



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

➤ Got a strong opinion? Here's how students reported on issues such as UP elections to wealth tax in the US, and much more, in 'Your Newsroom' **PAGE 2**



➤ Take a virtual tour of Mysore with our NIE reporter and know about the history of the magnificent Mysore Palace **PAGE 3**



➤ Four South African players to watch out for during the upcoming India Test series **PAGE 4**


STUDENT EDITION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2021



IN OTHER NEWS

Govt asks YouTube to block two news websites and 20 channels



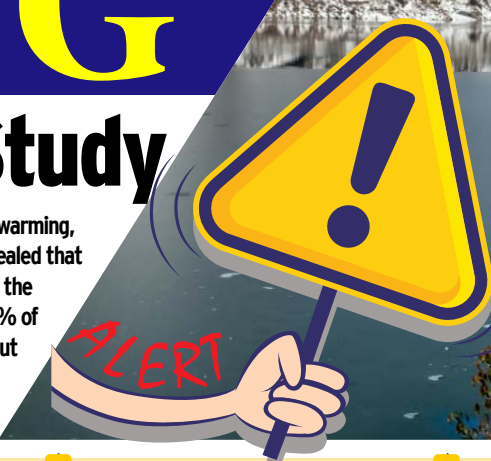
In the first-ever application of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, the Union ministry of information and broadcasting on Monday directed the department of telecom and YouTube to block two news websites and 20 YouTube channels that were found to be "purveyors of pernicious, fake and anti-India" content. The content in question ranges from "blasphemous" to that which "blatantly impinges on India's security and sovereignty", and appears to have its origins in Pakistan and could have links to the Pakistan ISI.

These include the 'Naya Pakistan Group', which runs over 15 channels on YouTube, and has a following of more than a million subscribers

HIMALAYAN GLACIERS MELTING

at 'exceptional rate': Study

Glaciers in the Himalayas are melting at an "exceptional" rate because of global warming, threatening the water supply of millions of people in Asia, a study stated. It revealed that Himalayan glaciers are shrinking far more rapidly than glaciers in other parts of the world. Researchers calculated that the Himalayan glaciers have lost roughly 40% of their area in the past several hundred years. The glaciers are a critical source of water for about 250 million people in the mountains and an additional 1.65 billion who live in the river valleys below, according to a report in 2019. These rivers include the Ganges, Indus and Brahmaputra.



The acceleration of melting of Himalayan glaciers will affect millions of people who depend on Asia's major river systems for food and energy. These rivers include the Brahmaputra, the Ganges and the Indus

1 According to researchers, the glaciers have lost around 40 per cent of their area – shrinking from a peak of 28,000 sq km to around 19,600 sq km

2 They have also lost between 390 cubic km and 586 cubic km of ice – the equivalent of all the ice contained today in the central European Alps, the Caucasus, and Scandinavia combined

3 The water released through the melting has raised sea levels across the world by between 0.92 mm and 1.38 mm, the team said

4 The Himalayan glaciers are also declining faster where they end in lakes, which have several warming effects. The number and size of these lakes are increasing, so continued acceleration in mass loss can be expected

5 Similarly, glaciers, which have significant amounts of natural debris upon their surfaces, are also losing mass more quickly: They contributed to around 46.5 per cent of total volume loss despite making up only around 7.5 per cent of the total number of glaciers

Hey Pal:
Biden
welcomes a
new puppy
to the White
House



The US President Joe Biden recently introduced the newest four-legged resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave: a German shepherd with very large, pointy ears. The 3-month-old canine is named Commander. "Hey, pal," Biden said to Commander, rubbing his head in a video posted to his Twitter account. "How you doing? How are you?"

LS PASSES ELECTION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL



The Lok Sabha on Monday passed The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 — seeking to link electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem — by a voice vote. The Bill is intended to allow electoral registration officers to seek the Aadhaar number of those who wish to register as voters "for the purpose of establishing the identity". It also seeks to allow the electoral registration officers to get Aadhaar numbers from "persons already included in the electoral roll for the purposes of authentication of entries in the electoral roll, and to identify registration of the name of the same person in the electoral roll of more than one constituency or more than once in the same constituency". Introducing the Bill, Union law minister Kiren Rijiju said the legislation will end bogus voting in the country and make the electoral process more credible.

World Economic Forum deferred...again

The annual jamboree of world leaders, billionaires and executives in the Swiss town of Davos under the aegis of the World Economic Forum (WEF), which was scheduled to be held from January 17-21 next year, has been deferred, owing to rising Covid-19 cases. In a statement on Monday, the WEF said that it "will defer its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, in the light of continued uncertainty over the Omicron outbreak."



Joumou pumpkin soup gets cultural heritage tag

Haitians recently celebrated the UN cultural agency UNESCO's declaration that the country's traditional pumpkin soup, known as 'soup joumou', is of intangible cultural value to humanity, a rare bright spot for a country battered by tragedy this year.

■ The soup is a slightly spicy delicacy that is typically enjoyed on the New Year's Day. It often includes beef or goat, as well as pasta, potatoes and carrots

■ During the years of French colonial slavery, it was served only to slave masters, but it became a symbol of freedom for the nation's majority Black population when Haiti gained independence on January 1, 1804



■ Other culinary traditions on UNESCO's Intangible Heritage list include the preparation of Korean fermented cabbage known as kimchi, a flattened sourdough bread called il-ftira made in Malta, and 'hawker food' served on the streets of Singapore



'BAJRANGI BHAIIJAAN' ONCE AGAIN: SALMAN KHAN CONFIRMS SEQUEL

Actor Salman Khan has confirmed that he will be featuring in the sequel of his acclaimed blockbuster 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan'. In the 2015 comedy drama, Khan featured as a man, who embarks on a journey to take a mute six-year-old Pakistani girl (Harshaali Malhotra) separated in India from her parents, back to her hometown in the neighbouring country.

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COLLECTOR'S EDITION

The World

this week

HOW



IN THE NEWS FOR

US President Joe Biden is leaning into his push to increase taxes on the rich, as he seeks to unify Democrats behind a \$3.5 trillion bill that would expand federal efforts to fight climate change, reduce the cost of child care, expand educational access, reduce poverty and more. "I'm sick and tired of the super-wealthy and giant corporations not paying their fair share in taxes," Biden tweeted.

wealth tax is making a comeback

YOU SPEAK

I vote for the viewpoint suggested by Nobel-prize-winning French economist Thomas Piketty. I vote for having a higher tax rate, as income increases will reduce economic inequality between people. Taking this idea further, richer nations must also contribute more towards global welfare by supertaxing the elite.

RAJLAKSHMI R, TYBMM, Sophia College for Women, Mumbai



India, too, has a history with the wealth tax. From the late 1950s to 2015, a tax was imposed – the last applicable rate was 1% on net wealth in excess of ₹30 lakh



WE SPEAK

The pandemic has only made income disparities sarker – as many were struggling to stay afloat, the ultra-rich only grew richer. One measure to reduce income inequalities that is seeing a resurgence across the world is the wealth tax.

* **ARGENTINA** approved a one-time wealth tax last month, and **BOLIVIA'S** legislature passed an annual levy on large fortunes at the end of the year. Lawmakers in **CHILE** and **PERU** have pushed for similar measures. In **THE US**, progressives are pushing forward on the state level with California and Washington, where at least six of the world's 10 richest people reside. **THE UK** is considering a wealth tax to fix its biggest fiscal deficit since World War II. In the 2019 budget, **INDIA** significantly hiked the surcharge rates, which continue to stand at 25% (for income between ₹2 crore and ₹5 crore) and 37% if income is above ₹5 crore. **TNN**

WILL

UP see BJP returning to power?

IN THE NEWS FOR

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, who is seeking a second term in the upcoming assembly polls next year, stressed on strengthening the BJP at booth-level to sweep the elections. "If we strengthen BJP at booth-level, then, the party will win more than 325 assembly seats in the state," the CM said recently.



WE SPEAK

The Gandhis

Targeting the Uttar Pradesh government, Priyanka Gandhi charged that the Yogi Adityanath dispensation is spending crores of rupees on advertisements but has failed in getting farmers fertilisers for farming.

Yogi-Modi: Team BJP

The Bharatiya Janata Party has been keen to consolidate its support ahead of next year's polls in Uttar Pradesh with the grand launch of Kashi Corridor in Varanasi. BJP holds power in the state – 230 million people – but is under immense pressure over its response to the pandemic and the struggling economy.

Lal Topi man

The Samajwadi Party was in power in the state from 2012 to 2017 before the BJP took over. During PM's visit to Varanasi, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said jeeringly that people stay in Benaras "when the end nears" and that UP will oust BJP next year.



YOU SPEAK

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurating a part of a large-scale development project in Varanasi, the party is certainly wooing the masses with 'development plans'. The corridor is one among a string of big-ticket religious projects announced by the BJP in recent years, with critics saying they are aimed at pleasing the party's Hindu base. With the leaders talking of 'Atmanirbhar India' and 'Jal Jeevan Mission', people in UP may vote for transformation with the BJP at the helm. However, the state has always witnessed 'polarised votebank politics'. What is important therefore is to see which party's promises will finally lure the voters. The Congress has been wooing people with their 'women empowerment' programme and asking voters to stay away from regional parties like SP, blaming them to be confined to caste equations.

MANAS KAPUR, class XI, Sri Venkateshwar Int'l, Delhi



CAN

Mamata do her magic in Goa?



IN THE NEWS FOR

Giving a new poll slogan of 'Khel Zatto' (the game will begin) in Goa, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said, an anti-BJP alliance has already taken shape in the coastal state under the banner of her party Trinamool Congress (TMC) and now it is for the Congress to decide whether it wants to join the grouping ahead of elections to take on the saffron outfit. Banerjee said, the TMC will not allow the ruling BJP to win the elections in Goa, due in early 2022, this time.

WE SPEAK

1 The TMC aggressively started campaigning for the upcoming polls after former Goa chief minister Luizinho Faleiro joined the party. Faleiro joined TMC in the presence of Abhishek Banerjee after resigning from the Congress party.

2 Goa is scheduled to go for the Assembly polls in early 2022. The Goa assembly has a strength of 40 members, out of which the BJP currently has 17 legislators and enjoys the support of legislators from Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP), Vijay Sardesai of the Goa Forward Party (GFP) and three independents. GFP and MGP each have three MLAs. Congress, on the other hand, has 15 MLAs in the house. **ANI**



YOU SPEAK

TMC won't be able to make a strong base in Goa. Didi is a new face for the Goans and the state has a different ethos and culture in comparison to West Bengal. Moreover, it is still seen as a regional party and not a national party like the BJP or the Congress. One of the questions Goans will have is can TMC bring the state to Centre's attention?

NIRMIT SHAH, class X, Hutchings High School, Camp, Pune



WHY

are Indian airports overwhelmed?



IN THE NEWS FOR

Aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia directed Delhi airport operator DIAL to implement better crowd management strategies after passengers complained of chaos and crowding at its terminal following the implementation of new coronavirus-related travel guidelines since December 1, senior government officials said.

WE SPEAK

The number of rapid RT-PCR machines at the Delhi airport will be increased from 120 to 200 within the next few days, said the company tasked with conducting the compulsory Covid-19 test of passengers arriving from 'at-risk' countries. Founder of Genestrings Diagnostics Gauri Agarwal said, the employees deployed at the Delhi airport's laboratory will also be increased from 600 to 750. As per the new norms that came into force from December 1, RT-PCR tests are mandatory for passengers arriving from 'at-risk' countries, and they will be allowed to leave the airport only after the results come.

YOU SPEAK

All the metros have busy airports and despite Covid-19 norms, they continue to attract passengers from all over. Airports, in fact, are a hotspot for Covid spread. Despite the fact that many international flights have not resumed operations, domestic flights are enough to raise this congestion and spread the virus variant. **PIUSHI AJWANI**, class XI, Jannabai Narsee High School & Jr College, Mumbai



WHAT



WE SPEAK

In a later post on the professional network Blind, he accused the fired employees of 'stealing' from their colleagues and customers by being unproductive and only working two hours a day. Garg later apologised to staff, saying he "failed to show the appropriate amount of respect and appreciation for individuals who are affected and for their contributions to Better".



SHREYA DAS, class XI, DPS Whitefield, Bengaluru

led a CEO to fire staff over a Zoom call?

IN THE NEWS FOR

Vishal Garg, the Indian-origin CEO of US-based firm Better.com, who recently laid off 900 employees over a Zoom call and triggered widespread outrage, is taking time off from the company as it looks to build a 'positive culture'. He cited market efficiency, performance and productivity as the reason behind the firings.

YOU SPEAK

If certain specific qualities or qualifications are required, the firm should state it during recruitment. Although there are constraints while heading big firms, the CEO must be respectful of staff even if he is forced to make tough calls.

SHREYA DAS, class XI, DPS Whitefield, Bengaluru

Today, it is not unusual for firms to fire their employees when its existence is at stake. Here comes in the responsibility of corporates in making staff feel valued, so that after the pink slip, they have the strength to move on.

RUHI GUPTA, class X, DPS Whitefield, Bengaluru



OUR DEAR SEASONS



Every year they come and go
Start and end on their own
Can you guess what they are?
Seasons, that's what is told

First we have our dear summer
Seering relentless heat
Sweet watermelons and popsicles
Shorts and flip-flops on our feet

Then comes dear autumn
A rust-coloured treat
With crippled fallen leaves
Crumpling under our feet

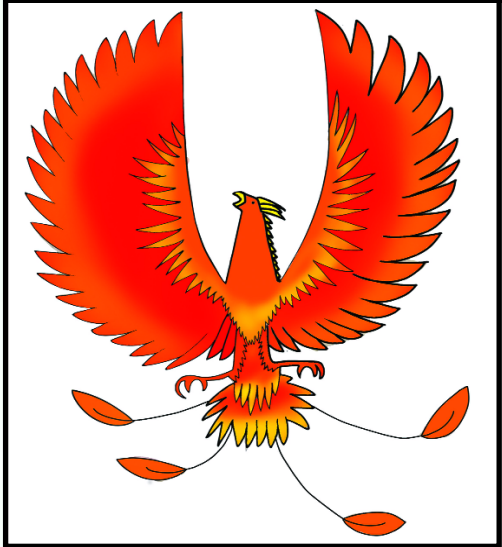
Winter comes soon enough
Shooing away the heat
Jackets and mitten are what we wear
And Christmas cakes are what we eat

Now you might wonder
What happens next?
This cycle continues
From beginning to end

SUNISKA CHOUDHURY, class VII,
Delhi School of Excellence, Attapur



Painters' Gallery



READY TO SOAR: ANIRUDH, class VIII-K,
Delhi Public School, Nacharam

Great 'Verve' on show at sports meet

Gitanjali Vedika's Sports Day celebrations, Vedika Verve, challenged students to reach great heights and discover their love for physical activities.

Alexander Francis, the chief guest, R Surabhi Bharadwaj, the special guest and Gita Karan, Founder Principal and Director, Gitanjali Group of Schools, graced the event. Francis is a SATS coach and Shooting Range in-charge. Bhardwaj is an International Shotgun Shooting Champion. Madhvi Chandra, the associate director, was also present.

The dignitaries were welcomed by class I students with a colourful guard of honour. The little ones of Pre-Primary started off the event with a prayer dance following which Vedika coordinator Nishata Karan welcomed the guests.

The Student Council led the students of class VI and VII in the march-past. Principal Sonia Nagpal delivered the school annual report which highlighted the achievements of the staff, students, and the school.

Class III students performed a spec-

tacular karate display while girls of classes IV and VI delivered a rich cover of 'We are the Champions' to motivate the audience.

The little ones of class II showed their fitness in a series of interesting races. The 4 x 100 metres relay race gave students of classes VI and VII the opportunity to test their swiftness.

Jumpfit is a regular part of the week for students of Vedika. It is a way for students to enjoy themselves while they sweat it off. The hard work they put in throughout the year was showcased via the performance of students of classes IV and V. Graceful synchronisation was displayed by classes VI and VII in the Hula Hoop drill. The sports achievements of classes IV to VII students were acknowledged and prizes were given away.

Teachers were also rewarded for their excellence by Gita Karan. Sports Captain Ashrith Krishna G delivered the vote of thanks. The spirited morning concluded with the National Anthem for which the violin was played Samhita of class VII.

Gitanjali Vedika School
Golconda

"YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF UNTIL YOU TAKE THAT FIRST STEP AND JUST GO FOR IT."



PAINTINGS REFLECT PATRIOTIC SPIRIT



In order to create awareness and honour the valour and sacrifice of nation's bravehearts in the 1971 Indo-Pak war, a painting competition was organised in Army Public School Golconda on the theme "Swarnim Vijay Varsh" (50 years of 1971 war).

The students from the high school exhibited, through their paintings, India's victory in the war. As the competition encouraged originality, the students came up with myriads of ideas reflecting their love for the nation.

The event encour-

Army Public School
Golconda

aged the students to display their talent and boost their confidence. Principal Vidya Muralidharan appreciated the unique drive launched by the Indian Army and its efforts to forge a bond with younger generation. This small leap made the energetic students exhibit their intense commitment, sincere love and patriotism towards the country.



GLORIOUS MYSORE

I recently travelled to Mysore along with my family by train and the journey itself was like an adventure. We reached our destination and immediately noticed a sculpture which announced: "I Love Mysore."

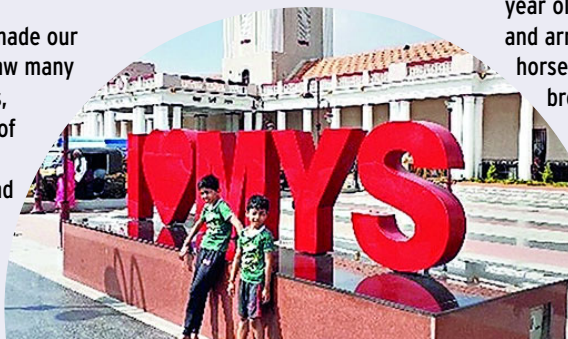
We had breakfast and made our way to the Mysore Zoo. I saw many wild animals, reptiles, birds, insects and even a variety of fish. As we were on foot, it was pretty tiring and we had lunch at a restaurant and relaxed.

The next day we visited the Mysore Palace. It

was magnificent and very clean. We booked the tickets to go inside and found the interiors just like the movie set of palaces. There was a big hall and a throne on which the king would sit and give orders. There were many

chambers, compartments and rooms. We went to one of the compartments where they kept preserved animal heads. These were all animals hunted by the kings. We went inside a massive chamber which had 1000-2000 year old things like cannons, weapons and armour stands. We also saw many horses, camels and elephants. My brother and I even rode on a camel there. This was my best trip so far.

GURUDATTA, class VII,
Jain Heritage A
Cambridge School,
Kondapur, Hyderabad



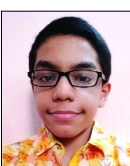
INSTAGRAM INFLUENCERS MUST BE REGULATED



R SREE LASYA, class VIII, Sister Nivedita School, Ameerpet

Influencers are paid by brands to promote products which they may not be familiar with themselves. Some of them even use inappropriate words just to get views and many youngsters start using those words. This will not happen if some rules are put in place.

BHAVYA LAKKIMSETTY, class IX, Sister Nivedita School, Hyderabad



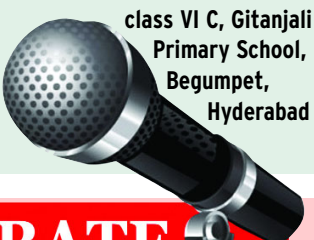
ABHIRAM G, class VIII, Sister Nivedita School, Ameerpet

Some influencers are responsible and check a product thoroughly before asking others to buy, while some do not. Due to this, many people get cheated. Regulation will put a stop to this.

FOR

No matter how popular they are, influencers should be held accountable for their actions. If they engage in inappropriate behaviour, appropriate action should be taken against them. Influencers should never promote something that they don't believe in, neither should they lie about a product. Influencers should use their platform to do exactly what their job title says, or else they deserve to be reported. They have a great impact on the young generation and next generation. So, I strongly believe that government should impose some regulations on these influencers.

DEEKSHA PARVATHANENI, class VI C, Gitanjali Primary School, Begumpet, Hyderabad



DEBATE

AGAINST

Sometimes influencers promote sensitive content which provokes people. Children too get provoked. The power of influencers has reached such an extent that a ban would make the world go upside down. A regulation will ensure the proper usage of the platform.

M. BHAVAGNA, class VIII, Gautami Vidya Kshetra



Influencers must think twice before speaking as it may mislead their followers. There are people who follow them blindly. The sponsors behind the scenes may hide the truth from the people. The influence of people must be used for good and to genuinely help others.

RITVIK, class VIII, Gautami Vidya Kshetra



Many young people easily get inspired to do things their idol preaches. This is not a safe trend. The influencers may not feel responsible to check if their content is appropriate for all ages or not. A regulatory system must be in place that will not hinder the freedom of the influencers, yet makes them cautious while posting.

RHEMA ANNETTE B, class VI-B, Gitanjali Primary School



The world on your palm is nothing but Instagram. Instagram has its regulations and I think it's quite sufficient. Influencers must not be regulated because we need to know about various things and developments. If regulated, the content will be limited.

SIDDARTHA VAITLA, Gautami Vidya Kshetra, Hyderabad



A Salute to Maritime Heroes

Delhi World School
Shadnagar, Hyderabad

The students of Delhi World School Shadnagar conducted a special Assembly on Indian Navy Day.

It was an informative session as students got a look into the history and services of the key defence wing. The Indian Navy traces its origins back to the East India Company's Marine which was founded in 1612 to protect British merchant shipping in the region. In 1793, the East India Company established its rule over eastern part of the Indian subcontinent, Bengal, but it was not until 1830 that the colonial navy was titled as His Majesty's Indian Navy.

When India became a republic in 1950, the Royal Indian Navy as it had been named since 1934 was renamed to Indian Navy. The primary objective of the navy is to safeguard the nation's maritime borders, and in conjunction with other Armed Forces of the union, act to prevent or defeat any threats or violence



against the territory, people or maritime interests of India, both in war and peace.

Through joint exercises, goodwill visits and humanitarian missions, including disaster relief, Indian Navy promotes mutual relations between nations.

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4

SA PLAYERS TO LOOK OUT FOR

India begin Test series in South Africa with the Rainbow Nation leading in head-to-head stats



Dean Elgar

South Africa are going to play their first Test series in over six months when they host India in a three-match series starting with the Boxing Day Test at SuperSport Park in Centurion. A successful away series in June this year, a 2-0 victory against West Indies, was their last Test assignment. Captain Dean Elgar will be leading a South African Test side for the first time at home.

South Africa lead the overall head-to-head stats against India in Tests: 15-14 in 39 matches with 10 drawn games. Whereas their record at home against India is overwhelmingly in their favour, as they lead 10-3 in 20 Tests with 7 drawn matches. Visitors India would be hoping they don't find themselves in a tough spot again, especially in the pace-friendly conditions of the Rainbow Nation, and also with the kind of pace attack the hosts possess. Individual player battles will also be very interesting to watch in this series.

A look at four South African players who can make a big impact in the upcoming three-match Test series against India

DEAN ELGAR (CAPTAIN)

Skipper Dean Elgar is the senior most member of the current South African side and a lot will depend on his form with the bat in the series against the visiting Indian team. A classic Test cricket batter, Elgar has accumulated 4347 runs for the hosts in 69 matches, scoring those runs at a 39.51 average. He has scored 13 hundreds and 17 fifties in 120 innings so far, with 199 against Bangladesh as his highest score in the format. The opening batsman had scored a big hundred against India when South Africa last visited India two years ago in October 2019, a 160 at Visakhapatnam. But overall Elgar has an average record against India in Tests, scoring 576 runs at a 33.88 average in 19 innings which includes one hundred and two fifties. Those

numbers get a little better while playing at home. He has 207 runs in 6 innings at 41.40 average against India in South Africa. And his last Test innings at home against India was an unbeaten 86 in Johannesburg in January 2018. Elgar has been in good form this year so far, scoring 364 runs at a 45.50 average in five Tests which included one hundred and two fifties. The Proteas skipper will be looking to continue his good run, especially at home, against India in the upcoming series.

QUINTON DE KOCK

He is known for scoring runs at a quick pace, even in Test cricket, as his 71.14 career strike rate proves. The wicketkeeper-batter has a big role to play in the South African middle order, especially with the void left by Faf



du Plessis and AB de Villiers in the last few years. de Kock along with Temba Bavuma and Rassie van der Dussen will be key players for the Proteas. De Kock has so far scored

3245 runs in 89 Test innings at an average of 39.09, which included 6 hundreds and 22 fifties. But his record against India is quite below par to say the least, 227 runs in 12 innings at 18.91 average with just one hundred - 111 in Visakhapatnam in October 2019. And surprisingly, his record against India at home in South Africa is even worse - 71 runs in six innings at 11.83 with a highest score of 43 in Cape Town. De Kock will be looking to course correct this time around, especially being in a good form coming into the series. In the last series against the West Indies in June this year, he registered his career best score of 141 not out. And followed that up with a 96 in the next match. This year, de Kock has scored 293 runs in 5 Tests at a healthy 41.85 average, including one hundred and one fifty.

DUANNE OLIVIER

Pacer Duanne Olivier will be making a Test comeback for South Africa after almost three years of Kolpak-enforced absence. Olivier was exceptional in his short stint with the Proteas



Test team, taking 48 wickets in 10 Tests at an average of 19.25 and a strike rate of 30. This also included three five-wicket hauls. Olivier is the second Kolpak-returnee to be selected for the national squad after Wayne Parnell. With conditions expected to favour the quick bowlers, he can be a surprise element in the South African pace attack as India batters have not faced him yet. Olivier is coming into the India series with very good domestic form under his belt. He leads the first-class wickets chart this season with 28 strikes at a 11.14 average when the South Africa squad was announced. The pacer is widely known for his wicket-taking abilities in South African conditions. His records for the Proteas at home is exceptional - 41 wickets in 8 Tests at a 17.82 average. AGENCIES



Goncalo Guedes

VALENCIA ROARS BACK TO BEAT LEVANTE IN SPANISH LEAGUE

Comeback victory puts team in seventh place in standings

Goncalo Guedes and Carlos Soler both scored twice to lead Valencia to a 4-3 comeback victory over La Liga's bottom club Levante in the Valencian derby. Levante had jumped out to an early 2-0 lead through goals from Jose Campa and Roger in the 21st and 24th minutes to give the team hope of securing its first win of the season before Valencia came roaring back.

Guedes cut the deficit in half with a goal in the 44th and Soler pulled Valencia even early in the second half when he converted a penalty five minutes after the restart. Soler's second in the 72nd completed the fightback and Guedes put the game out of reach with his second in the 85th.

Anis Bardhi pulled one back in the first minute of injury time but it was not enough as Levante slumped to its tenth defeat of the season.

Levante remains last in the standings with eight points from 18 games and seven points from safety. Valencia moved up

to seventh with 28 points, just one back of Atletico Madrid and Real Sociedad in fifth and sixth, respectively. AGENCIES

PL TO CONTINUE WITH CURRENT FIXTURES

It was confirmed at a Premier League club meeting on Monday that the top-flight English league will continue with the current fixture schedule despite a number of clubs experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks and challenges. A range of issues were discussed at the meeting, including the adaption of the Premier League COVID-19 postponement process in response to the impact of the

Omicron variant.

The League also confirmed to its clubs that 92 percent of players and club staff have received one, two or three COVID-19 vaccination doses, with 84 per cent of players on the vaccination journey. Players who have had one or two doses are required to wait for the appropriate time period before receiving either their second or booster vaccinations. "The health and well-being of all con-

cerned remains our priority and the League will continue to monitor and reflect public health guidance, always proceeding with caution," PL in a statement said.

"The League continues to work with clubs to encourage vaccination among players and club staff, as well as promoting the Government's public-health vaccination messaging to clubs and the wider public," PL in the statement added.

NADAL TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID

Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal said he has tested positive for Covid-19, putting in doubt his participation in the Australian Open next month where he was expected to make his comeback to major competition after months of injury.

The Spanish former world number one said he took a test when he returned to Spain from Abu Dhabi where he took part in an exhibition tournament last week, his first since August due to a foot injury. "I am going through some unpleasant moments but I trust that I will improve little by little. I am now confined at home and have informed the people who had been in contact with me," he wrote on Twitter. "As a consequence of the situation, I have to have total flexibility with my calendar and I will analyse my options depending on my evolution," he added.

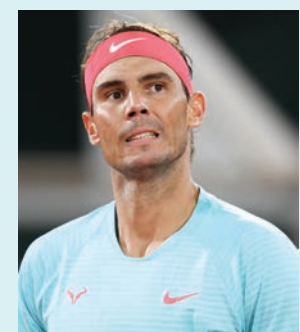


Photo: GETTY IMAGES

The 35-year-old had been due to fly to Melbourne later this month to compete in an ATP event ahead of the Australian Open, which begins at Melbourne Park on January 17. The 20-time major champion has struggled with a foot injury for the past six months, forcing him to miss Wimbledon and the US Open.

Nadal had said Abu Dhabi championship was a chance to test his foot and work towards the trip Down Under. AGENCIES

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: What is the name of the biennial cricket series contested between England and Australia?

- The Ashes
- ODI Series
- Wisden Trophy
- Frank Worrell Trophy

Q2: Ant rubber, Pitcher and Home run are the terms associated with the game of _____

- Squash
- baseball
- Basket
- Polo

Q3: The US Masters is held every year at which golf course within the state of Georgia?

- Augusta
- France
- Spain
- Italy

Q4: Who won the title of French Open Men's Single Tennis Championship in the year 2002?

- Juan Carlos Ferrero
- Albert Costa
- Pete Sampras
- Andra Agassi

Q5: Ravichandran Ashwin became the fastest Indian

bowler, claiming 300 Test wicket on Indian soil in 49 matches. Whose record did he break in doing so?

- Ishant Sharma
- Anil Kumble
- Harbhajan Singh
- Kapil Dev

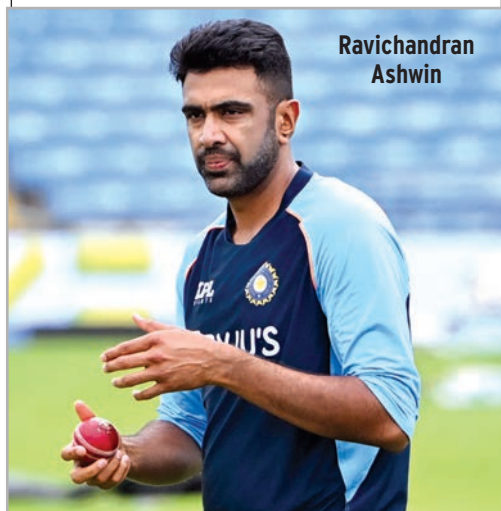


Photo: AFP

Q6: Which British driver won the World Rally Championship in 2001 despite winning just one of the season's 14 rallies?

- Pat Moss
- Richard Alexander Burns
- Harry Hunt
- Betty Haig

Q7: Who has become the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games?

- Kavitha Devi
- Bhavani Devi
- Daina Devi
- Kaushik Vedika

Q8: Who was named World Series MVP for the 1992

Toronto Blue Jays?

- Pat Borders
- Sammy Sosa
- Babe Ruth
- Ted Williams

Q9: Who won the silver medal in men's basketball in Seoul Olympics 1988?

- USA
- China
- Japan
- Yugoslavia

ANSWERS: 1. a. The Ashes 2. b. Baseball 3. a. Augusta 4. b. Albert Costa 5. b. Anil Kumble 6. b. Richard Alexander Burns 7. b. Bhavani Devi 8. a. Pat Borders 9. d. Yugoslavia