

FREEZE FRAME

Catch glimpses of major events that occurred across the country last week as seen through photographs taken by HT and news agencies



■ Villagers gather near the wreckage of an Indian Air Force helicopter after it crashed in Budgam area, outskirts of Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, on Wednesday



■ Light trails from cars are seen during the rain at India Gate on last Monday



■ Indian Air Force pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman arrives at Wagah border on the Pakistani side after his release by Pakistan authorities on Friday



■ A worker comes through a Tunnel Boring Machine breakthrough point after successfully building a tunnel for the metro train in Ahmedabad on last Monday



■ Students ahead of Class 12 CBSE English paper outside an examination centre in New Delhi on Saturday



■ A view of snow covered rooftops and trees after fresh snowfall in Shimla on Wednesday



■ IAF's Sarang team performs on the last day of the 12th edition of AERO India at Yelahanka Air Base in Bengaluru on Sunday (February 24)



■ A man covers fenugreek seeds by soil at Versova in Mumbai on Thursday

knowledgebyte

BARRED OWL

- The barred owl, also known as northern barred owl or hoot owl, is a native to eastern North America. The barred owl is distributed throughout most of the eastern United States, as well as much of southern Canada.
- It is a large gray-brown and white bird with a round head and no ear tufts. While most other owls have yellow eyes, the Barred Owl has brown eyes. It has a small sharp dull yellow beak.
- Named after the bars on its chest the Barred Owl is the most vocal of Eastern owls. It is sometimes called the laughing owl due to its many vocalisations (sounds it makes). Its call sounds like, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?" It is noisy in most seasons. When agitated, this species will make a buzzy, rasping hiss and click its beak together forcefully.
- They live in forested areas, from swamps to uplands. They may be found in city parks or low-density residential areas with forest patches.
- The barred owl's nest is often in a tree cavity, often ones created by pileated woodpeckers; it may also take over an old nesting site made previously by a red-shouldered hawk, Cooper's hawk, crow, or squirrel.
- They are generalist predators. The principal prey of this owl are meadow voles, followed by mice and shrews of various species; other mammals preyed upon include rats, squirrels, rabbits, bats, moles, mink, and weasels.



KNOW YOUR INDIA

Coffee from Andhra wows Paris

Indo-Asian News Service

ARAKU, ANDHRA PRADESH: From tribal hamlets to Paris, Araku coffee has come a long way and is set to lure the taste buds of New York's coffee aficionados this year. Started as a livelihood project for tribals by Naandi Foundation, a non-governmental organisation, it has given to the world a top-notch coffee with a distinct aroma. The picturesque valley, about 100 km from Visakhapatnam, is today a synonym for world-class coffee. Mahindra & Mahindra chairman Anand Mahindra, who is also chairman of Naandi Foundation, introduced the coffee in Paris with a flagship store in 2017. Araku Originals, a social enterprise formed by him along with three other life trustees of

Foundation, is now looking to take the unique brand to New York and Tokyo. A month ago, the company started selling the coffee online in India and plans to open cafes in Bengaluru and Mumbai this year. Famous for delicious fruit flavour intertwined with caramel and a finish of bittersweetness, Araku coffee scores 88-90, the world's highest rating on a scale of 100 in quality marking by Specialty Coffee Association, a non-profit organisation that represents coffee professionals, from producers to baristas all over the world. Naandi procures 100 tonnes of Araku coffee every year. Nowhere in the world is specialty coffee produced in such a huge quantity. "There are 21 steps and in every step we are



■ Araku coffee-red cherries

best in the world. Ours is not industrial production," Naandi CEO Manoj Kumar said. The Foundation originally started its work in the tribal belt in 2001 to check the high maternal mortality rate. It later started giving coffee saplings to provide some cash to tribals. Offering double wages to farmers grow-

ing dark red cherries, it motivated them to strive for the best quality. With 25,000 farmers across 720 villages, it is said to be the largest organic cooperative in the world, helping 100,000 tribals. On an average, farmers earn ₹1 lakh every year. They get another ₹1 lakh from black pepper, which they have planted as shade tree. The pepper also gives the coffee a special aroma. "If you have to create a brand, you have to create in place where they appreciate quality," said Manoj Kumar, who is also Araku Originals co-founder. Currently, it has 50-55 distributors in Paris. The four variants of Araku coffee are sold in France for a price range of ₹2,800-₹7,000 a kg. It sells the same coffee at a third of the price in India.

Q&A

All you need to know about the Crew Dragon flight

Elon Musk-owned SpaceX successfully launched its unmanned Crew Dragon test flight to the International Space Station on Saturday. The Crew Dragon capsule docked with the ISS on Sunday.

What is Crew Dragon? SpaceX has been developing Crew Dragon under a multi-billion-dollar commercial crew contract with Nasa. The agency signed a similar deal with Boeing, which is working on a capsule called the CST-100 Starliner. The goal is to return orbital human spaceflight to US soil. American astronauts have been dependent on Russian Soyuz rockets and spacecraft to get to and from the ISS since July 2011, when Nasa retired its space shuttle fleet.

Who was onboard? The only passenger is a life-size test dummy, named



■ A life-size test dummy along with a toy that is floating in the Dragon flight as the capsule made orbit on Saturday

Ripley after the lead character in the Alien movies. It is dressed in a spacesuit and fitted with sensors around its neck, head and spine. These sensors will gather data on the types of forces humans will face when they ride the spacecraft. This is to make sure it is safe for humans to travel using the rockets. In addition, the capsule is carrying a plush stuffed Earth. It is the size of a basketball and its job is to send signals back to

earth when the spacecraft begins to experience zero gravity.

How is it different from the Dragon cargo capsule? SpaceX's cargo supply ships have been ferrying items back and forth between Earth and the ISS since 2012. But the Crew Dragon is longer and heavier, and it has three windows that will help passengers enjoy the view. It's outfitted with seats and

can carry up to seven astronauts as well as crucial life-support systems. In addition, eight SuperDraco abort engines give astronauts the ability to escape "an unlikely emergency situation on the launch pad or during ascent," according to Nasa.

What is the Crew Dragon's next checkpoint? The Crew Dragon will remain connected to the space station for five days, and will depart on Friday. The mission will not be complete until the spacecraft safely departs from the station and deploys parachutes as part of its splashdown in the Atlantic Ocean.

BE ACTIVE CITIZEN

Initiative that espouses SDGs, Constitution among youths

Ht correspondent

NEWDELHI: A group comprising several bodies that represent youngsters from civil society, namely ComMutiny — The Youth Collective held marked the completion of five months of an initiative titled Be A Jagrik: Samvidhan Live... Live the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) here recently. The initiative engages an estimated 1,000 young people or Jagriks in 14 states across our country. Through a board game, self and social action projects, the initiative bridges the gap between textbooks and reality. It aims to enable youth and adolescents become aware and active citizens — Jagriks (Jagruk Nagriks), live and experience the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the rights and duties enshrined in our Constitution. At the national celebration of this programme, top Jagriks from across India were felicitated at a ceremony. They participated in discussion with Retd Chief Justice Iqbal Ahmed Ansari and Sandeep Chachra, executive director of Action Aid. The event agenda included conversations with Jagriks, showcasing the impact of the initiative and premiere of a short film on inequality. Addressing the gathering, the chief guest, Justice Ansari, said, "In the brief period of me being a part of this event, what I have found is that the event has been conducted very intelligently after a process that was deeply thought. The examples given on the violation of our Constitution have

been communicated very well. The vision of this organisation is to educate the young Jagriks so that when they grow up they are receptive to differentiate between legal and illegal, what one should do and not and this will make us a real democratic country." In the words of Lokashish Saha, CEO, ComMutiny, "It is an interesting and innovative initiative which brings together not only the Constitution of India but also the Constitution of the world — the Sustainable Development Goals. It brings together a narrative that is not only relevant to the country but also to the world and it's talking about sustainable engagement for a better tomorrow. It is an initiative wherein the youth of our country talk about a common narrative." Sharing her experience, Rajkumari from Synergy Sansthan, Madhya Pradesh, said, "I belong to the Dalit community and in my village we are not allowed to enter the temple. During one of the Jagrik tasks I entered a temple for the first time as part of questioning religious stereotypes prevailing in the society. Though it was not taken very well in my community, I still got an opportunity to have a conversation on the Right to Equality that the Constitution gives all of us, no matter what religion, caste, class or gender we belong to. It gave me an opportunity to question why we were being treated unequally when as citizens we have equal rights." ComMutiny- The Youth Collective is engaged in subjects such as gender justice, governance and social inclusion.



■ Rajkumari from Synergy Sansthan, Madhya Pradesh, shares her experience

MAILBOX GUIDE

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