



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

Know all about the beautiful lantern festivals of the world. Also, check out healthy recipes and fitness tips

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Teachers share why every day should be treated as a New Year with a new beginning

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India eye elusive series win as they take on SA in the second Test

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STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022



Be useful: Musk to youngsters

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk in an interview with artificial intelligence researcher Lex Fridman shared advice for students, such as reading books, avoiding becoming a leader, and helping. When asked what advice he would give to young people who want to do something big, Musk responded by saying "try to be useful". Musk mentioned that the young generation should do things that are useful to fellow human beings and to the world. "It's very hard to be useful," Musk stated, urging young people to "contribute more than you consume". He also advised students to read and develop their general knowledge so they know what's going on around the world.

The more you talk to different kinds of people from all over the world, the more your mind will open. Talk to people from different walks of life and different industries and professions and skills

Elon Musk

Celeb talk

FLEX FUEL

The Centre has issued an advisory to automakers to start manufacturing flex-fuel and strong hybrid electric vehicles...



X-PLAINED

WHAT Flex-fuel vehicles have engines that can run on flexible fuel – a combination of petrol and ethanol, which can include up to 100 per cent ethanol. The extent of ethanol mixing decides the level of harmful emissions.

WHY such move: According to the government, this is aimed at drastically reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, which in turn would

help India meet the emission targets it committed at the most-recent climate change conference in Glasgow in November last year. Secondly, the policy is expected to reduce the demand for petroleum products. India presently imports more than 80 per cent of its petroleum requirement, and this also represents one of the biggest outflows of money from the country. Thirdly, wide uptake of ethanol as a fuel is intended to create an additional revenue stream for farmers since these are manufactured from biowastes.

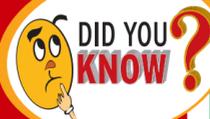
Countries who are already into it

1 Brazil is indisputably the world leader in the use of flex-fuel vehicles. The South American giant first experimented with this in the late 1970s and has backed it in a big way since the early 2000s. It is estimated that more than 80 per cent of Brazil's light vehicles and over half of its two-wheelers run on flex-fuel

2 Even the United States, which convulses into withdrawal symptoms at the mere mention of replacing fossil fuels, has a fairly high uptake on flex-fuel vehicles. Sweden, France and Ireland are other countries, which have high proportions of flex-fuel vehicles, while Germany's push is more in favour of replacing diesel rather than across the automotive market. A number of other countries are in different phases of shifting to flex fuels.

The use of ethanol as a fuel not only reduces tailpipe emissions, it also promises a boost to the agricultural value chain.

Bioethanol is produced from agricultural waste and unprocessed products – from a wide variety of common crops like sugarcane, hemp, potato, and corn. Apart from creating another source of revenue for farmers, it could also help address other issues like agricultural waste management or even stubble burning



Education minister bats for reading culture, asks students to share reading list



Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched a 100-day reading campaign titled 'Padhe Bharat' in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasises on the promotion of joyful reading culture among children by ensuring availability of age-appropriate reading books in any language. Launching the campaign, the minister underlined the importance of reading habit that children need to develop to ensure continuous and lifelong learning. He said, the habit of reading, if inculcated at an early age, helps in brain development, enhances imagination and provides a conducive learning environment for children. Pradhan also stressed the need to create an enabling environment in which students read for pleasure and develop their skills through a process that is enjoyable and sustainable and which remains with them for life.

■ The 'Padhe Bharat' campaign will focus on children studying in nursery to Grade 8. The reading campaign will be organised for 100 days (14 weeks) from January 1 to April 10, 2022

■ The campaign aims to have the participation of all the stakeholders at the national and state level, including children, teachers, parents, educational administrators, etc

■ One activity per week per group has been designed with focus on making reading enjoyable and building a lifelong association with the joy of reading. The campaign has also been aligned with the vision and goals of the foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission

■ The 100-day reading campaign will focus on Indian languages, including mother tongue, local, and regional languages

2022: Economy sets sail with growth hopes; pandemic, inflationary headwinds remain

After navigating the turbulent pandemic waves, the recovering Indian economy is now sailing through uncharted waters of rising coronavirus cases, spiralling commodity prices and spiking inflation though the lighthouse of sustainable growth remains visible. As 2022 begins, a raft of developments, ranging from Budgetary announcements to continuation of stimulus measures to monetary policy will set the tone for the domestic economy, which is projected to grow more than 9 per cent in the current fiscal ending March 2022. The country's continuing massive vaccination drive and 'precaution' doses starting for select categories of people this month will provide a firewall against any steep spike in coronavirus cases amid the emergence of the Omicron variant.



Experts feel, the economy is expected to see a strong recovery in the coming months and even going past the pre-Covid levels unless the pandemic plays spoilsport

Get ready to pay...

■ **MORE FOR ATM TRANSACTIONS:** Starting today, customers who utilise all their free ATM transactions – limited to five per month from their own bank ATMs and three per month for other bank ATMs – will have to pay a higher transaction fee, which is now ₹ 21 per transaction.

■ **MORE FOR YOUR OLA AND UBER RIDES:** Fares on your rides from transport aggregators such as Ola and Uber will rise 5%, thanks to the imposition of GST on such services from January 1.

■ **MORE FOR YOUR SHOES:** While the 46th GST Council meeting on Friday deferred the hike in GST on textiles – from 5% to 12% – the hike in GST on footwear of any value, which was increased to 12% from 5%, came into effect from January 1.



■ **THE SAME FOR YOUR FOOD, ORDERED VIA APPS LIKE SWIGGY OR ZOMATO ...** despite these online food delivery platforms coming under the GST ambit. That's because only the compliance of deposit and raising invoice has been shifted to these food delivery apps – the GST was already being levied and collected by the restaurants from where the food was ordered.

5 sporting events to look forward in 2022

2022 promises to be another exciting year for sports fans, with various big events lined up over the course of the year that is set to see high-quality action...

FIFA WORLD CUP 2022

1 The world will assemble in Qatar, as the world's most-watched single-sport event – the FIFA WORLD CUP (FIFA WC), will take place in the Middle-East country. In a drastic change, the event will take place in November-December this time around rather than the usual June-July due to the hot weather in Qatar during those months. France will look to defend their title while the likes of Germany, England, Brazil, Argentina, Italy will be hot favourites to lift the trophy. The 2022 FIFA WC will take place from November 21 to December 18.

ICC T20 WORLD CUP 2022

2 Less than a year after the completion of the 2021 T20 World Cup in the UAE, the event will once again take place in 2022 in Australia. Aaron Finch and Co will look to defend their title on home soil, while India will aim to end a nine-year ICC trophy drought. The tournament is scheduled to begin on October 16, with the final set to take place on November 13 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

2022 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

3 The 22nd edition of the Commonwealth Games will take place in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8. This edition will mark the introduction of Women's cricket for the first time in what could be a landmark moment in the fight to make cricket an Olympic sport.



2022 ASIAN GAMES

4 Just a month after the completion of the Commonwealth Games, India's top athletes will head to another big multi-sport event – the Asian Games in the Chinese city of Hangzhou. The 19th Asian Games will take place from September 10 to September 25.

2022 WINTER OLYMPICS

5 Beijing will create history when it becomes the first city to host both the Summer and Winter Olympics. Despite a number of countries putting a diplomatic ban on the event, the world will converge in the Chinese capital from Feb 4 to Feb 20 for the 24th edition of the Winter Olympics.

CULTURE
CORNER5 MAGICAL LANTERN
FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD

Similar to Diwali in some ways, beautiful lantern festivals are a part of some cultures. Take a look at five of these festivities that celebrates light, hope and happiness



Loy Krathong and Yi Peng | THAILAND

These two bright festivals turn Thailand into a gorgeous wonderland, typically around November. While Sukhotoi, Chiang Mai, and Bangkok celebrate Loy Krathong and set off floating lotus baskets, full of candles, into the waters, Yi Peng is celebrated in the north, and it also takes place on the same day. During this time, sky lanterns are the highlight, which light up the sky, and are built of rice paper and bamboo.

1

Lantern Festival | HAWAII

The lantern festival celebrated in Hawaii is a peaceful ceremony that is held to pay tribute to those departed on Memorial Day. This event is held annually, on May 27, at Ala Moana Beach, where thousands of people unite to celebrate harmony amid adversity. Open to all, everyone can take part in this festival without paying anything. The ceremony starts with blowing the Hawaiian conch shell, which is followed by various musical performances. Once the ceremony ends, people release lanterns over the Hawaiian waters, with personal messages inscribed on them as an act of kindness and remembrance.

2



Pingxi Lantern Festival | TAIWAN

This lantern festival is a form of ancestor worship, and dates back to more than 100 years. On this occasion, people write their wishes on paper lanterns with a calligraphy pen, and release them into the night sky with the hope that their prayers will be answered by their ancestors. Do note that sky lanterns in Taiwan are only allowed to be released in Pingxi, as the mountains and local geography prevent the lanterns from flying too high.

3



Spring Lantern Festival | CHINA

This festival marks the last day of Chinese New Year, and dates back to more than 2000 years. Celebrated across the country, this festival also marks the first full moon night in the Chinese lunar calendar. Numerous activities are lined up for visitors, such as watching lion dance, lighting lanterns, eating tangyuan, and much more. Although lanterns are not released into the night sky in China, cities hang red and yellow glowing lanterns everywhere, which makes for a beautiful light show.

4



Full Moon Lantern Festival | VIETNAM

This Vietnamese festival takes place every month on the 14th day of the lunar calendar (the full moon night) in Hoi An. As per the records, the Vietnamese believe that releasing lanterns under a full moon will bring them wealth, health, and happiness. To celebrate this occasion, the entire city shuts off the electricity at around 8 pm, while the streets get illuminated by lantern lights. People also get together to release the small paper lanterns onto the river. What's more interesting is that tourists can even opt to hop on a traditional canoe to witness magical views of the lanterns on the water.

5

RECIPE

SPINACH SANDWICH
With Bean Dip

If you are looking for a quick fix for your hunger that is loaded with both nutrients and enticing flavours, here's a super healthy sandwich. It's delicious and is rich in green and colourful veggies



HOW TO MAKE

STEP 1: Wash and clean the carrot, avocado, onion, cucumber and red bell pepper. Once done, take a clean chopping board and chop the vegetables separately into fine pieces. Keep it aside until needed again.

STEP 2: Lay the bread slices on a clean surface (or tray) and spread the bean dip on one side of each bread slice. Over that, evenly spread mashed avocado.

STEP 3: Top it up with the chopped vegetables and cover it with the other bread slice. Secure the sandwich using a toothpick. Serve fresh. TNN



INGREDIENTS

- ◆ 4 bread slices
- ◆ 1/2 cup mashed avocados
- ◆ 1/2 small cucumber
- ◆ 1/4 cup bean dip
- ◆ 1/2 cup carrot
- ◆ 1/2 red bell pepper
- ◆ 1 cup spinach
- ◆ 1/2 onion

Note: Feel free to use multi-grain bread or any other bread of your choice

These common foods are damaging the climate!

Did you know your love for chocolates, avocados or meat delicacies are silently damaging the climate? According to a recent report presented at the United Nations summit, the General Assembly warns that "human beings have only 11 years left to prevent irreversible damage from climate change." This is because "food production is responsible for a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions." Reducing carbon emission is not as easy as it sounds, but the change may begin from something as simple as tweaking the diet. Here's a list of common foods that are harming the climate

REVELATION

Butter is a staple for most of us, but did you know producing 12 kg of butter generates CO2 per kilogram. This is why this dairy-based popular product is the third most damaging food on the planet as compared to other dairy-based products.

BUTTER



Butter is a staple for most of us, but did you know producing 12 kg of butter generates CO2 per kilogram. This is why this dairy-based popular product is the third most damaging food on the planet as compared to other dairy-based products.

PALM OIL

Even oil production can damage the climate in the long run. Palm oil produces around 6.3 kg of CO2 per kilogram of oil. Apart from that, this day-to-day staple has led to wide deforestation, ripping off the natural habitat. In fact, palm oil is used in huge quantities in the production of foods like ice cream, processed and packaged foods to even other essential household products.



CHICKEN

This will leave most chicken lovers disappointed, but eating this much loved bird can also lead to climate change by creating a carbon footprint. According to experts, lean and white meat produces 5 kg of CO2 per kilogram of food, which is comparatively less than red meat. But if you are planning to reduce your carbon footprint, then you must cut down on your intake.

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

It's simple. Massive production on a commercial scale of these foods has led to a detrimental impact on the climate. If we start consuming locally produced, artisanal and hand-made foods, the damage is definitely going to be less severe and the benefits of consuming such foods is countless.



CHOCOLATE

While chocolate is the most loved sweet indulgence around the world, the harsh impact of this sweet is absolutely bitter for the climate. Chocolate production has led to massive deforestation, which has paved the way for natural calamities. Apart from that, chocolate is one of the major GHG (greenhouse gases) contributors due to the milk powder it contains. So, if at all you are planning to sacrifice your love of chocolates for the planet, you can also go for dark chocolate, which is comparatively less climate damaging.

FARMED SALMON

According to experts, farmed salmon has a higher carbon footprint as compared to wild salmon due to the higher need of energy. As per a report published by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, 1 kg of farmed salmon produces CO2 equivalent of around 2.5. The carbon footprint of salmon farmed on land also requires significantly more electricity than those farmed in open water bodies, this is high in case coal is used to generate electricity. TNN

FIVE EXERCISES THAT
BURN THE MOST CALORIES

FITNESS

MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS

Mountain climbers can be categorised as a complex movement as it involves the entire body. Start in the plank position, lift one leg and push it forward to your chest, then put that leg back into plank position and repeat this on the other side. If you start slowly and gradually increase your speed, it would almost feel like you are running. A high intensity workout, this works both sets of limbs and tones the abs.

1



Exercising goes much beyond the weighing scale and has other physical and physiological benefits, like being good for heart health, mental health, strengthening bones, maintaining

SKATERS

This exercise involves jumping laterally while moving the arms in coordination with jumps. The jumping and great co-ordination of your arms and legs will escalate your heart rate and the use of a full body will definitely lead to burning of more calories.

2

JUMPING LUNGES

You start with one leg in the forward position and the other slightly backward, in the classic lunge position. Jump up and move the first leg back and the other leg forward, landing back in a lunge on the other side. This energetic movement increases muscle power by combining speed with force and going with full force in your movements will get your heart going.

3



BURPEES

A very intense full body movement, burpees tire you out very quickly. Start with standing with your arms by your sides and quickly lower yourself in a squat. Put your hands on the floor in front of you and jump with your feet back into the plank position. Jump your feet forward towards your hands and stand with your hands in the air. This movement works all your muscles including your quads, triceps, obliques, calves, abs and deltoids. Burpees can also be done with variations so that the movement becomes more intense.

4

JUMP SQUAT

A jumping version of the squat, this exercise adds to the effectiveness of squats and helps burn calories along with sculpting and reshaping your body. Start with your legs and hips apart, squat down and jump as high as you can then land back on your feet. Your arms will help in propelling you, helping you push back as you jump up.

5

KEEP MOVING AHEAD

We hope that this New Year brings good tidings for all students and teachers. We are looking forward to having our students back with us in our classrooms for a more personalized interaction and teachings. We would like to approach the New Year with lot of enthusiasm and spirit to make it a fun-filled year for everyone. The one lesson 2021 taught us was that despite all problems and issues, we should move ahead in life and not get bogged down with them. We should keep doing our work and move ahead with enthusiasm and joy.



POONAM TALWAR, Pre-Primary Teacher, Gitanjali School

THINK POSITIVE

The year 2021 was the most adventurous year in my life and taught me many things. After lockdown everything remained closed except few services like hospitals, grocery; there was untold suffering with no jobs, many lost a family member, students lost interest in their studies, the education sector was badly affected, the exams of different levels were postponed, and the admission process got delayed.

I will welcome 2022 with my prayers to Almighty God to keep everyone happy, safe, healthy and fulfill their desires and wishes. I think of both positive and negative effects of lockdown and pray to the Almighty to have pity on us and forgive our sins and keep us safe from Covid-19 and Omicron. I plan to make 2022 better by making resolutions, goal settings, and empowerment motivation for my future.



ASMA MARIYAM, Social Science Teacher, Springfields International School, Bandlaguda

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

In 2022, we would like to see India emerge from the troubles of Covid as a more resilient and responsible nation. We are looking forward to being able to interact with our students, teachers and friends in person but should also take forward the learnings of hygiene, safety and health as important ingredients for a successful life and society. All of us should join hands to face the challenges ahead. We must lead by example to fight and to overcome the new emerging variants, so that the nation prospers in spite of lurking dangers.

The one most important lesson from 2021 to take forward is to stay positive. Being grateful about our path and positive about our future fill us with energy and motivation to take on the challenges of everyday and move forward from a difficult year like 2021. And consistently keep striving towards our long term goals giving our best efforts and remaining positive despite the circumstances or the short term results.

Dr AASTHA SANKRITYAYAN, Principal, Deccan's Pride School, Rampally

When I look back at the past year, I am reminded of the irreparable loss of lives that I have experienced of my near and dear ones. It made me realise how fragile life is. This New Year, I only hope and wish for good health for everyone around the world as life is most precious and priceless. Let's all be conscious of our health as a stitch in time saves nine!

IMBISATH BANO, High School Section Head, Diamond Jubilee High School, Hyderabad

LIFE IS PRECIOUS



New Year

NEW HOPE

It's 2022, a year that will certainly be filled with hope and expectations, of times filled with happiness. We ask teachers to share what they are hopeful for in the New Year and the one lesson that they will carry forward from 2021. So, here's all you need to kickstart the year, with a dollop of hope, oodles of joy and a shot of positivity...

STAYING FOCUSED

Hopefully everything gets back to normal and we have the offline classes as usual. We can then start the New Year with more enthusiasm and welcome children and parents by making them comfortable in this situation. We can assure that their children's safety is our priority. One lesson would be stay focused under any circumstances.



SHRUTHI MATHUR, Gitanjali School, Hyderabad



DEAR 2022,

I have huge hopes from you. Hope of a meaningful year, hope of a year which transforms me into a better individual, hope for a beautiful healthy world around.... and so on! I would like to continue with my passion of learning new things and taking up new challenges. Dreaming as usual will be the next in my bucket list as dreams urge you to work harder beyond the comfort zone. Focus on health and family and enjoying being a wanderer, exploring different places will be the priority in the coming year. I wish everyone stays healthy and safe and embarks on the new journey with a healthy mind and pure soul. I would love to stay away

A NEW JOURNEY

from negativity of any kind and will not let it impact me. I feel 2021 has taught every individual to value their own self and family. Losing loved ones and struggling with Covid effects have been traumatic for each one of us. I will like to carry forward my strong will power and positivity which kept me going, in 2022 as well. Finally, I would like to end with a quote by Stephen Ambrose, "The past is a source of knowledge, and the future is a source of hope. Love of the past implies faith in the future".

SURABHI MEHTA, HOD Science/Biology, The Shri Ram Universal School



GEETA IRAGAVARAPU, Teacher, Gitanjali School, Hyderabad

NEW BEGINNINGS

Having something to look forward to makes you "feel good" and may also give an "aura of growth" to our life, because the future seems bright. The wise say life is lived in between pauses, like the one right after we exhale, and before we inhale. Every ending is just another beginning. There really is no better time than the beginning of a New Year to breathe this in. We are not the person we were at the beginning of the year that went by and we will not be the person we are now at the end of it. Wisdom lies in figuring out how to make the endings hold up the beginning. 2020 and 2021 taught us to accept the futility of feeling happy or sad about anything not within our control. This acceptance made us more content. The dawn of a New Year, at best, can only create the right setting; the rest, as they say, is all within you.



RADHIKA WILSON, Social Studies Faculty of Middle School, Johnson Grammar School, ICSE, Habsiguda

SKILLS TO LEARN

I'm hoping for the best in the New Year. No virus should attack human life, people should learn from the sufferings in the past, understand the importance of family and career and how to balance it. I want to excel in my career by looking at my subject in different dimensions and focus more on 21st century skills and make children learn the subject with enthusiasm.

K PRIYANKA, PGT, Pallavi Model School, Alwal, Hyderabad



"Learn continually...there is always one more thing to learn" - Steve Jobs. It is difficult to quantify one's learning, as learning is a continuous and gradual process. Also, for a seeker, for a hermit, learning never ceases - there is always that one more thing to learn. However, if I had to sit back and reflect on my learnings of 2021 - the one that stands out is that of being "hybrid". Human beings are the most evolved species on the planet. Yet we never stop learning and unlearning - the process of evolution continues. So when I say my biggest learning was that of being "hybrid", I meant it as a teacher.



HYBRID MODE

The tribe of us teachers went through a sea of change in the last two years. The "warriors" that we are, we revamped ourselves and continued the learning process for millions of students across the world. This hybrid mode of teaching taught us the wonders of information technology - how a simple phone can open up the world of creative teaching for us. It has transitioned our thought process from "WHY" to "WHY NOT?". I take the liberty in saying this on behalf of all my fellow teachers that this hybrid mode might have been a tough nut to crack but we indeed nailed it! We will continue to do so. Happy learning to all of us because there is always ONE MORE thing to learn.

PRITI RAO, Teacher and Coordinator, Meridian School, Kukatpally

TRANSCEND BOUNDARIES

It's that time of the year again when we feel exuberant about the new possibilities and aspirations that the New Year has in store for us. It is also the time to look back and reflect on the year that went by. Exactly a year ago we were looking forward to a pandemic free world and welcoming our students back to school. The excitement was short-lived though as a large section suffered physically, emotionally and financially. We soon realised that the virtual and the online worlds are here to stay. But then, hardships make us stronger, wiser and more resilient. They also make us more compassionate and humane. As we welcome the New Year, we also ready ourselves to embrace new prospects, accomplish

greater heights and overcome unforeseen obstacles. We look forward to the animated chatter to return to our classrooms, the laughter-filled corridors and the action-filled playgrounds to be back. In the New Year, we hope to get our priorities right and choose health and happiness over materialistic desires. We hope to dispel fears with a gentle squeeze of the hand and a warm hug. We wish our young generation to be able to transcend the boundaries set by closed spaces and social distancing and be able to explore the world.

SUDHA K. Gitanjali Devakul, Hyderabad



The thought foremost in everybody's minds at the fag end of 2021 was whether the challenges we faced with the raging pandemic will abate and at least a semblance of normalcy will be restored. In the New Year we would be looking forward to bringing students back to the regular classrooms where true bonds between the teacher and the taught are formed. Our approach to the New Year should be one of open-mindedness tempered with



LEARNING TO ADAPT

prudence and patience. The lesson learnt from 2021 is that we have to accept what we cannot change. Plans are good for only that moment and may need to be modified at any time to meet the need of the hour. Adaptability is the key to success in the present scenario and hope is the catalyst that binds us to our dreams.

SHAMPA CHAKRABARTI, Pre-Primary Coordinator, Gitanjali School, Begumpet



Teachers seek to inspire students in all aspects of their lives, and for many teachers, their greatest goal is to be a role model. Teachers can inspire an uninterested student to become engrossed in learning. They can motivate them to participate and focus, and even bring introverted students out of their shells. I as a teacher, would like to see the children coming to school with a big smile and hugging their teachers. I hope that this personal interaction will change the approach of the children and motivate them to come to school. Hoping to see the New Year with a positive approach that will bring a change in the routine

EMBRACE TECH

of each and every person. One important lesson that I learnt from 2021 was that a teacher is not constrained only to the blackboard and chalk, but we can also learn new technology and make the best use of it to educate the future. Hence, I would be happy to continue 2022 with the new things that I learnt and would try to make lessons more interesting for students in an offline class as well.

DEVIKA SAXENA, Gitanjali Primary School, Begumpet



INDIA EYE ELUSIVE SERIES WIN

Kohli and his men gear up to defend Bull Ring bastion, the venue where India laid the base for a strong side, back in 2018



For captain Virat Kohli, a Test victory at the Wanderers would reaffirm his status as one of the greatest Indian captains of all time in the traditional format with series wins in three of the four SENA nations, barring New Zealand.

India's formidably consistent match-winners have a date with history in the New Year when they take on an out-of-sorts South Africa in the second Test at Johannesburg from Monday, in pursuit of a coveted first-ever series win in the 'Rainbow Nation'.

If the 'Boxing Day Test' was used to breach the Proteas' fortress at the Centurion, the New Year's game will be all about stoutly defending the 'Bull Ring' bastion which has been a 'home' away from home for the Indian team.

Also, it was right here in 2018 when the foundation of one of India's greatest Test teams was laid with a solid win on a track that bordered on under-prepared and perhaps gave this unit self-belief to take on the world. They have been doing that for nearly four years now and are in no mood to stop.

For captain Virat Kohli, a Test victory at the Wanderers would reaffirm his status as one of the greatest Indian captains of all time in the traditional format with series wins in three of the four SENA nations barring New Zealand.

TOUGH PERIOD FOR PROTEAS

There cannot be a more opportune time to achieve the feat against a South African side that lacks Graeme Smith's grit, Hashim Amla's class, Jacques Kallis' manic consistency, Dale Steyn's x-factor and Morne Morkel's relentlessness. To be fair, this South African team will find it incredibly difficult to compete against the current Indian line-up leave alone harbour dreams of a win.

Yes, they have a Kagiso Rabada, who is carrying the load, and Lungi Ngidi, who has looked good, but Quinton de Kock's sudden retirement from the toughest form of cricket at the age of 29 is another reminder of a tough transition period that never seems to end for the Proteas.

So even if Ryan Rickleton, the 25-year-old dashing keeper-batter who is slated to make his debut, created some noise,

he will find that scoring runs at the domestic level is very different from facing Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami with the red Kookaburra.

Even Duanne Oliver, likely to replace Wiaan Mulder, who was out due to a hamstring injury in the first Test, will find it extremely difficult against a seasoned Indian batting line-up which would like to give a better account of itself compared to the first Test.

On a personal note for Kohli, it would be the ideal breathing space that he will require, now that it's official that he is no longer the establishment's blue-eyed boy after his much publicised battle of "your truth versus mine" with no less than BCCI president Sourav Ganguly.

Kohli the batter is still insulated from the heat, despite that missing "three-figure mark" since the last two years, but 'King Kohli is metaphorically "wearing a crown of thorns". He didn't face the media before and after the first Test and now head coach Rahul Dravid is literally living up to his "The Wall" moniker as he is set to appear as a fire-fighter ahead of the second Test.

Having already made it clear that he won't ever discuss classified internal matters, Dravid has already done one round of dousing the fire. However, it is very difficult to imagine that India would be ringing in changes to their winning combination, considering Kohli's obsession with five bowlers.

WINNING COMBINATION

Even with that, India were docked a WTC (World Test Championship) point for slow over-rate and Ravichandran Ashwin will be as integral to the visitors' bowling plans on a seamer-friendly wicket as their four fast bowlers.

Obviously, Shardul Thakur is the weakest link in this attack with Umesh Ya-

dav being more potent but the Mumbaikar's knack of picking wickets and also relatively stronger batting ability keeps him in the mix. But on a lively Wanderers track, Umesh won't be a bad option even though that could mean playing an extra batter, which hasn't exactly been Kohli's template.

BATTING LINE-UP UNCHANGED

As far as the batting line-up is concerned, unless anyone reports unfit on the match day, all the five specialist willow-wielders along with Rishabh Pant, whose run-a-ball-34 was a special contribution in Centurion, will again feature in the line-up.

Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane won't be dropped yet as Dravid will give them enough chances to succeed un-



Ajinkya Rahane

less he shifts his faith on Shreyas Iyer and Hanuma Vihari, which might not be the case if batting coach Vikram Rathour's last media interaction is to be believed. The three big guns are due for a big score and it would be Proteas' worst nightmare coming true if they all fire in unison at the 'Bull Ring'. It would then be a cakewalk for India. m



Cheteshwar Pujara

WEST HAM KEEP UP TOP FOUR PUSH

Begin new year with impressive win against Crystal Palace

West Ham United began the new year in the same manner as they saw out the last, with an impressive away victory as they beat Crystal Palace 3-2 in the Premier League on Saturday.

Manuel Lanzini scored twice at Selhurst Park, before a late rally from the home side with two late goals, as fifth-placed West Ham moved within a point of fourth-placed Arsenal.

Palace show effort

The two goals in the final minutes of the game at least gave Palace some reward for what was a positive display after they went in at the break 3-0 down despite creating several chances. West Ham are on 34 points, one more than Tottenham Hotspur and three ahead of Manchester United, although both those teams have two games in hand.

David Moyes' side, the surprise package of the season, took the lead in the 22nd minute with Michail Antonio sliding in to poke home a wonderful cross from Said Benrahma.

ARSENAL BEMOAN VAR INCONSISTENCY

Arsenal assistant manager Albert Stuivenberg and goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale called for more consistency in the use of pitchside VAR monitor checks for penalties after their 2-1 Premier League home defeat by Manchester City on Saturday. Arsenal took the lead through Bukayo Saka and the visitors equalised with a penalty when Granit Xhaka was adjudged to have fouled City's Bernardo Silva in the box after a VAR review. A stoppage-time goal from Rodri sealed the result. Stuivenberg said Arsenal, who played the last half hour with 10 men after defender Gabriel was sent off, were denied a "clear penalty" when City goalkeeper Ederson challenged Martin Odegaard in the first half. However, referee Stuart Attwell did not review the incident on the VAR.

Lanzini hits home

Three minutes later, the Hammers made it 2-0 with an outstanding finish from Lanzini, who flicked the ball to his left foot and volleyed home after good work from Declan Rice. Lanzini made it three just before the break, drilling home a penalty after a VAR review found that Luka Milivojevic had handled in the box.

Palace got a goal back in the 83rd minute when Odsonne Edouard stretched to turn in a fine cross from substitute Michael Olise who also scored in the 90th minute with a free-kick.

Patrick Vieira's side had hit the woodwork twice in the first half and enjoyed the bulk of possession and Antonio was generous in his praise of Palace. "To be fair this season Crystal Palace are playing unbelievable football. The way their gaffer has them playing is quality," he said.

The meeting between the two sides in August ended 2-2 and Palace defender Joachim Andersen said it was a hard result to take. "We've played West Ham two times now and both times we have dominated them. I think we should win this game easy. They had two chances and a penalty which isn't a penalty. We should win this game," he said. REUTERS

MEDVEDEV SUFFERS SHOCK DEFEAT BY UGO HUMBERT

Daniil Medvedev suffered a shock defeat in his opening match of the season against France's Ugo Humbert, in Sydney on Sunday at the ATP Cup, upsetting his preparations for the Australian Open.



Daniil Medvedev

The US Open champion is leading a Russian team in Sydney depleted by injuries and Covid-19 as they look to defend the title won against Italy last year. But world num-

ber two Medvedev, who captured four tour-level titles in 2021, was stunned by impressive 35th-ranked Ugo Humbert on a hot day.

The Frenchman rallied from a set down to pull off a big upset 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 7-6 (7/2) in a gruelling 2hr 55min as Medvedev, red-faced from the heat, ran out of steam. "It was a very tough today, but I'm very happy," said Humbert after one of his biggest wins.

With fifth ranked Andrey Rublev missing, unheralded Roman Safiullin was drafted in as Russia's second singles player. Ranked 167, pulled off a 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 win over France's Arthur Rinderknech to set the stage for Medvedev. The Russia-France tie went to a deciding doubles rubber.

Russia are in a tough ATP Cup group that also includes hosts Australia and 2021 runner-up Italy, led by world number seven Matteo Berrettini. AFP

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: Which organisation enforces the provisions of the World Anti-Doping Code?

- International Olympic Committee
- WADA
- United States Anti-Doping Agency
- UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport

Q2: Since when has the 'qualification stage' been a part of the Hockey World Cup?

- 1980
- 1985
- 1977
- 1996

Q3: When was Indian Open championships abolished?

- 1990
- 1986
- 1982
- 1976

Q4: Where are the headquarters of the International World Games Association?

- Switzerland
- England
- Germany
- France

Q5: In which year were the first Commonwealth Youth Games held?

- 1996
- 2000
- 2004
- 2008

Q6: Which team does Romelu Lukaku play for?



Romelu Lukaku

- Chelsea
- Manchester United
- Liverpool
- Arsenal

Q7: In which year did the English team play its first-ever overseas cricket tour?

- 1853
- 1855
- 1857
- 1859

Q8: Which sport's competition is known as the "4 Nations Cup"?

- Field Hockey
- Roller Hockey
- Bandy
- Ice Hockey

Q9: Which company designed the ICC Cricket World Cup Trophy?

- Chappell & Co
- Garrard & Co
- Marylebone & Co
- Adelaide & Co

Q10: Who holds the current record for most hundreds in a single cricket world cup?

- Martin Guptill
- Chris Gayle
- Sachin Tendulkar
- Rohit Sharma

ANSWERS: 1) d UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport 2) c 1977 3) c 1982 4) a Switzerland 5) b 2000 6) a Chelsea 7) d 1859 8) d Ice Hockey 9) b Garrard & Co 10) d Rohit Sharma