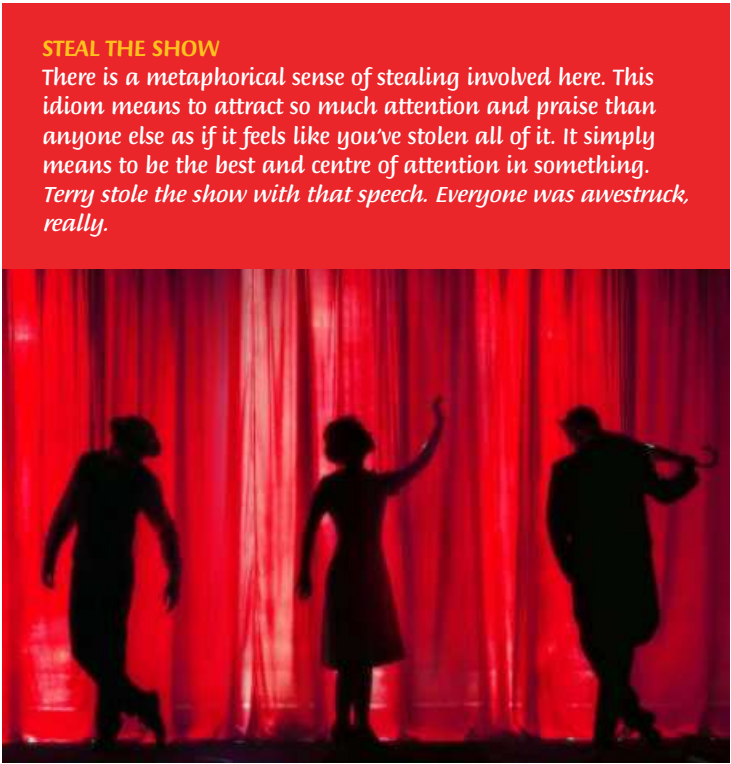
THE SHOW MUST GO ON
This idiom is a poetic encouragement. It means to continue doing whatever it is you're doing despite setbacks, difficulties, disruptions, etc. and to finish it instead of giving up. *Just when I was about to embark on my new journey, Tom had come up to me and said, "No matter what, the show must go on." His words continue to give me strength.*



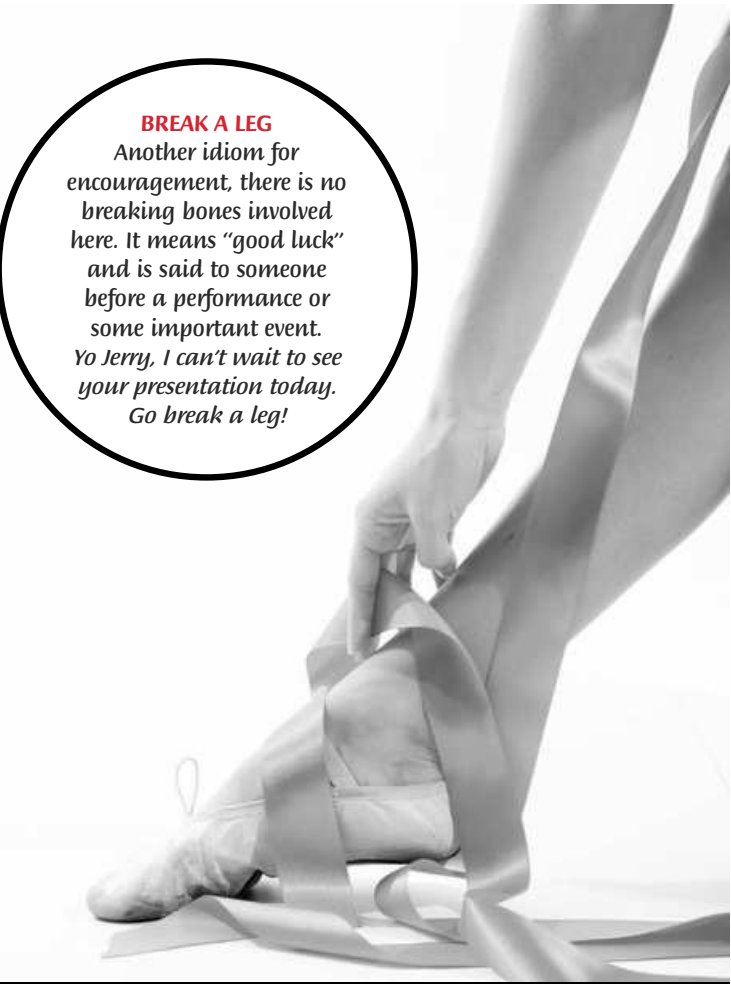
BE A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW
This idiom means to be so good or successful that whoever or whatever comes after you, will not be as good. It will be very difficult for the next one to be as good or successful. *The Star Wars prequel movies are a hard act to follow. Even now, the Star Wars films don't feel nearly as exciting as those.*



SET THE SCENE
For a scene of a stage play, ensuring the props and backdrop are set right is crucial. This idiom means to set the conditions right for something such that it will or likely will happen. *The bill put forth by the politicians had set the scene for an economic revolution.* PHOTOS: UNSPLASH IMAGES



STEAL THE SHOW
There is a metaphorical sense of stealing involved here. This idiom means to attract so much attention and praise than anyone else as if it feels like you've stolen all of it. It simply means to be the best and centre of attention in something. *Terry stole the show with that speech. Everyone was awestruck, really.*



BREAK A LEG
Another idiom for encouragement, there is no breaking bones involved here. It means "good luck" and is said to someone before a performance or some important event. *Yo Jerry, I can't wait to see your presentation today. Go break a leg!*

IIT Delhi tops India list in QS World University Rankings

Securing the 118th rank globally, the university has retained its position as the highest-ranked Indian institution

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has improved its position in the QS World University Rankings 2027, securing the 118th rank globally and retaining its position as the highest-ranked Indian institution. According to the QS World University Rankings (QSWUR) 2027, IIT Delhi improved by five positions from its 123rd rank in the previous edition.

The institute said the latest ranking also equals the highest global position ever achieved by an Indian institution in the QS World University Rankings. Among the performance indicators contributing to the improvement, IIT Delhi's Employer Reputation ranking rose by 11 places to 39th globally. The indicator assesses global employers' perceptions of institutions producing job-ready graduates. The institute also recorded a jump of 60 positions in the Employment Outcomes indicator, which measures an institution's ability to enhance graduate employability and nurture future leaders. In the Citations per Faculty indicator, IIT Delhi improved by 26 positions. The metric measures the average number of citations obtained per faculty member and is considered an indicator of the impact and quality of scientific research produced by universities.

World-class and affordable
Commenting on the rankings, Prof. Somnath Baidya Roy, Dean,



PHOTO: PTI

Planning, and Head, Ranking Cell, IIT Delhi, said the institute remained focused on delivering world-class and affordable technological education."IIT Delhi remains committed to the goal of providing world-class, affordable technological education and becoming a preferred destination for scholars worldwide. Our revamped curriculum, new infrastructure, and increased international engagement will enhance our quality and impact in the coming years. We see rankings as an outcome, not an objective. If we do the right things for the right reasons, rankings will follow naturally," he said. The institute said it has improved its global

ranking by 79 positions over the last four years, moving from 197th rank in the QS World University Rankings 2024 to 118th in the latest edition. Earlier, in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026 announced in March, several IIT Delhi disciplines recorded significant gains, with Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Chemical Engineering and Civil Engineering featuring among the global top 50 subjects. IIT Delhi also secured the 36th position globally in the Engineering and Technology category and continued to be the highest-ranked Indian institute in the discipline, according to the institute. ANI

TODAY'S QUIZ: ANSWERS

1. Gil Scott-Heron
2. Italian
3. Kerala
4. Knowledge City, Hyderabad
5. Wild Wild Women

THE HINDU
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What are Giffen goods?

Giffen goods are a rare type of inferior good in which demand rises as the price rises and falls as the price falls, defying the traditional law of demand.



FERRIS WHEEL: A giant among wheels!

On June 21, 1893, the original Ferris wheel had its first riders at the Chicago World's Fair. Envisioned as an American answer to the Eiffel Tower, this amusement ride has not only won over the hearts of countless people, but has also gone on to become a symbol of many cities in its 130-plus years of existence. Hop aboard one of the many cabins as you experience a ride like no other...

A.S.Ganesh
ganesh.a.s@thehindu.co.in



AN EYE FOR AN I

If you start looking up “1893 Chicago” in India, then the predictive autofill suggestions provided by the search engine likely concerns three main subjects. One of these revolve around Swami Vivekananda. It was in the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago that Vivekananda wowed the gathered audience with his historic address – a speech that has since been **immortalised** (made famous forever).

The other two subjects, which are in a way **intertwined** (connected so as to be difficult to separate) with the first, are worlds apart from faith. The World's Parliament of Religions was held in **conjunction** (a joint or simultaneous occurrence) with the World's Columbian Exposition that Chicago hosted from May to October in 1893. It was during this exposition, better known as the Chicago World's Fair, that the Ferris wheel made its debut.

An Eiffel-sized challenge
The mood was grim late in 1890 when American architect Daniel Burnham was tasked with the role of converting a square mile of Chicago into a show-piece that would dazzle the world. It was going to be a rather tough **follow-up act** (an action or performance that comes after a previous one, often intended to build on or respond to it), given that the 1889 World's Fair in Paris had had the Eiffel Tower as its grand entrance arch. Burnham assembled some

With over 1,00,000 parts, including two towers that rose up to 140 feet and an axle that weighed over 40,000 kg, the first Ferris wheel measured 250 feet in diameter and was fitted with 36 cabins, each with a capacity of 60 people.

of the best designers that the country had to offer at the time and asked them to leave no stone unturned. **To his chagrin** (disappointment), the proposals that made its way were far from exclamatory. When speaking to a group of engineers working on the project, Burnham made his displeasure felt. Among them was a 33-year-old Pittsburgh engineer, George Washington Gale Ferris Jr.

Huge revolving steel wheel
With the call to come up with “something novel, original, daring and unique” loud and clear, Ferris got to work. He was hit with the idea of a huge revolving steel wheel. He sketched it, added specifications to it and shared it with Burnham, who was concerned about its safety owing to fragility. Ferris wasn't the first person

to imagine such a scheme and smaller wooden versions of similar ideas were already doing the rounds. But what with Burnham's backing to think big, and the huge attendance expected at the Chicago World's Fair, Ferris went all out. He got investors on board, invested his own money in order to have skin in the game, hired engineers and conducted safety studies.

The result was positive. On December 16, 1892, his wheel was chosen as the American answer to the Eiffel Tower. With over 1,00,000 parts, including two towers that rose up to 140 feet and an axle that weighed over 40,000 kg, it measured 250 feet in diameter and was fitted with 36 cabins, each with a capacity of 60 people.

The first riders of the Ferris wheel included George, his wife, the invited guests including the entire City Council, and a forty-piece band. On June 21, 1893, the original Ferris wheel was put into action and then ran every day from 8 in the morning to 11 in the night.

Views like never before
The Ferris wheel was a resounding success to say the least with more than 1.4 million people **coughing up** (to produce money) the 50 cents required over the next 19 weeks. In exchange, they got a 20-minute ride that included two revolutions and an almost indescribable aerial panoramic view that few had experienced before.

QUICK QUIZ
Take this quiz once before you read this article. If you haven't got all the answers, take it once more after you've read it. Answers to all these questions can be found right here!

- 1) What is the full name of the person after whom the Ferris wheels are named?
- 2) Where was the world's first Ferris wheel located?
- 3) What is the name of the biggest Ferris wheel in the world?

Even though the wheel was a super hit and brought in a lot of money and even helped balance the books of the Fair, Ferris got caught in many lawsuits – regarding the debts that the fair owed to him and that which he owed to the suppliers. The financial ruin and immense stress was followed by a bout of typhoid fever, complications due to which led to his death at the age of 37 in 1896. His successful reinvention of the wheel, however, means that his name still remains popular, nearly 130 years after his death.

- 1) George Washington Gale Ferris Jr.
 - 2) Chicago
 - 3) Ain Dubai
- ANSWERS TO QUICK QUIZ:**

Have you ever been on a Ferris wheel? PHOTOS: EMMANUAL YOGINI, AFP



THE SCIENCE AND MATHS BEHIND THESE WHEELS

At its heart, a Ferris wheel is modelled after the structural principles of a bicycle wheel. Accordingly, the bottom half of the wheel holds up the entire structure at any given time in the rotation. Ferris utilised circle geometry and trigonometry for his original design, and it still remains in vogue in the wheels built today.

To ensure a smooth, safe ride, a Ferris wheel leverages centripetal force, gravity, and torque. Being on a Ferris wheel is effectively like watching dynamic forces in action, be it rotational dynamics, gravity, or even apparent weight.

The centripetal force is the force experienced by the riders moving in a circle, towards the centre of the wheel. It is because of this that massive observational wheels rotate slowly, to keep the ride comfortable for those on it.

As far as apparent weight is concerned, a rider feels lighter than their true weight at the top and heavier at the bottom. This is because of the way centripetal and gravitational forces interact with each other.

An operating Ferris wheel thus blends circular geometry, trigonometry, and rotational physics, but you are surely not thinking about any of those when you are on one of these rides.



THE LONDON EYE EFFECT

Even though Ferris wheels of various sizes have made their way since the original one was successful, it was only after the turn of the century that they've become the structural icons that they now are in various places. It started with the London Eye, which was ceremonially opened on December 31, 1999, but allowed passengers on it only from March 2000. When the London Eye was opened, it was the biggest Ferris wheel in the world, with a massive height of 135 m. Since then, the Star of Nanchang (160 m, completed in 2006) in China, the Singapore Flyer (165 m, 2008), the High Roller (167.6 m, 2014) in Las Vegas, and Ain Dubai (250 m, 2021) have successively scaled newer heights.

A subtle difference
While all of these are Ferris wheels for most practical purposes and occupy the top of almost all lists of Ferris wheels in terms of height, some of these are classified slightly differently, especially by those who wish to be technically correct. The London Eye, for instance, could be called a cantilevered observation wheel and the Singapore Flyer as an observation wheel. Observation wheels have cabins or pods that are completely enclosed and climate controlled. And when they say cantilevered, it is a nod to the fact that the London Eye is solely supported on one side at a single point in the centre, as opposed to having two supporting columns on either side.

Landmarks in their own right
Be it the London Eye, the Star of Nanchang, the Singapore Flyer, the High Roller, or the Ain Dubai, these Ferris wheels have become landmarks in their own right, embracing and elevating the place in which they reside. Wherever they are located, they are part of the skyline of the place. In addition to the rides on these super-tall structures affording the riders sensational panoramic views like Ferris had imagined, the rides themselves have become massive tourist attractions, drawing people of all ages – barring those fearing heights – towards them. The views and the experience can often be breathtaking, and that explains why many tourists often pick up a fridge magnet featuring these as a souvenir before heading back home.

A view of the Palace of Westminster as seen from the London Eye. PHOTO: REUTERS

Learning by doing: Why hands-on education works better than rote learning

There is more to learning than just memorising content. There also lies importance in questioning the subject, and figuring out where it can be applied in real-life!

Vinay Maheshwari

For generations, education systems have relied heavily on rote learning, encouraging students to memorise information and reproduce it in examinations. While memorisation can help build a basic foundation of knowledge, it rarely ensures true understanding. In today's rapidly evolving world, education must move beyond repetition and focus on meaningful learning experiences that allow students to engage with concepts, question them, and apply them in real-life contexts. This is where hands-on learning plays a crucial role.

Participation & practise

'Learning by doing' transforms the classroom from a passive environment into an active one. Instead of simply absorbing information from textbooks, students participate in experiments, projects, discussions, and practical exercises that allow them to experience how concepts work in practice. This approach strengthens comprehension because learners connect theory with application. When students build something, test an idea, or solve a problem themselves, they understand not



PHOTOS: MAGNIFIC



curiosity rather than hesitation. These experiences help shape students into active participants in their own learning journey.

Strengths & styles

Hands-on education also accommodates diverse learning styles. Some students learn best through reading and listening, while others grasp concepts more easily through observation and practical engagement. Activities such as laboratory work, model building, group projects, and field-based learning create opportunities for students with different strengths to connect with the material in meaningful ways.

The power of understanding

In an era where industries and technologies are evolving rapidly, education must focus not only on knowledge but also on capability. Skills such as problem-solving, adaptability, teamwork, and creativity are increasingly important, and these are best developed through experience rather than memorisation.

Ultimately, the purpose of education is not simply to fill students with information but to equip them with the ability to understand, question, and apply knowledge. Learning by doing fosters curiosity, deepens understanding, and prepares students for the challenges beyond the classroom.

(The author is the trustee of Sree Vidyanikethan Educational Trust)

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: Sona M
Class: VIII
School: Zion Genesis Public School, Selaiyur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu



Name: Shyam Sabarish Vinothkumar
Class: V
School: Heartfulness International School, (Omega Branch), Chennai, Tamil Nadu

PINK DRINK



Volunteers distribute 'chabeel', a cold sweet drink, on the martyrdom day of the fifth Sikh Guru Arjan Dev, at Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab. Chabeel is a traditional sweet drink typically made with a mizture of water, milk, rose syrup (Rooh Afza), and sugar. It is thinner than regular lassi, since it contains more water than milk. Some families also add kewra, a natural fragrant essence. Crushed ice can also be added to make it even more refreshing. PHOTO: PTI

GUESS WHO?



He is an American philosopher, political activist, social critic, and political intellectual. His philosophy focuses on the roles of race, gender, and class struggle in American society. He was also an independent candidate in the 2024 presidential election and is an avid left-wing politician. He has taught and held fellowships at many Ivy League universities.

Answer: Cornel West

SUDOKU

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

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

HOW DOES FOOTBALL’S ELIGIBILITY RULES WORK?

ATLANTA, U.S.: MOROCCO’S impressive performance against Brazil on the opening weekend of the World Cup and the shock draw that tiny Cape Verde forced against Spain came from a foundation of studious **assimilation** (the process of becoming a part, or making someone become a part, of a group, country, society) of players from around Europe, vastly strengthening their side with talent from the **diaspora** (a group of people who spread from one original country to other countries).

All 11 Morocco starters were born outside the country and developed at European clubs, save for Canadian-born but home-grown goalkeeper Yassine Bounou.

Most African nations have turned over the last two decades to migrant communities in Europe to find players and been able to dramatically improve their competitiveness, none more so than Cape Verde, with a small population of around 600,000, who have relied on players born, or raised, in Europe to see them to unlikely World Cup qualification when just over two decades ago they had not even entered the qualifiers.

Global migration, much changed FIFA eligibility rules and aggressive scouting of diaspora talent have significantly changed the landscape of world football.

WHAT ARE THE RULES?

All players competing at the World Cup must be citizens of the country they represent and there is a physical passport check. To avoid countries handing out passports to foreigners to cynically strengthen their squads, players must have resided five years in that country or have a parent or grandparent born there.

ELIGIBILITY

In the early days of the World Cup there were no rules on eligibility and Luis Monti played for Argentina in the first tournament in 1930 and four years later for Italy after he had moved there to join Juventus. FIFA later imposed a strict policy of once a player had played an international match in an official competition at any level, they were tied to that country without exception.

HOW IT CHANGED

North African football federations were the early

Nearly 25% of those at the ongoing FIFA World Cup represent nations they were not born in



FIND OUT

Name two players who were both French junior internationals before going on to be named as African Footballer of the Year.

Who was the first player to benefit from the rule change allowing players to switch their international career?

“Our proposal was to give liberty and freedom to these players to have a right to choose. Having these players is a huge benefit for many African teams. It improves the whole football product.”

MOHAMED RAOURAOUA, FORMER ALGERIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION PRESIDENT

Senegal captain Kalidou Koulibaly (fifth from top) played for France at the Under-20 level before switching over to the West African nation. He’s seen here in action against France during their World Cup Group I opener on June 16. PHOTO: REUTERS

agitators for players to be able to switch their footballing nationality. “We didn’t think it was fair that players (of African origin) were being selected for junior teams of European countries and then never getting a chance to play at full international level. Our proposal was to give liberty and freedom to these players to have a right to choose,” said Mohamed Raouraoua, the former Algerian football federation president who was an architect of the proposal.

“Having these players is a huge benefit for many African teams. It improves the whole football product,” he added. FIFA amended its statutes in 2003, allowing players to switch their international career as long as they could prove eligibility for double nationality and had not previously played at full international level. FIFA imposed an age limit of 21 for the switch but later allowed players of all ages to seek new visas at international level.

WHO WAS FIRST?

Defender Antar Yahia became the first to benefit from the new rule, debuting for the Algerian Under-23 side in an Olympic Games qualifier in January 2004. His senior debut came two weeks later. He had been a French Under-20 international. Any change must be approved by FIFA after a formal application.

WHO HAS FOLLOWED?

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Frederic Kanoute were both French junior internationals who changed allegiance and went onto be crowned African Footballer of the Year. Senegal captain Kalidou Koulibaly has won over 100 caps since he committed to the West African nation after playing for France at Under-20 level. There have been benefits outside of Africa too with Declan Rice, capped at all levels by Ireland, switching to England and emerging as a midfield stalwart.

THE IMPACT

This World Cup has an extraordinary 289 players, nearly 25% of those at the tournament in Canada, Mexico, and the United States, representing nations they were not born in. Many of these have done so after a change of sporting nationality and are now reaping the rewards with a chance to play on the sport’s greatest stage. REUTERS

Birthright citizenship in focus in the U.S. following win in their opener

Balogun scored twice in the 4-1 victory over Paraguay

Even though Balogun grew up in London from the age of one month, he qualified for birthright citizenship.

Picks U.S. over England or Nigeria

Still so British that he prefers English tea over coffee, Balogun ultimately chose to play for the United States over England or his family’s native Nigeria.

“The way I was eligible to represent America...I’m not going to be the person to stand in the way of this story,” he said in his distinct London accent.

Refugee background

According to the US team, half of its 26 players have at least dual nationality.

They include Tim Weah, the son of football legend George Weah. The younger Weah choose to play for the Americans but had been eligible to represent Liberia, Jamaica and France.

In their match on Friday, the Americans played Australia, whose roster includes three players with refugee backgrounds.

They are joined by Canada’s captain Alphonso Davies, who was born in a refugee camp in Ghana to Liberian parents. AFP

“The way I was eligible to represent America...I’m not going to be the person to stand in the way of this story



Trump wants to restrict citizenship for babies born in the U.S. to those with at least one parent who is an American citizen or lawful permanent resident – none of which applied to Balogun (centre). PHOTO: REUTERS

TRUMP THEM

Using the newspaper as a tool, enhance your learning process. Pick images of two individual sports stars in our sports page today and create your own trump cards!

Fill up the player's name and the parameters on the left side column (height, weight, date of birth and matches played) for both cards as these are common parameters regardless of the sport they play.

For the column on the right, pick and choose the parameters that you want to fill in. For instance, it could be four of runs, batting average, strike rate, wickets, bowling average, economy rate, and catches for cricketers. In tennis, it could be four of highest ranking achieved, current ranking, titles won, grand slam titles won, aces served, etc. In football, you could be picking from goals, assists, clean sheets, red cards, yellow cards, and more. And in basketball, choose four from points, assists, rebounds, steals, and blocks.

Feel free to choose any four parameters in each sport. But once you've selected them, stick to the same every time you fill in player details for players in the same sport. This is important if you want to use them as trump cards.

Once you have filled in all the details, cut out both completed cards from the newspaper and stick it on to chart paper of the same size. This way, they will retain shape and not be too flimsy. When you have created enough cards for any single sport, you will be able to use them all as trump cards and play with your friends or family members.

Have you read today’s The Hindu In School?

Name .....	.....
Height (cm) .....	.....
Weight (kg) .....	.....
Date of birth .....	.....
Matches played .....	.....

Name .....	.....
Height (cm) .....	.....
Weight (kg) .....	.....
Date of birth .....	.....
Matches played .....	.....