

# CURIOUS TIMES WEEKLY

Age-Appropriate Content

School Curriculum-Aligned News

Non-Sensational News

## Quote of the week



It matters not what someone is born, but what they grow to be



- JK Rowling

## Word to know



### Multitude

Noun | mUI-ti-tyood

A large crowd of people

## Chinese scientists discover black hole 70 times greater than the Sun

Date : Nov 29 , 2019 | Image Credit : [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Black\\_hole.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Black_hole.jpg)



A huge black hole has been discovered by Chinese scientists. This stellar black hole has a mass 70 times greater than the Sun.

- This large black hole has been named as **LB-1**.
- It is **15,000 light-years** away from Earth.
- The black hole was spotted by the **National Astronomical Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (NAOC)**.

### What is a stellar black hole?

A stellar black hole is formed by the **gravitational fall or collapse** of a star. This happens after a **supernova** or massive **explosion** when the star reaches the end of its life.

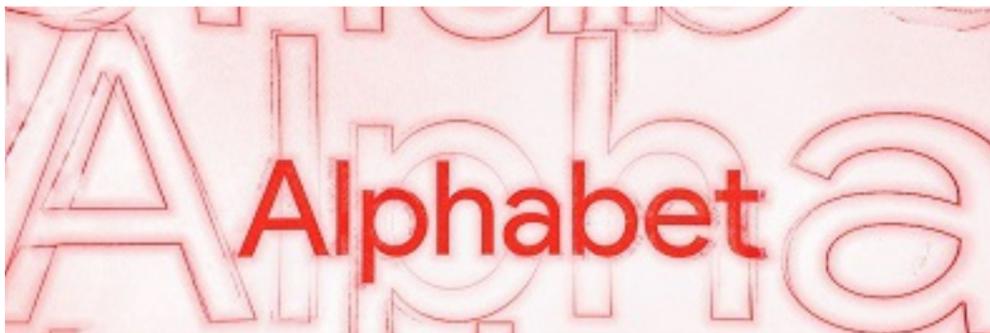
### Why is this discovery important?

- Scientists used to believe that the size of a stellar black hole is **not more than 20 times the mass of our Sun**.
- According to them, as a star in the Milky Way dies, its mass and gas gets lost in the stellar winds because of the explosion.
- But this **new discovery has left them puzzled as the black hole is much larger** than they thought it would be.
- They will now work on finding new explanations regarding the formation of such large black holes.

The discovery of LB-1 has also been confirmed by two of the world's largest telescopes – **Gran Telescopio Canarias** in Spain and **Keck I telescope** in the US.

## Sunder Pichai to take over at the Google parent company, Alphabet Inc.

Date : Dec 4 , 2019 | Image Credit : [Twitter, @Verge](#)



After 21 years, Google founders **Larry Page** and **Sergey Brin** have stepped down from their roles at **Alphabet Inc**. Alphabet Inc is the parent company of Google.

- They will no longer be the Chief Executive Officer and President respectively, but **will remain on the board of directors**.
- Sunder Pichai, Google's CEO will take over as Alphabet's CEO (Chief Executive Officer) too.
- Google **celebrated its 21st birthday this year**, in September.
- Alphabet was set up in 2015 when the tech giant expanded from internet search to other ventures like phones and self-driving cars.
- Larry and Sergey had moved from Google to **Alphabet** saying that they were going to **focus on starting new initiatives**. They left Sunder Pichai in charge of Google as its CEO.

Although the two co-founders are stepping down from the day-to-day management of Alphabet Inc, they will still **remain actively involved as board members**.

Between them, they still **control 51% of voting rights** on the Alphabet board. So, in case they don't like something happening at the company, they can still exercise their veto (reject a decision or proposal) power.

## New research suggests that feathered dinosaurs lived at the South Pole

Date : Nov 30 , 2019 | Image Credit : [Wikimedia Commons](#)



Can you imagine a dinosaur with feathers? New research suggests that there used to be **feathered dinosaurs in the South Pole**.

The findings are published in the journal **Gondwana Research**.

- A team of scientists examined a **collection of 118-year-old fossils**.
- Fossils were found at the bottom of a lake close to the South Pole in **Koonwarra and Australia**.
- The collection included 'dinosaur bones' and 'proto-feathers' from **meat-eating dinosaurs**.
- Proto-feathers (similar to feathers but not exactly) shows that these dinosaurs had simpler 'hair-like' feathers for **insulation** (to conserve heat).
- The fluffy feathers also helped small dinosaurs to **keep warm** in polar habitats.
- Also, they were **darkly coloured and patterned**, which helped them to **easily communicate** with each other. The dark colours also absorbed more heat in the frigid polar temperatures.

Other feathered dinosaurs have previously been found in **Germany and China**.

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## Indian Navy gets first-ever woman pilot

Date : Dec 2, 2019 | Image Credit : [Twitter@ashokgehlot51](https://twitter.com/ashokgehlot51)

Today, Sub-lieutenant Shivangi was appointed as the first-ever woman pilot for the Indian Navy.

- She will start her duties at the Kochi naval base in Kerala starting today.
- She will be flying the Dornier surveillance aircraft of the Indian Navy. The navy uses the Dornier surveillance aircraft for transport, survey, rescue and other missions.

Sub-lieutenant Shivangi was born in Muzaffarpur in Bihar. She completed her basic training in 2018 at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala and officially joined the Indian Navy last year.

By December-end, two more women pilots Sub Lt. Shubhangi and Sub Lt. Divya will also be joining Shivangi in the Indian Navy.

Women are making great strides in the armed forces. A while ago, we also read about Bhawana Kanth, India's first woman fighter pilot as well as about Shaliza Dhani, India's first-ever woman Flight Commander.

Congratulations to Sub-lieutenant Shivangi!

## Snow leopard undergoes first-ever cataract surgery in China

Date : Dec 2, 2019 | Image Credit : <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

On 26 November, veterinarians in Xining, China performed the first-ever cataract surgery on a wild snow leopard.

- Linghan, the snow leopard, was found injured and almost blind in the wild in early January. He was sent to the Xining Wildlife Park.
- The Veterinary Medical Group from China Agriculture University examined Linghan and found he had a cataract in the right eye. A cataract causes the lens of the eye to become clouded and so it becomes difficult to see.
- Surgery was suggested to recover his eyesight, but Linghan was too weak as he weighed just 25kg then. So, they put medicines in the eyes and gave him healthy food for 10 months till he weighed 40kg and was ready for surgery.
- The operation lasted for 3 hours, where an artificial lens was implanted in his eye after removing the cataract.
- The surgery was a success and Linghan's sight will be restored in a month's time.

Linghan has lost the ability to survive in the wild because his remaining teeth are badly worn out. After a full recovery, he will be sent to a home.

The medical team is happy with this experience. They hope it will help them treat more animals to regain their eyesight in the future.

## Did You Know



## Readers' Desk

Snow leopards are often called 'ghosts of the mountains', because they are rarely seen and spend most of their lives living alone.



## Joke Pokes



Q: Why did the gum cross the road?

A: It was stuck to the chicken's foot!

## Climate Emergency in NOW!

Date : 5 December 2019 | Arnab Yadav, 7, Amity International School, Sector 46, Gurgaon, Haryana



"Since our leaders are behaving like children, we will have to take the responsibility they should have taken long ago."

– Greta Thunberg, COP24, Poland, 4 December 2018

We humans have been polluting the Earth for years, which has now led to a climate emergency across the world, but what is climate emergency and how do we prevent it?

### What is climate emergency?

Climate Emergency may refer to Global warming, human-caused climate change. In lesser words, Climate Emergency is just an alternative word for the climate crisis.

- The rise in the levels of carbon dioxide leads to a substantial increase in temperature. Due to this, the polar caps of the earth are melting which may lead to floods.
- Humans have been contributing to forest fires too. Most wildfires occur due to human carelessness such as arson, campfires, discarding lit cigarettes, not burning debris properly, playing with matches or fireworks etc.
- We cause other things too like air pollution.
- Droughts, which happen when we use water without thinking and waste it.

[Click here to read the complete article on Climate Emergency](#)

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## South Asian Games 2019: India's winning streak continues

Date : Dec 4, 2019 | Image Credit : Twitter



We read about the female Nepali bowler who created history at the **South Asian Games**. Indian athletes are also performing well at the 13th South Asian Games.

- On the first day, India won 10 medals including 4 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze.
- Today is day 4 of the games and India's medal tally is at 54 currently.
- India's shooters continued their streak of success and bagged 9 medals including 4 gold, 4 silver and 1 bronze.
- India also bagged gold medals in both men's and women's table tennis team events.
- The athletic events for which India has won medals are high jump, race 100m, 1500m, 10m air rifle event, 25m centre fire pistol team event, football, discus and many more.

With this, India has got 54 medals till now (including 23 gold, 19 silver and 12 bronze). The host Nepal stands at 60 and Sri Lanka at 57 medals.

The 13th South Asian Games is happening from 1 to 10 December 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal. 7 countries are participating in it – Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives.

## Spain hosts United Nations climate change summit

Date : Dec 3, 2019 | Image Credit : Twitter@antonioGuterres



The 25th Conference of the Parties (COP25) is being held in Madrid, Spain, from 2 to 13 December 2019.

- It is part of the series of climate change conferences organised by the United Nations.
- Different countries are getting together for two weeks, to discuss climate change and set targets for the next year.
- By now, many countries, companies and industries have set individual targets related to climate change.
- Around 195 countries came together to sign the Paris agreement in 2015, and pledged to keep the global rise in temperatures well below 2 degrees Celsius.
- The Paris agreement allowed countries to set their own targets unlike the Kyoto agreement that came before it.
- However, a UN Environment Programme report published in 2017 said that the Paris Agreement only covers a third of the emission reductions needed. **The world needs to put more ambitious targets in place by 2020.**

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres is expected to tell the meeting that the world is now facing a full-blown climate emergency. It is more essential than ever to secure more ambitious national commitments.

Greta Thunberg is also attending the summit in Spain. **This summit was supposed to be held in Chile but the venue was changed due to protests in the country.**

More and more countries need to immediately start reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to be carbon neutral by 2050.

While the climate change summits are a positive step towards a better future, more needs to be done at the ground level. Time is running out

## Tongue Twister!



Which wristwatch is a Swiss wristwatch?

## Joke Pokes



Q: What did Tarzan say when he saw the elephants coming?

A: Here come the elephants!

## Readers' Desk

### I wish the world's children had freedom like me!

Date : 15 August 2019 | Rahul George, Grade: 2, The Choice School, Kochi, Kerala

#### Reminded about Syria

Last month, my teacher told us about the war in Syria.

Syria a country in the Middle East. She told us there's a war there between different groups of people who are trying to control the country.

We learnt about people dying in Syria. We also talked about how difficult it is for children- their schools have been destroyed by bombs so they can't go to study or play with their friends.

A lot of children have also left the country with their parents so they can be safe.

Syrian children also don't have good drinking water.

#### Now when I think of India

When I think about them, I feel so lucky to live in India where we are free to do what we want.

I can play when I want. Yesterday I played in the rain.

I can go out with my parents when I want to. I can be with my friends and have birthday parties at home. I can ride my bicycle and run after birds in the park.

There is no fear of bombs or of someone killing us.

"I tried to tell my little sister about freedom when I was writing this. She doesn't understand freedom or Syria because she is a baby. One day, she will."

I wish all the children in the world had freedom like me. I pray for this.



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## Chandrayaan-2: Indian Engineer finds Vikram's crash site, NASA confirms

Date : Dec 3, 2019 | Image Credit : Wikimedia Commons



Images of the Moon's surface released by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has confirmed the crash landing of lander Vikram on the Moon's south pole.

**Shanmuga Subramanian**, an Indian engineer, was the first one to find the debris (waste) from the Chandrayaan-2 mission's lander's images.

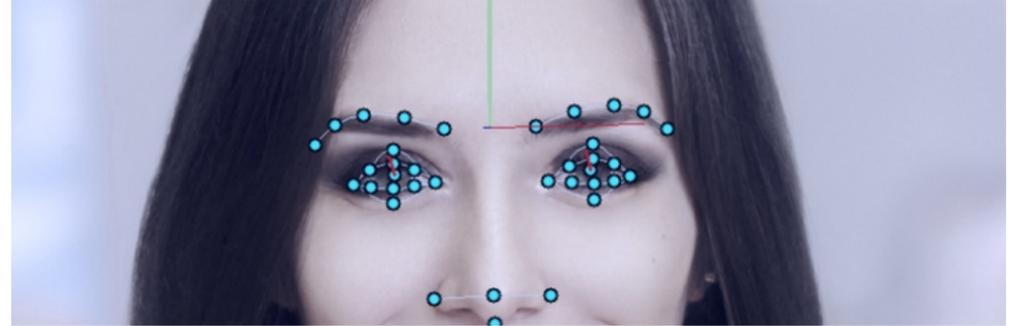
NASA had released an image of the crash site in September inviting the public to also participate in the search for the lander. So, Mr Subramanian informed NASA and ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) after he made the discovery.

The new images were taken on **11 November** by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO).

- LRO has been orbiting and scanning the Moon since September 2009.
- Due to the crash landing, the lander was broken into many pieces.
- The pieces were spread across at least **750 metres** of the crash site.
- From the images, NASA has identified the areas on the Moon's surface, where the lander crashed.
- The soil in these areas was **disturbed** due to the impact of the crash landing.

## China launches compulsory face scans for mobile users

Date : Dec 2, 2019 | Image Credit : Wikimedia Commons



We have read about **face recognition technology** for all Facebook users.

Now, **China** has launched mandatory (compulsory) face scans for mobile users.

They are doing this to verify the identities of the millions of internet users in the country.

**What is this new policy about?**

- As per the new policy, while signing up for a new mobile, **people will have their faces scanned.**
- This will help to verify their details along with their national identity card or any other ID proof.
- his new policy for telecom operators was framed by the **Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.**
- The Ministry has also announced that through this, it aims to **protect the rights and interest of citizens on the internet.**
- This move will **ensure cybersecurity and reduce internet fraud** in the country.

**How are people reacting to this?**

- People are concerned about the issue of data violation and privacy.
- They also do not want to be monitored all the time.

However, China has already been using **facial recognition technology** for years.

- In 2017, China installed 170 million CCTV cameras in place across the country.
- Facial recognition is also used in **daily life and commercial transactions** in China.
- It is widely used by people to **pay in shops and supermarkets.**

## Did you miss these news? Find them on CuriousTimes.in

### Switzerland to mint coin with Roger Federer's image



### Malayalam poet Akkitham wins 2019 Jnanpith Award



### Reliance Industries reaches coveted milestone in market capitalisation



### UN report says India is the fourth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases



### Government to open admission for girls in Sainik Schools from 2021



### Indian archers win gold at the Asian Archery Championship 2019

