



News & Views

Mughal road tunnel to link Jammu, Srinagar in winters

The picturesque Mughal Road which passes through the pine and kail forests of Shopian, Poonch and Rajouri districts in the newly formed Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, is being developed as an alternate all-weather route to the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, which often remains closed during winter due to landslides.

Currently, the 84-kilometer-long Mughal Road, which was opened in 2009, indirectly connects the Srinagar-Jammu national highway via Poonch and Rajouri.

A 10-kilometre-long underground tunnel needs to be constructed to turn the Mughal Road into an all-weather route. However, the completion of the tunnel – to be constructed between Lal Ghulam and Chattapani, which lies on the other side of Pir Ke Gali, the highest point on the route and located at an altitude of over 3,485 meters – could take over five years, said a senior engineer working on the project on condition of anonymity.

National highways Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDC), which has been entrusted with the task of compiling a detailed project report (DPR), has roped in a private company as a partner for the exercise. “We hope to submit the DPR to the government within six months,” said Mr. R K Mishra, General Manager, NHIDC. “Tender bids will be invited once the government approves the DPR. The tunnel is likely to reduce the distance between Srinagar and Jammu by over 30 kilometers. It will bypass the toughest part of the stretch, which receives over seven feet of snow, especially at Pir Ki Gali, during peak winter,” said Mr. D K Kaith, Executive Engineer, Mughal Road project.

The road was built by Mughal emperor, Jehangir, and several ancient historical monuments of the medieval era dot the stretch, where revellers make a beeline during peak tourist season.

The stretch passes through Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary in Shopian – home to Mark-hour, the endangered Himalayan goat, and several species of birds – and largely remains operational between May and December. “Once the Mughal Road becomes an all-weather route, the income of apple growers in Shopian district, which exports over 2.5 crore apple boxes annually, is likely to double,” said the senior engineer.

Source: Hindustan Times, 29.02.2020

Rohtang mountain link to be completed in September

Despite the ongoing nationwide lockdown in India due to the COVID-19 pandemic, work on the 8.8km Rohtang mountain road tunnel resumes. To complete the construction work as planned, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) obtained special permission from the state government of Himachal Pradesh.

According to BRO officials work is being executed with all necessary Corona virus precautions to ensure its completion in September. BRO is currently directing its attention to the road surface works and the installation of ventilation, lighting and intelligent traffic control systems.

The Rohtang Tunnel, which will be called Atal Tunnel once completed, is being constructed in the Pir Panjal range of Himachal Pradesh. Each year the Rohtang Pass between Manali and Leh is fully covered with snow between November and May. The tunnel therefore ensures an all-weather connectivity to the remote border areas of Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh. Furthermore it will reduce the travelling distance between Manali and Leh by 46km.

Financial Express, 5.5.2020
Source: www.tunneltalk.com

Oldest material on Earth found in '69 meteorite

A meteorite that crashed into rural southeastern Australia in a fireball in 1969 contained the oldest material ever found on Earth, stardust that predated the formation of our solar system by billions of years, scientists said on Monday.

The oldest of 40 tiny dust grains trapped inside the meteorite fragments retrieved around the town of Murchison in Victoria state dated from about 7 billion years ago, about 2.5 billion years before the sun, Earth and rest of our solar system formed, the researchers said.

In fact, all of the dust specks analyzed in the research came from before the solar system's formation - thus known as "presolar grains" - with 60% of them between 4.6 and 4.9 billion years old and the oldest 10% dating to more than 5.6 billion years ago.

The stardust represented time capsules dating to before the solar system. The age distribution of the dust - many of the grains were concentrated at particular time intervals - provided clues about the rate of star formation in the Milky Way galaxy, the researchers said, hinting at bursts of stellar births rather than a constant rate.

"I find this extremely exciting," said Philipp Heck, an associate curator at the Field Museum in Chicago who led the research published in the scientific journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Despite having worked on the Murchison meteorite and presolar grains for almost 20 years, I still am fascinated that we can study the history of our galaxy with a rock," Heck added.

The grains are small, measuring from 2 to 30 micrometers in size. A micrometer is a one-thousandth of a millimeter or about 0.000039 of an inch.

Source: Hindustan Times, 15.1.2020

Indian cyclists create history, No 1 in 4 events

For the first ever time ever, Indian men's junior track cyclists are ranked No.1 in the world in all four sprinting events.

Laitonjam Ronaldo Singh, part of the junior world championship winning team (sprint) last year, rose a spot on Tuesday to be ranked No.1 in individual sprint in the latest international cycling

union (UCI) rankings. In addition, he jumped five and two places to be No.1 in both keirin and 1km time trial rankings respectively too.

Simultaneously, India are perched atop the team sprint rankings.

Creating history

This comes after Esow, who has advanced to the senior level, created history by becoming the first Indian to top the UCI world rankings last year with Ronaldo replacing his one year senior at the pinnacle.

Meanwhile, Y Rojit Singh is ranked second and third in keirin and sprint respectively.

In junior women, India are ranked number two in team sprint while Triyasha Paul is number three in time trial and Nikita Nisha is number three in the event keirin.

Source: Hindustan Times, 8.1.2020

India's first underwater metro nears completion

Kolkata Metro Rail Corp. (KMRC) expects to complete its East-West project, which runs partly under the city's iconic Hooghly river, by March 2022 after a delay of several years doubled costs.

The authority is awaiting ₹2,000 crore over the next two years from the Indian Railway Board, said Manas Sarkar, managing director at KMRC. A soft loan of ₹4,160 crore from Japan International Cooperation Agency helps fund 48.5% of the project.

India's oldest metro, which started in 1984 with a North-South service, was due to expand by 2014 but faced problems including squatters on the planned route. These issues have contributed to the total project cost rising to about ₹8,600 crore for some 17 kilometers from ₹4,900 crore for 14 km.

“About 40% of total transport demand will be tackled by these two metro services,” Sarkar said in an interview at his office in Kolkata. “It will be a relief for environmental pollution and the city should be much more decongested.”

The new line is expected to carry about 900,000 people daily—roughly 20% of the city's population—and will take less than a minute to cross a 520-meter underwater tunnel.

Depending on the time of day, it takes some 20 minutes to use the ferry and anywhere upward of an hour to cross the Howrah bridge. The North-South service carries 700,000 people each day.

“We don't anticipate any further cost escalation now,” Sarkar said.

Source: Hindustan Times, 29.1.2020

Alien planet spotted as it is being formed

Astronomers have gazed into what appears to be a planetary maternity ward, observing for the first time within a huge disk of dense gas and dust surrounding a newly formed star a planet in the process of being born.

This large young planet is forming around a star called AB Aurigae that is about 2.4 times the mass of the sun and located in our Milky Way galaxy 520 light years from Earth, researchers said on Wednesday. A light year is the distance light travels in a year, 9.5 trillion km.

The scientists used the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile to spot a spiral structure within the swirling disk around AB Aurigae generated by the presence of a planet. They detected a "twist" pattern of gas and dust in the spiral structure marking where the planet was coalescing.

More than 4,000 planets have been discovered orbiting stars beyond our solar system.

NASA readies 1st home launch in 9 years

Astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken flew to Florida from their home base in Houston aboard one of NASA's jets, exactly one week before their historic SpaceX flight. They will end a nine-year launch drought for NASA, which will also be the first time a private company sends astronauts into orbit.

Source: Hindustan Times, 22.5.2020

India can eradicate pandemic: WHO

India, which led the world in eradicating two silent killers - smallpox and polio - has a tremendous capacity in eradicating the deadly coronavirus pandemic that has now claimed over 17,000 lives and infected over 400,000 others globally, according to a top World Health Organization (WHO) official.

"India led the world in eradicating two silent killers and eliminating them from the country," said Michael Ryan, executive director of WHO, during a press conference in Geneva on Monday on the Covid-19 pandemic.

India, through targeted public intervention, ended smallpox and gave a great gift to the world. India also eradicated polio, he noted.

"India has tremendous capacities. It is exceptionally important that countries like India lead the way to show the world what can be done," Ryan said.

Diseases such as polio and smallpox, which once claimed many lives in India, have been defeated with targeted public interventions. While India attained the polio-free status in 2014, the country got rid of smallpox in 1977.

Ryan's remarks came as the WHO said the number of deaths due to the coronavirus soared to 17,000, with more than 400,000 people infected worldwide.

India has reported 519 cases of coronavirus and nine deaths, according to health ministry data on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, WHO director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Monday warned that the coronavirus pandemic was clearly "accelerating" but said it was still possible to "change the trajectory" of the outbreak.

"The pandemic is accelerating," Tedros told journalists in a virtual news briefing. He said it took 67 days from the beginning of the outbreak in China in late December for the virus to infect the first 100,000 people worldwide.

In comparison, it took 11 days for the second 100,000 cases and just four days for the third 100,000 cases, he said.

“The #COVID19 pandemic is accelerating. It took 67 days from the 1st reported case to reach the first 100K cases, 11 days for the second 100K cases & just 4 days for the third 100K cases.

“These numbers matter, these are people, whose lives & families have been turned upside down,” Tedros tweeted later.

“We are not helpless bystanders. We can change the trajectory of this pandemic,” Tedros said.

Source: Hindustan Times, 25.3.2020

Panghal No 1 in world ahead of Olympic qualifiers

World silver-medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) has been ranked No 1 by the IOC’s Boxing Task Force ahead of next month’s Olympic Qualifiers, making him the first Indian pugilist in over a decade to achieve the global top position in his category.

In 2009, Olympic bronze-medallist Vijender Singh did it for the first time after he opened India’s account at the world championships with a bronze in the 75kg division.

The 24-year-old Panghal holds the numero uno position with 420 points, according to the list released by the International Olympic Committee’s (IOC) Boxing Task Force, which is in charge of administering the sport right now.

“It is a great feeling and obviously means a lot to me because it will help me in being seeded at the qualifiers. Being world no.1 also gives you a renewed sense of confidence,” Panghal said in an interview.

“I hope to secure an Olympic spot in the first qualifier itself,” added the diminutive boxer from Rohtak.

The IOC task force will be conducting the Olympic qualifiers and the main event later this year in Tokyo as the International Boxing Association (AIBA) is currently suspended for alleged financial and administrative mismanagement.

The rankings took into account the last two world championships for both men and women and the continental championships and Games in 2019. The Asian Olympic Qualifiers will be held in Amman, Jordan next month.

Panghal has enjoyed a phenomenal run since 2017, clinching gold medals at the 2018 Commonwealth and Asian Games.

Last year, he became the first Indian to claim a silver medal at the world championships after notching up a gold at the Asian meet.

Mary Kom at No. 5

In the women’s rankings, celebrated six-time world champion MC Mary Kom occupies the fifth spot in the 51kg category. Mary Kom, who won an unprecedented eighth world medal - a bronze medal - last year, has 225 points.

Her rival Nikhat Zareen is ranked 22nd with 75 points.

However, the best-placed Indian among women boxers is Lovlina Borgohain, who holds the third position in the 69kg division. The 22-year-old Borgohain is a two-time world bronze-medallist.

Among other Indians, Asian silver-medallist Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) is placed seventh with 190 points, followed by former world bronze-winner Gaurav Bidhuri at 32nd spot.

In the men's 63kg division, world bronze-winner Manish Kaushik is the best-placed Indian at 12th, followed by four-time Asian-medallist Shiva Thapa at the 36th position.

Veteran Manoj Kumar, a three-time Commonwealth Games podium-finisher, is 71st in the 69kg category, in which Ashish is the highest-positioned Indian at 22nd. Two-time world and Asian silver-winner Sonia Chahal holds the 10th spot in the women's 57kg category.

The continental Olympic Qualifiers in Dakar (Africa), Amman (Asia), London, (Europe), Buenos Aires (Americana) and the final world qualifiers in Paris will grant more points to ensure that the winners of these events are guaranteed a seeding the Olympic Games.

Source: Hindustan Times, 14.2.2020

Humpy goes from prodigy to world champion, two decades on

She is back! That's was the refrain in the chess world as Koneru Humpy made a brilliant return to chess, re-launching her career after a two-year hiatus for the birth of her daughter Ahana. The second highest-ranked player in women's chess for over a decade, Humpy struggled a bit initially when she returned to the circuit in 2018 but has found her groove this year, making a brilliant start in the FIDE Women's Grand Prix, a series of four tournaments from which the top two will feature in the Candidates Match to pick the challenger to take on reigning world champion Ju Wenjun of China in 2021.

After completing two rounds, Humpy leads the standings, finishing on top in the first event at Skolokov, Russia (Sept 9-23) and joint first in Monaco (Dec 2-15) in the 16-player competition in which each player has to play three of the four events. Two more events will be held in Lausanne (March 1-14, 2020) and Sardinia, Italy (May 2-15, 2020).

On Saturday night, Humpy took a giant step in her tremendous comeback by winning the world rapid title in Moscow, beating her Chinese rival in a thrilling playoff that went to the wire. In the rapid section of the King Salman World Rapid and Blitz Championships being played in Moscow, the 32-year from Andhra Pradesh defeated Lei Tingjie in the Armageddon game after they were locked 1-1 in blitz chess, the shortest format in the game.

It is a measure of her brilliant form this year that Humpy has gone on to triumph in rapid chess, her least favourite format, that too after losing a tie-break game on time trouble.

In the 12-round rapid section in which four games are played on each of the three days, Humpy was fifth after the first four rounds but slipped to 13th after losing to Bulmaga Irina of Romania in the sixth round. She drew the next game against Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine and beat Georgia's Dzagnidze Nana in the eighth round. But she was still not in a comfortable position going into the final day.

Back at fifth position on the final day, things took an unexpected turn for Humpy as she won her first world title in dramatic fashion, beating Tingjie in the playoffs.

Humpy was not in the running at the start of action on the third day. After draws with Atalik and Kateryna Lagno of Russia in the ninth and 10th rounds, she won the last two rounds to force a tie for the top spot, defeating another Chinese Tan Zhongyi in a dramatic, topsy-turvy 12th round game.

“When I started my first game on Day 3 I did not imagine I would be at the top. My hope was to reach the top three. I didn’t expect to play the tie-break games. I lost the first game on time but came back in the second game. It was a gambling game, but I won. In the final game, I had a better position and it was a comfortable win,” Humpy said later, terming her victory as “unexpected”.

In the playoffs against Tingjie, she started with white pieces but lost the first blitz game when she ran out of time. Normally, a player would lose hope after such a defeat but she fought back to win with black pieces, forcing the Armageddon game.

Humpy chose the Modern Defence, which involves a gamble, and got slight advantage in the middle game. She improved her position, and with time running out, her opponent Tingjie allowed three perpetual checks to force a draw. That ensured she won the title comfortably.

Humpy shot to fame in 1997 when she won the girls’ Under-10 World Championship and repeated the feat in the U-12 and U-14 sections in the next two years, going on to win the world junior girls title in 2001. She became the youngest player to win the International Master title and earned the Grandmaster title, open to men and women, at the age of 15. In 2007, she crossed the Elo rating of 2600, only the second woman player, after Judith Polgar of Hungary, to achieve the feat.

Though Humpy remained at the top of her game in the next decade, she somehow failed to win the title that mattered her the most—the Classical World Championship. She reached the semi-finals on four occasions but could not progress further. Once she reached the final but lost to Hou Yifan of China and had to settle for silver.

Often, people questioned her temperament and cited her reluctance to train with anyone other than her father Ashok, who had coached her since she was five.

But on Saturday, she made her breakthrough.

Her brilliant performance in the Women’s Grand Prix Series proves the second innings could prove more successful for Humpy.

A victory in the blitz section in Moscow and an ultimate triumph in the Classical World Championship will be the icing on the cake for India’s chess queen.

Source: Hindustan Times, 30.12.2019

Citizenship not only about rights: CJI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad Bobde on Saturday said that citizenship was not only about people’s rights, but also about their duties towards the society.

Speaking at the 107th convocation of the Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU) here, he lamented that some educational institutes have become “extremely commercially-minded” and said developing intelligence and character was the true goal of education.

“Today, education is proliferating. Unfortunately there are some institutes, I am not talking about universities, which have become extremely commercially-minded.

I say this from my personal knowledge of certain institutes which profess to teach law,” he said.

“The most important question we should address is what is the purpose of university education. Universities are not about brick and mortar certainly. Universities aren’t supposed to function like assembly line of a production unit,” the CJI said.

“It is also very important to emphasise that university degrees are not end in themselves, but are means to an end. Most importantly, the idea of university reflects what we want to achieve as a society. Universities should re-orient themselves and ensure that they stay true to the compass and march on towards the basic goal of the society, which undoubtedly changes at different times,” he added.

On education, the CJI said, “Closely connected with idea of education is the idea of discipline and I understand that there is a growing resentment in some areas about the idea of discipline. But the word discipline does not mean what it has come to mean today.

“Discipline comes from the word disciple and the word disciple comes from learning. It is the state of mind in which one can learn endlessly any subject. Education is the state of mind for disciples and that state of mind is discipline,” he said.

“Martin Luther (King Jr) is again somebody who was concerned with discipline and indiscipline as we know it. He said something very insightful. He said the function of education is to teach one to think intensively and critically.

Intelligenceplus character- that is the true goal of education,” Bobde said.

Research and thinking are important and must be undertaken in the ultimate analysis, he said, adding, “It is equally important, if not more, for the graduating students to realise what is expected from them by the society. It must be realised that in the society, interdependence is as important as independence.” “A university degree gives tools to chisel one’s future. What one carves out through the help of these tools is the choice and wisdom of the craftsmen. Tools don’t chisel on their own, one needs to be guided by moral compass that resides within.

“You all have a responsibility to be an active citizen too and citizenship isn’t only about rights but it is equally about duties towards society,” the CJI said.

“What you are today is of course the outcome of your rigour, but it is important to realise that you also reap benefits what helped you was created by others. Therefore, we can’t remain oblivious to the well-being of others,” said CJI Bobde.

Calling the RTMNU his alma mater, he said, “It is now that one realises the true meaning of why it is called an alma mater. University is indeed like a mother. It nourishes its children with knowledge, skills and protects them throughout their lives,” he said.

Source: Hindustan Times, 19.1.2020

Law of Actions (Karma)

Innovate, Patent, Produce and Prosper

- Narendra Modi (2020)

The nature has a plan for all of us. Thus all actions and their fruits are ideally predestined on a vast visible scale over a long time. There is chaos in the nature but there are long term trends also in the societies. The both luck and talents are important in one's career. The hidden powers of the nature appear to be rewarding the fruits of good deeds of the kind and brave person or to their children after a long time of 30-40 years. This is called the law of actions (Karma). This law is true in the majority of cases (about 60-70%). Fair, creative and healthy competitions has transformed many nations into the originally creative nations. So a large number of kind and brave persons have built their careers by their hard-organised works without the help of governments and armies. Genius is 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration, will-power brings the victory. The students should excel their teachers. O' Lord! Kindly reduce cruelty.

India got freedom because of the law of actions (Karma). There is enough experience of case histories of success of poor persons. The nature has rewarded the fruits of their hard works to their hard working-talented-dedicated children. It appears that the genetic laws are not applicable to the enlightened persons. The poor nations are rising due to hard working-talented-dedicated children of the poor people surprisingly. So most of us are self-made persons. If a government does good work, there is good-will of the peoples who re-elect the government. Listen to your pure conscience. Act on it. This is the law of success. Will-power of the peoples has to be improved. Bigger the team, bigger the success. The practice makes a team perfect. The actions speak louder than words. The maximum money is in the medical services.

The science and technology have evolved miracle only due to the law of actions (Karma). This is the most powerful belief of the peoples all over the world for thousands of years. It is due to the power of the good-will of the peoples. The money and the health are in hard work and not the enjoyments. If you want to be happy for whole life, love your duties. The luck favours the brave persons. The brave nations are lucky nations. Before starting the work, we should pray God for the right decisions. Our creative intelligence creates all the wealth and fame. Intuitions are better than the creative intelligence. Increase your own lines but do not cut lines of others. One ounce of noble actions is better than one ton of knowledge. Life is the game of the collective will-power of peoples. Prayers very slowly change unfavorable circumstances into the favorable circumstances.

India has been rising very slowly since 1857. This rising trend will continue to another say 200 years due to the law of actions. There are peaks after 30 years precisely. There is down fall for 15 years. Then there is rise for 15 years. India is predestined to regain its princetone glory inspite of hurdles say by 2037 or 2067. ISRO is bringing great glory to India. Sports-person are bringing spectacular glory to India as the adventure sports create the leadership abilities among the sport-persons. The political stability and peace is essential for faster progress of the science and technology. Only the mass-education of the modern technologies can remove the poverty of all the nations. Please develop contacts with the great persons to rise in your career. Sporting nations are at top. Non-sporting nations are flop. India will bloom one day slowly, automatically and cyclically inspite of hurdles. Health is wealth.

Tolerance is the mother of all the religions. The tolerant civilizations had been making the original and brilliant contributions. But the intolerant civilization have not made many original contributions. We should not criticize but motivate the scientists and engineers etc. *Big*

responsibilities must not be given to the irresponsible persons. Try to write a research paper which takes you to the top and keeps you there forever.

We should use the low entropy technologies, chemicals, medicines, foods and drinks etc. with minimum side effects for our good health and happiness. Excess of everything is harmful. Inspire yourself wisely. Uses of scientific and technological inventions or software earn more money than their inventors. Workers are richer and stronger than all the devotees. Copy the great persons. Technology has really united the world. Innovate and inspire. We should be ready globally for virus wars in the future. *Failure is success if we learn from it.* Hazard foreseen is hazard controlled. Good judgement comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgement.

It is a miracle of the nature that all are unique in the universe forever. It is a greater miracle that the nature has created bliss deeper within us. The nature is creating happiness also. The nature has healing properties. The supernatural beauty of the entire Himalaya is mass-mesmerizing forever and is incredible. Our inner joy will revolutionize the whole world due to its joy waves. The nature has created many heavens on the earth. The randomness has created variety in the beautiful things in the nature. Blissful God is the better inner entertainer than the nature. The law of life are different from the laws of matter as proved by the medical sciences. The truth will save the peoples. Please listen to the internationally reputed experts.

Science believes in the law of the cause and effect. As you sow, so you reap. Please change the cause and destiny will follow automatically. The right medicines cure the diseases. The company of the talented friends is definitely the cause of good luck. Blissful thoughts are the causes of everlasting beauty. Knowledge is medicine. The technical knowledge is money. Dig happiness within yourself. There is a lot of happiness deeper within us. As you eat so you think. As you think so you become. Please increase your immunity and become free of many diseases. Darwin is right. The might is right. But right is also might. Crises are opportunities for new businesses. Things are better than fears are. It is proved that the meritocracy is better than the democracy in creating the creative nations. The total health of the peoples is the real wealth of all nations. The enlightened persons may also find the bliss of mind by deep meditation. Success is equal to work + play + inner joy. The simple system is stable system. Complex systems are unstable. Hence everything should be made simple as possible.

The meritocracy will save the world from all kinds of mega-crises. Democracies have been ruining lives of the peoples by characterless political leaders. Hence the top sports persons, scientists, engineers, doctors and social workers etc must be empowered to create the creative societies and thus create happier world. All democracies are very slow in the decision-making according to law unlike meritocracy. So let us inspire the human values. The law of actions will govern the destiny of the governments and the big companies. But the law breakers can only be punished by the law breakers.

Source: JRMTT

Shafali rises to No. 1 spot in ICC T20 rankings

Teenage Indian batting sensation Shafali Verma on Wednesday rose to the top spot in the ICC women's T20 International rankings, riding on her stellar run at the ongoing World Cup at Sydney.

The 16-year-old Verma took over from New Zealand's Suzie Bates, who had been the top batter since October 2018 after wresting the spot from West Indies captain stefanie Taylor.

However, Smriti Mandhana has slipped a couple of rungs to sixth in the latest list.

Verma and England spinner Sophie Ecclestone will go into the semi-finals of the event as the top ranked batter and bowler respectively. India will take on England on Thursday.

Verma's explosive batting at the top of the order saw her score 161 runs innings, including knocks of 47 and 46 against Sri Lanka and New Zealand. It helped her become only the second India batter after Mithali Raj to top the women's T20 batting rankings, according to an ICC statement.

Ecclestone, who took eight wickets in four matches including a best of three for seven against the West Indies, is the first England bowler to be number one since Anya Shrubsole in April 2016 and the first England spinner at the top since Danni Hazell in August 2015.

Among the Indian bowlers, Poonam Yadav is up four places to be eighth after a good run in World Cup. Some valiant performances from Sri Lanka skipper Chamari Athapaththu have seen her move from 18th to 14th spot for batters.

England's Nat Sciver is again in the top 10 and captain Heather Knight in the top 15 for the first time. South Africa opener Laura Wolvaardt has advanced 23 places to 44th, while Pakistan's Aliya Riaz has gained 24 places and is 48th while New Zealand's Maddy Green is in the top 100 after advancing 28 slots.

In the bowler's list, leg-spinners Amelia Kerr of New Zealand (up two places to fourth) and Australia's George Wareham (up nine places to 10th) have made significant gains in the latest rankings update.

Source: Hindustan Times, 05.03.2020

New lakes due to melting of glaciers

The number of lakes in river basins in Himachal has been increasing over the last four years.

Name of Basin	2015	2016	2017	2018
Chenab	192	133	220	254
Beas	89	63	101	65
Ravi	34	28	54	66
Sutlej	390	581	642	769

Source: Hindustan Times, 4.1.2020