



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

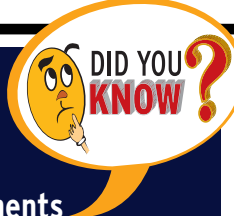
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022



**1** In view of the high level of tensions in Ukraine, New Delhi has organised additional flights to evacuate the students trapped in Ukraine. Four flights from Kyiv to Delhi to operate on Feb 25, Feb 27 and March 6, 2022. India has also asked students to leave Ukraine without waiting for confirmation from universities

**2** The BSE benchmark sensex tanked over 1,000 points and the NSE Nifty cracked below the key 17,000-level in opening deals on Tuesday

**\*The Minsk peace agreements that were signed in 2014-15 call for a large degree of autonomy for the two regions inside Ukraine**



**3** Putin recognises breakaway Ukraine regions. Russian-backed separatists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions – collectively known as the Donbass – broke away from Ukrainian government control in 2014 and proclaimed themselves independent "people's republics", until now unrecognised. Putin has ordered the deployment of troops to two breakaway regions

**4** World leaders condemn Russian decision on Ukraine. The leaders of France, Germany and the United States condemned Putin's move as a "clear breach" of the Minsk peace agreements. However, Russia's foreign ministry said on Tuesday that Moscow needed to first ratify its friendship treaties with two breakaway Ukrainian regions before it could discuss matters like the exact borders of the territories, RIA news agency reported

## UKRAINE CRISIS: LATEST UPDATES

# What's at stake for the global economy IF RUSSIA INVADES UKRAINE

After getting battered by the pandemic, supply chain chokeholds and leaps in prices, the global economy is poised to be sent on yet another unpredictable course by an armed clash on Europe's border. Even before the Kremlin ordered Russian troops into separatist territories of Ukraine on Monday, the tension had taken a toll. The promise of punishing sanctions in return by US President Joe Biden and the potential for Russian retaliation had already pushed down stock returns and driven up gas prices.

### THE IMPACT

**1** An outright attack by the Russian troops could cause dizzying spikes in energy and food prices, fuel inflation fears and spook investors, a combination that threatens investment and growth in economies around the world

**2** Europe gets nearly 40% of its natural gas and 25% of its oil from Russia, and is likely to be walloped with spikes in heating and gas bills, which are already soaring. Natural gas reserves are at less than one-third of capacity, with weeks of cold weather ahead, and European leaders have already accused Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, of reducing supplies to gain a political edge

**3** There are food prices, which have climbed to their highest level in more than a decade largely because of the pandemic's supply chain mess, according to a recent United Nations report. Russia is the world's largest supplier of wheat, and with Ukraine, accounts for nearly one-quarter of total global exports. For some countries, the dependence is much greater. That flow of grain makes up more than 70% of Egypt and Turkey's total wheat imports

**4** This will put further strain on Turkey, which is already in the middle of an economic crisis and struggling with inflation that is running close to 50%, with skyrocketing food, fuel, and electricity prices



**5** Ukraine, long known as the 'breadbasket of Europe', actually sends more than 40% of its wheat and corn exports to the Middle East or Africa, where there are worries that further food shortages and price increases could stoke social unrest

**6** Lebanon, for example, which is experiencing one of the most devastating economic crises in more than a century, gets more than half of its wheat from Ukraine, which is also the world's largest exporter of seed oils like sunflower and rapeseed.

**7** Also fuelling inflation fears are possible shortages of essential metals like palladium, aluminum and nickel, creating another disruption to global supply chains already suffering from the pandemic, trucker blockades in Canada and shortages of semiconductors

**8** The price of palladium, for example, used in automotive exhaust systems, mobile phones and even dental fillings, has soared in recent weeks because of fears that Russia, the world's largest exporter of the metal, could be cut off from global markets. The price of nickel, used to make steel and electric car batteries, has also been jumping



## HOW WEST IS GEARING UP TO FACE THE IMPACT

■ The West has taken steps to blunt the impact on Europe if Putin decides to retaliate. The US has ramped up delivery of liquefied natural gas and asked other suppliers like Qatar to do the same

■ The demand for oil might add momentum to negotiations to revive a deal to curb Iran's nuclear programme. Iran, which is estimated to have as many as 80 million barrels of oil in storage, has been locked out of much of the world's markets since 2018, when President Donald Trump withdrew from the nuclear accord and reimposed sanctions



■ Some of the sanctions against Russia that the Biden administration is considering, such as cutting off access to the system of international payments known as SWIFT or blocking companies from selling anything to Russia that contains American-made components, would hurt anyone who does business with Russia. But across the board, the US is much less vulnerable than the European Union, which is Russia's largest trading partner

## R PRAGGNANANDHAA 16-YEAR-OLD BEATS WORLD NO 1 MAGNUS CARLSEN

Teen chess Grandmaster R Pragganandhaa shocked world No 1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway in the eighth round of the Airtel Masters rapid online chess tournament on Monday. The fifth-youngest person ever to achieve the title of Grandmaster, Pragganandhaa, playing with black pieces against the 31-year-old Carlsen, won in 39 moves in a Tarrasch variation game. He thus halted Carlsen's run of three consecutive victories. The Indian Grandmaster is currently on the joint 12th spot in the tournament.



■ This isn't the first of achievements for the youngster. Back in 2016, he became the youngest international master in history at the age of 10 years, 10 months, and 19 days. Earlier, he had won the World Youth Chess Championships U-8 title in 2013, which earned him the title of FIDE Master at the age of 7

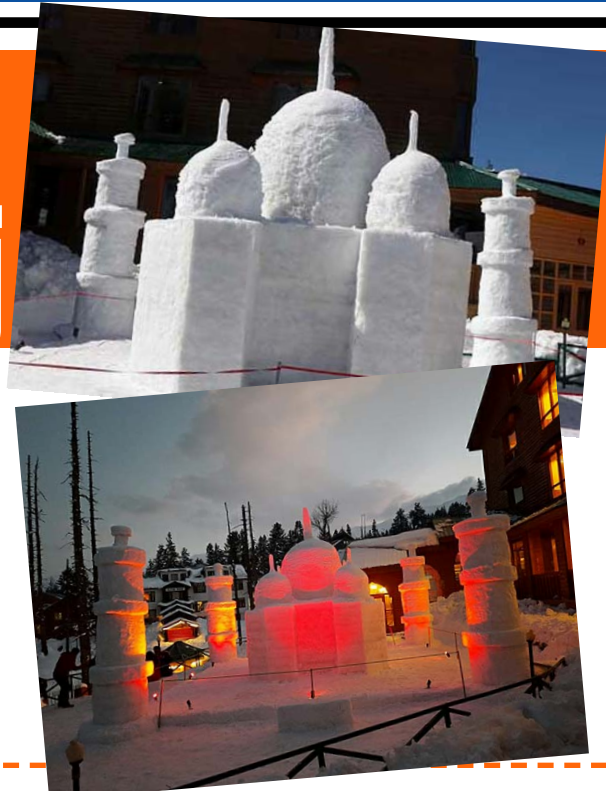
■ With the win, Pragganandhaa became the third Indian to beat Norway's Carlsen. Only Viswanathan Anand and P Harikrishna had managed to get the better of Carlsen

What a wonderful feeling it must be for Pragg. All of 16, and to have beaten the experienced and decorated Magnus Carlsen, and that too while playing black, is magical! Best wishes on a long and successful chess career ahead. You've made India proud

SACHIN TENDULKAR tweeted

## WAH! Snow Taj

Created by Grand Mumtaz Resort in Gulmarg, this replica of the Taj Mahal – one of the seven wonders of this world – has been attracting the attention of tourists and locals who visit in large numbers to enjoy snow. The sculpture was made in about 100 hours (17 days) by the hotel team members in sub-zero environment (as low as minus 12 degrees Celsius at times) within the hotel premises. The structure measures 24 feet x 24 feet x 16 feet high in size with zero material expenses, and has been built without any professional assistance.



## Pop sensation Britney Spears signs 15 million-dollar book deal for tell-all memoir

Pop star Britney Spears has signed a \$15 million book deal with publishing house Simon & Schuster for a tell-all memoir. According to Page Six, Simon & Schuster secured the deal for Spears' memoir after a massive bidding war involving multiple publishers. In her public testimony last year about the conservatorship (usually granted for individuals when they are considered to have a severely diminished mental capacity), Spears told the Los Angeles judge that she had been forced to work by conservators despite begging for breaks, and that she had no control over her finances.



## TODAY'S EDITION

➤ Politics shrouded the world of sports when Djokovic was questioned on his vaccine stance and Kohli was asked about his performance. Get your news update



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➤ Take a virtual trip to the Swiss Alps, famous for its natural beauty, through the lens of a young traveller and soak in the intoxicating beauty of Switzerland



PAGE-3

➤ FIH Pro League: India to go with tried and tested for tie against Spain. The Indian team will be led by Manpreet Singh



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# The World

## this week

IS

### it time to cut down Covid curbs?



#### IN THE NEWS FOR

The number of Covid-19 cases in India has witnessed a significant dip over the last few weeks, with the number of daily cases dwindling in the 30,000-

range. Amid this, the Centre has issued fresh instructions to the states regarding the Covid-19 restrictions. It has asked the states to review and alter the additional restrictions, which were put in place in December-January.

#### WE SPEAK

Several states such as Delhi, UP, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal have already resumed physical classes. While the response on the first day was below 50%, schools and teachers are hopeful the numbers will increase gradually. They felt parents are still taking stock of the situation.



#### YOU SPEAK

Over the last two years, people have been through a lot. Children have been under tremendous stress owing to online learning and adapting to 'socialising via screen'. Now that vaccinations have started for teens, physical schools should start. However, it is also essential that children and teachers undergo counselling to tackle the 'learning gap' and the 'emotional stress' that they've been through during the lockdown. Once, children are back in schools, even working parents can return to offices.



**KHEEMA MALHOTRA**, class XI, Carmel Convent School, Chandigarh

## DO you support Djokovic's stance on vaccines?

#### IN THE NEWS FOR

World No. 1 tennis player Novak Djokovic, in an interview to the BBC, said that he was "willing to pay" the "price" of not being vaccinated against Covid-19

and risk not being able to participate in the upcoming French Open and Wimbledon, which are scheduled to be held later this year, if they make Covid-19 vaccination mandatory for players.



#### What's at stake:

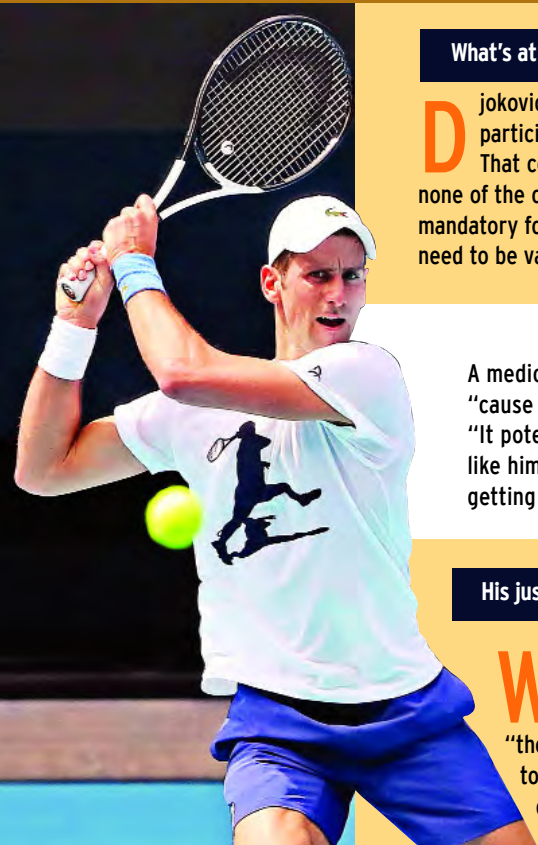
Djokovic was earlier this year deported from Australia and barred from participating in the Australian Open for his refusal to get vaccinated. That cost him a chance of winning a record 21st Grand Slam. So far, none of the other three Grand Slams, including the US Open, have made it mandatory for players to be vaccinated against Covid-19, though spectators need to be vaccinated.

#### WE SPEAK

A medical ethicist warned Djokovic's comments about vaccination will "cause harm". Professor Dominic Wilkinson, of Oxford University, said: "It potentially reinforces those beliefs among other people who aren't, like him, super-fit and healthy, and who may well be at serious risk of getting ill."

#### His justification

While clarifying that he wasn't against vaccination per se – disclosing that he had taken vaccines as a child – Djokovic, however, drew the line when it came to Covid-19 vaccination, saying that "the freedom to choose what you put in your body" was more important to him than winning any title. He also added that he was keeping an open mind about being jabbed.



#### YOU SPEAK



Being an icon – one always has a greater role to play in society – to inspire people and motivate them. However, he has the free will to decide what's best for his body. Djokovic has refrained from being associated with the anti-vaccine movement but is conscious of what is administered to his body. I think it's his personal decision whether he wishes to get vaccinated or not, as there is always a personal choice before societal duties and image. I don't think this, however, would affect the larger population's views on vaccination.

**RAKSHIT DUBEY**, class X, Zebur School for Children, Ahmedabad



## WHAT kind of changes can we expect with AI?



#### IN THE NEWS FOR

Tata Group, which officially became the owner of Air India starting from January 27, 2022, after the divestment process was complete, has thought of some changes to be made for an overhaul of the brand of the debt-laden airline. According to a PTI report, the employees have been told that efforts will be made to change the image, attitude and perception of Air India. On Thursday, Air India offered enhanced meal services on four flights from Mumbai even before the handover was complete.

#### WE SPEAK

- 1 According to reports, the cabin crew members have been instructed to address passengers as guests.
- 2 The crew members will have to be smartly dressed and well-groomed and grooming executives will be conducting checks at the airports.
- 3 The renewed focus will be on the performance. Timeliness will be top priority. Hence, doors will be closed 10 minutes before departure.
- 4 A special audio message by Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, will be played in flights and crew will be instructed on when and how to play it.

#### YOU SPEAK

I believe Air India's takeover by the Tatas will lead to a massive revival of the airline. The airline was founded by JRD Tata and then was taken over by the government and was run as India's international airline. Later on, Indian Airlines was also merged into its service. It received a bad name as the flights were habitually late, service was tardy and there was a blasé attitude among the staff. In a good start, the Tatas have asked the staff to pull up their socks, be efficient, manage time well and focus on building the good will back. With experience of running Vistara, Tatas will instill professionalism and people-centric business values among the Air India staff.



**DHITI WADHWA**, class XI, PACE Jr Science College, Andheri

## DO you think cryptocurrencies should be banned?



#### IN THE NEWS FOR

Making a strong case for banning cryptocurrencies, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar said they are even worse than Ponzi schemes and threaten the financial sovereignty of a country. Observing that crypto-technology is underpinned by a philosophy to evade government controls, he said they have been specifically developed to bypass the regulated financial system. Cryptocurrencies can wreck the currency system, monetary authority, banking system, and in general the government's ability to control the economy.

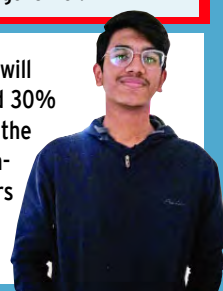
#### WE SPEAK

■ If cryptocurrencies are banned, the vast majority of investors who are law abiding would desist from investing. Those few elements who would continue to invest will essentially be carrying out an illegal activity. Such exceptions should reinforce the need for a ban, rather than invalidate it, according to RBI deputy governor.

#### YOU SPEAK

If crypto currency is banned in India, many investors will suffer huge losses. The Indian government has levied 30% tax on cryptocurrency, causing a huge havoc among the investors. A ban could spell only more trouble. The financial system needs to be prepared so that all stakeholders get to move forward with the times.

**SUSHANTH**, class X, Sister Nivedita School, Hyderabad



## DOES Kohli need space?



#### IN THE NEWS FOR

In no mood to talk about the prolonged lean patch that Virat Kohli is enduring, India captain Rohit Sharma said "everything will fall in place" if the chatter around him stops. Ahead of the T20 series against the West Indies starting Wednesday, media queries were once again focussed on Kohli's batting form and Rohit wasn't pleased.

"I think it starts from you guys," Rohit was curt in his first response, directing at the media.

#### WE SPEAK

■ Kohli has not scored a hundred for more than two years in international cricket. In ODIs, it has been three years since his last century. He has 44 hundreds in the format overall. But Kohli has scored a lot of half centuries which is an indication that he is not exactly in bad form.

#### YOU SPEAK

Virat Kohli has been under the constant scrutiny of the media and the management. Skipper Rohit Sharma is right when he asked everyone to back off, and give him time and space to focus on the game, and regain his form. People often tend to intrude into his personal space too. While at good times, so much media attention may boost a person's confidence, when the chips are down, it can be quite demoralising and discouraging.

**UDISHA TIWARI**, class XI, CMS Gomi Nagar 2, Lucknow





# A day of glory as leaders, achievers feted

Not all dreamers are winners, but all winners are dreamers. Recognizing and rewarding are one of the most important tasks of a school. DSE, Attapur held its final event of the academic year on the school campus- Milan-The Trophy Distribution ceremony-2021-22. It was a time to applaud and honour the achievers in various fields for their sincere and dedicated efforts during the academic session.

The event was graced by Shilpa Ravi, Vice-chairperson, Secretary Rama Devi, Academic Director Shashikala, Administrator Reshmi, and the invited guests. The programme commenced with the lighting of the lamp ceremony followed by a prayer song.

The house mentors of all the four houses shared their challenging journey during the academic year 2021-22 and their achievement gallery unfolded in the form of short videos.

The welcome dance performed by the students of classes VII and VIII, dressed in colour-

ful costumes was definitely a feast for the eyes. Students of class IX performed a high-spirited dance which enthralled the audience.

The trophy distribution ceremony began with the school management honouring Vishalini for winning the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for her very thoughtful invention of floating houses that could rescue people during floods. She was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10000, a citation, a memento and a certificate of achievement.

An endowment award instituted by the family members in memory of late Padmavati, IT Head, DSE group of Institutions, was presented to Nitin Sri Siva Kalayan. The Rolling Trophies for excelling in Sports, Literary and Cultural activities were given away to Samurai, Trojans and Spartans respectively who emerged as winners. The Overall Championship Trophy for best house was bagged by the Samurai House.

Leadership certificates were presented to the student council of 2021-22 for their com-

mitment and diligence in discharging their responsibilities.

The school recognised and honoured the class X batch of 2021-22 for their accomplishments in categories like the best sportsperson, best in oratory skills and the best outgoing student. Naif Mohammed was declared the best sportsperson, Farheen Mariam, the best in oratory skills and Sparsha Prasad, the best outgoing student. Principal Augustine Thomas gave a motivational speech to the gathering and appreciated the efforts of the CCA coordinator, the house mentors and the teachers for their relentless efforts in planning and organizing various inter house competitions.

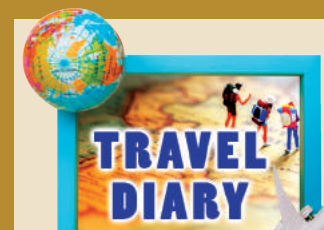
Head Boy T Vidush and head girl Farheen Mariam shared their experience of leadership. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by cultural secretaries Mohd Armaan and Sparsha Prasad. It was a proud moment for the recipients of various awards and the event came to an end amidst cheers.

Delhi School of Excellence

Attapur



## A cool trip to the UK



I went on a wonderful trip to the United Kingdom with my family. We had to first take a flight to Dubai from Hyderabad and then another flight from there to the UK. We landed at Heathrow airport and made our way to Taunton. We were jetlagged for two days, and we would wake up 3 am!

It was so cold, we used heaters to keep ourselves warm. Next day, my father invited his office friends for lunch. Everyone brought toys for me and my brother.

During our stay, we visited the Somerset Museum, Bristol, Torquay, Tower bridge, London Eye and the parliament.

As we didn't have any TV there, I spent a lot of time playing in the park with my brother and parents.

I miss those days. I cannot wait for Covid to end so that I can travel with my family again.

**Blossoms International School**  
**Hyderabad**

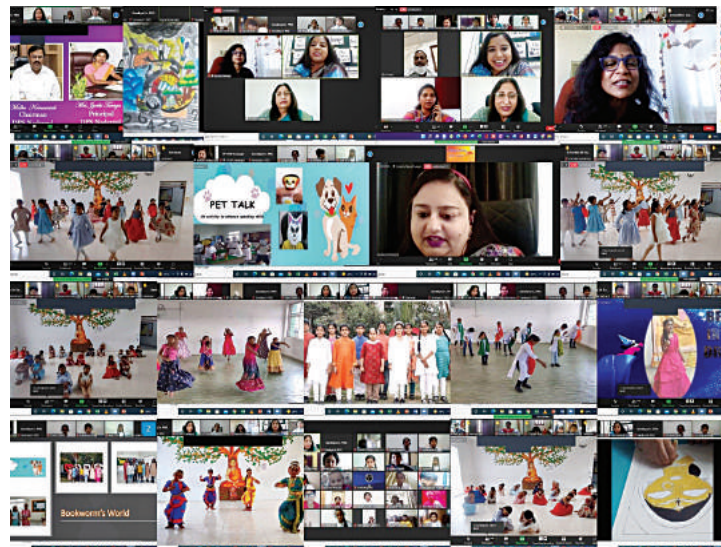
## Annual Day gala reflects students' learning journey

**Delhi Public School**  
**Nadergul**

Delhi Public School celebrated its Annual Day on the digital platform, a gala event that was segregated into three parts according to the classes.

The occasion was graced by Chairman of the school M Komaraiah, Chief Guests Aparna Athreya, Bandan Preet Mahajan, and Prof. T. Mrunalini. The series commenced with the junior school (class I, II and III) on the theme 'Sapney- a dream world of a child', followed by the upper primary (IV and V) with the theme 'Sanskriti- a tale of culture and traditions', and culminated with 'Samay- the march of time', showcased by middle school (class VI, VII and VIII).

The celebrations kickstarted with the ceremonial lamp lighting ceremony and a prayer song. Vice Principal Kiran Khanna welcomed the chief guests for the events. The audience then witnessed glimpses of some of the exclusive performances from the field of academics where students explained the con-



cepts taught through various activities.

The co-curricular and extra-curricular activities were showcased. Video presentations on evolution of dance, sports and culture, solar song to name a few. Aparna Athreya conducted a small storytelling session on the values of honesty and wis-

dom. She emphasised on the importance of dreams and urged the children to dream big and work towards their dreams.

Bandan Preet Mahajan stressed on the importance of one's culture and tradition. She also lauded the children for the discipline they showcased during the online event. Speak-

ing to the students from middle school, Prof Mrunalini emphasised on the importance of time and that it should be used wisely.

The annual day inauguration culminated with the vote of thanks delivered by the grade level coordinators and the students were directed to proceed for class wise SLCs. The Student Led Conferences try to bring to the parents the unique pedagogical approaches that teachers undertake during their teaching-learning sessions. The SLCs were held class-wise with each section depicting its best practices across subjects like English, Math, Science, and Social. Sports as well as music and dance were included in the conferences. Students chose from the varied range of activities that they had participated in year-long and demonstrated the same in front of parents and guests.

The grand occasion culminated with the chairman's address who applauded the children for their relentless efforts throughout the year.



## CELEBRATING THE MAGIC OF NUMBER 9

Pallavi International School, Keesara celebrated its second Annual Day virtually which saw the participation of all students, their parents, teachers, staff and invitees.

The event was woven around the theme - Numero Nueve 'The Magic of number 9'. Lt. Col. Rohit Mishra (Retd) Founder Director, Mission Fightback, graced the occasion as a chief guest.

The celebration commenced with the lighting of the lamp followed by the Ganesh Vandana. Tiny Pallavians of class I graciously welcomed the audience with the welcome dance. Poojitha introduced the chief guest and guests of honour. The programme was hosted by Sukruthi and Sunvika of class V.

Lt. Col. Mishra in his speech ap-



preciated the school for embracing the contemporary teaching methods to reduce the competition among students, promote cooperation, and

boost a health study environment. Chairman M Komaraiah and Director Sushil Kumar appreciated the parents for their support and the

**Pallavi International School**  
**Keesara**

relentless efforts by the teachers and staff which helped in achieving the no. 1 emerging school award by the prestigious Times Education group. Principal Grecilda Rose presented the Annual Report which gave insights about the school and the continuous efforts for the all-round development of students.

The theme Numero Nueve was very well conceptualized and integrated with subjects to showcase the magic of number 9. As the theme suggested, little munchkins of Pre-Primary danced on the tunes of Number 9. Class II students highlighted the special facts about each planet through a trip to the Solar

System in a dance on 'Planet song'. Class III students represented 9 influential female personalities of India who can be termed as role models for every Indian. Class IV students gave a visual treat to the audience through 9 dance forms of India.

A short story on the nine states of emotions was depicted by Aditi Narayani in her semi-classical dance. Class V students commemorated the greatness of Telangana poets through a dance performance. Nava Durga- The nine manifestations of Goddess Parvati were showcased by classes VII and VIII students. Class VI students performed a skit on 9 facts of number 9. The event concluded with the vote of thanks by cultural secretary P Pranay Tej.

### THE DEEP FEELING OF GETTING LOST IN A BOOK



I opened a book, Bright Light I could see  
Suddenly it was pushing me

From the space, hanging on the moon to the clouds  
and into the trees and on the ground.

In a deep jungle I was found.  
All alone did not know what to do  
The hot wind was too

I wished that I could fly, "Unbelievable" I could  
The dream world was real  
The angels singing and dancing

Soon I landed on a house  
Till now I had made some friends  
I followed them on their road of bumps and bends  
Until we realized that we were done

The caves brightened with diamonds  
The trees shining, The flowers singing  
And the breeze dancing  
It was the happily ever after  
And time for me to go home

I promised I would come meet again  
Till the next chapter, And we said our good byes  
Maybe I was wrong, Now this is the happily ever after

And out I came travelling all the way  
From the ground on the trees into the sky  
Sailing high and the space  
This story was sure a grace  
Finally in my home, On the 4th floor

**BHAAVYA GARG, VII D, Delhi Public School, Miyapur, Hyderabad**



## Just one day in a year to highlight role of women is mere symbolism

In about two weeks from today, we will be celebrating the 47th International Women's Day. If this day was not merely symbolic, then, even after 47 years, we would not still be worried about not having reached our desired goal in empowering women. The day is symbolic because most of the resolutions made on this day fail to get converted into action. We still need a lot of convincing to do, to allow women into fields which are dominated by men. Also, the day mostly recognizes women achievers in various professional fields. But there are homemakers across the world, whose relentless work without any break goes unacknowledged. They are the ones who groom the future citizens of the world. Many women also work in various unorganized sectors and do not get their due. Until and unless we take concrete steps to respect the work done by every woman, we cannot claim that we have successfully empowered our women and wiped out gender inequality.

**FOR** **GUNAANSHI ARAVIND, class IV, Taiwan, Silver Oaks International School, Oakdale Campus, Hyderabad**

In my opinion, appreciating women for just one day in a year for their role and efforts which they put every day is not fair. Women play different roles in their lives; being a daughter, a wife, a mother, a student, a friend, a sister etc. Like men, women sacrifice many things in their lives and face many problems with determination. They deserve to be truly appreciated and acknowledged every day, not just on any special day. We should make them feel loved. For this a specific day is not needed at all. We should do it often and be thankful to them. Not only women, but everyone should be thanked and appreciated for the roles they play and efforts they make in their lives.

**AASTHA NEGI, class X, Sunflower, Sister Nivedita School, Hyderabad**



We might know Thomas Edison for the light bulb and Wright Brothers for the airplane. But, do you know many things that you use daily were invented by women?

Dishwashers, Computer Software, Life Rafts, Windscreen Wipers, Space Station batteries, Home Security Systems and so many more. Monopoly and Diapers were also invented by women! You might think that those were only a few things and so many more things were invented by men. There's a reason for that: Women would have achieved greater heights if not for the obstacles created by men. Men always look down on women, but women are bouncing back from being denied everything. I feel that at least one day, we should highlight the importance of the roles played by women.

**K HARINI, class VI-C, Meridian School, Kukatpally**



**AGAINST**

I disagree with this notion because every child is taught to respect women in our society. Deep within our soul, we regularly express a sense of gratitude towards all the women who manage to take care of their families and also stand out in the real world. Just as we celebrate festivals to honour our belief in God, even though we pray to God every day, celebrating our beliefs on a particular day is not mere symbolism but a blend of jubilation and commemoration. Likewise, if we decide upon marking a day to celebrate the efforts of women, then it's not mere symbolism, but a festival to wholeheartedly honour the women of our world.

**KHUSHI ARORA, class XI, Commerce, Silver Oaks International School, Mighty Oaks Campus, Hyderabad**

**DEBATE**



# NZEALAND CRUSH INDIA

## Bowling a concern before WC says a disappointed Mithali Raj after fourth ODI loss to NZ



Amelia Kerr

**T**he Indian women's cricket team's horror tour of New Zealand continued as the White Ferns demolished the visitors by 63 runs in a rain-curtailed fourth WODI on Tuesday to inch towards a clean sweep in the five-match series here. The game became a glorified "T20" due to rain as Amelia Kerr stole the show with a 33-ball-68 which took New Zealand to 191 for 5. Amelia, one half of the famous Kerr sisters, then mopped up the tail with 3 for 30 as India managed only 128 before being all-out in 17.5 overs.

### COMPLETE DOWN SLIDE

Teenager Richa Ghosh's counter-attacking 52 off 29 balls was the only silver lining in an otherwise disastrous performance which has now led to five defeats on this tour including the one-off T20.

The bowling performance of the Indians seemed to have nose-dived with each passing game and it was the worst on Tuesday where only Rajeshwari Gayakwad (4-0-26-1) looked the part. Meghna Singh (1/45 in 4 overs) and Deepthi Sharma (1/49 in 4 overs) were two bowlers taken to the cleaners by Amelia who had 11 fours and a six in her kitty.

New Zealand started on a rousing note with a 53-run opening stand between Sophie Devine (32 of 24 balls) and Suzie Bates (41 off 26 balls). Once the platform was laid, Amelia and Amy Satterthwaite (32 off 16 balls) literally pumelled the Indian bowling.

A chase of 192 was always going to be a tough ask even though the out of form Harmanpreet Kaur



It was another complete performance from us. With the bat, we showed real intent. Good experience (shortened game) with the World Cup coming up. It was a great opportunity for us. The batters played to their strengths and 191 was probably above-par. The fielding is an area where we've missed a few, that's an area where we can probably save another 10-15 runs.

New Zealand skipper  
SOPHIE DEVINE

was dropped from the playing eleven. Smriti Mandhana very understandably was out of rhythm after a long and hard quarantine and youngsters Shafali Verma (0) and Yastika Bhatia (0) were out in quick succession. The match was as good as over by the fifth over when India were reduced to 19 for 4. Richa and Mithali Raj (30 off 28 balls) added 67 runs but it was in a lost cause as wickets fell at regular interval.

Amelia's sister Jess also got two wickets upfront while Francis Mackay and Heley Jensen shared the spoils with two and three wickets respectively.

The only time India had something to cheer about was when Richa clobbered the White Ferns bowlers for four huge sixes and four boundaries while Mithali played the second fiddle. Once Richa was gone, the stomach for fight wasn't evident in others as six wickets fell for 32 runs.

India skipper Mithali Raj expressed disappointment after her side was beaten. "We have definitely been trying few compositions with our spin and seam attack. But to be honest the bowling is a bit of concern before the World Cup. We want all our main bowlers to get their rhythm," said Mithali after the game.

"We are adapting to the conditions. There are spells where the bowlers have bowled well but we are not consistent and it is something that we are looking to improve. I was just looking at the shots and the way she (Richa) went about her batting, she is very talented and the future for India," she added.

### TRAINING PAYS OFF

Amelia Kerr expressed happiness after her breakthrough knock helped the White Ferns in defeating India. New Zealand skipper Sophie Devine praised the batters for playing to their strengths. "With the bowling, at times, we have been slow to change our plans. We have to adapt quicker. I had belief in this group forever, nice to see people are seeing that. We are seeing the results now, there's real confidence and belief. It's perfect timing with the World Cup just around the corner," she said.

With this win, New Zealand has gained a 4-0 lead in the five-match series. The final ODI will now be played on Thursday. Time is running out for coach Ramesh Powar as only two weeks are left for World Cup to start and it is not at all looking good for the team. AGENCIES

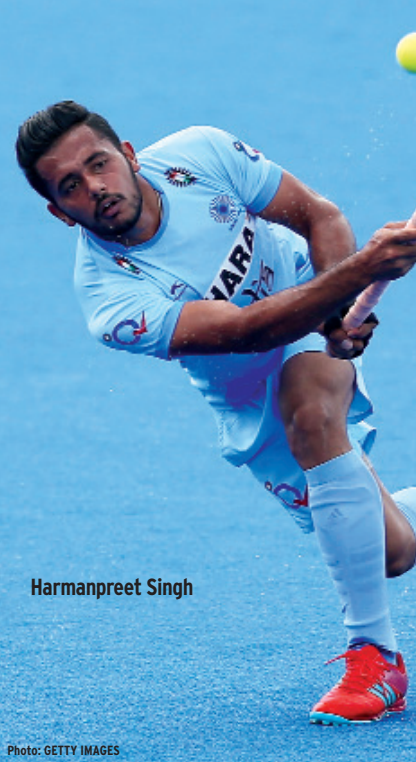


Teenager Richa Ghosh's counter-attacking 52 off 29 balls was the only silver lining in an otherwise disastrous performance which has now led to five defeats on this tour including the one-off T20.

Photos: GETTY IMAGES

## INDIA GO WITH TRIED AND TESTED

### Sukhjeet the new face in two-legged FIH Pro League tie against Spain



Harmanpreet Singh

**P**romising forward Sukhjeet Singh was the new face in India's 20-strong men's hockey squad announced on Tuesday for the FIH Pro League tie against Spain at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar later this week. The two-leg tie will be held on February 26 and 27 and the Olympic bronze medallist Indian team will be led by Manpreet Singh. Dragflick specialist Harmanpreet Singh will serve as Manpreet's deputy.

The Indian team will see a new face in 25-year-old Sukhjeet from Punjab, who was picked in the core group following an impressive stint during the maiden Hockey India Inter-Department National Championship last year.

"We have chosen a balanced group to play Spain for this weekend and are looking forward to playing at home in Bhubaneswar," chief coach Graham Reid said. "It includes another new debutant striker Sukhjeet Singh who impressed during the selection camp last month and has been

### BALANCED SQUAD

The 20-member squad includes goalkeepers PR Sreejesh and Suraj Karkera.

Harmanpreet, Mandeep Mor, Surender Kumar, Varun Kumar, Jarmanpreet Singh and Dipsan Tirkey are the defenders in the squad.

The forwardline includes Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Shilanand Lakra, new comer Sukhjeet and Abhishek, who did well against South Africa and France earlier this month, apart from players Manpreet, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Hardik Singh, Jaskaran Singh, Shamsher Singh, Nilakanta Sharma and Akashdeep Singh.

working hard since selection in the Core Probable's Group."

### Eye on maiden win

"Spain has a new coach and will be keen to impress after losing to England. These games are an important step in preparation for what is a very busy year," Reid added. Having lost both their opening matches against England earlier this month, world no. 9 Spain will look to register their first win in this season's Pro League.

"We are not too concerned about the losses against England. We have just started, we've played only two matches, so I wouldn't put too much emphasis on winning or losing yet. We were really competitive in our opening matches, and will try to play our brand of hockey against India," Spain head coach Max Caldas said.

Spain captain Marc Miralles said they are well prepared to give India a run for their money in the upcoming matches. The Indian team has won three out of the four matches in the FIH Pro League. The team will be playing the first home matches this season. PTI

## STRANDJA: NITU, ANAMIKA THROUGH TO QUARTERS

Indian women boxers Nitu (48kg) and Anamika (50kg) advanced to the quarterfinals of the 73rd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria, after clinching impressive opening-round wins.

Nitu outpunched Russia's Chungalakova Luliia 5-0, and

will now take on Italy's Roberta Bonatti. Anamika defeated local hope Chukanova Zlatislava 4-1 to make the last-eight stage on Monday. She will next face Algeria's Roumaysa Boualem.

However, Shiksha (54kg) and Akash (67kg) lost their respective bouts to bow out of contention. While Shiksha lost to Kazakhstan's former world champion and reigning Asian gold-medallist Dina Zholaman, Akash was bested by Germany's Deniel Krotter. Both of them lost by an identical 0-5 margin.

Youth world champion Arundhati Choudhary (71kg), national champion Rohit Mor (57kg) and six other Indian boxers are set to begin their campaign.

The tournament features over 450 boxers from 36 countries, including traditional powerhouses such as Kazakhstan, Italy, Russia and France. PTI



Nitu Chhanghas

## QUIZ TIME!

**Q1:** After how many years is India number 1 in the ICC rankings for T20Is?

- 6 years
- 3 years
- 8 years
- 2 years

**Q2:** Which of the following games were previously called 'British Empire Games'?

- East Asian Games
- Southeast Asian Games
- Olympic Games
- Commonwealth Games

**Q3:** Who designed the Olympic symbol of five rings?

- Baron Coubertin
- Henri Didon
- Carl Jung
- Craig Crowley

**Q4:** Which country is the current champion of Uber Cup?

- Japan
- China
- Indonesia
- USA

**Q5:** Which award did Suryakumar Yadav win in the West Indies vs India series?

- Man of the Match
- Man of the Series
- Highest run scorer
- Highest wicket taker



Photo: PTI

**Q6:** Which of the following nations have won the Hockey World Cup as hosts?

- Pakistan
- India
- Germany
- Spain

**Q7:** Which nation has won the maximum number of medals in Asian Games?

- China
- Japan
- South Korea
- Iran

**Q8:** What should be the maximum age of a player to be awarded

a Best Young Player Award?

- 23
- 21
- 24
- 20

**Q9:** In which weight division did Sushil Kumar win a silver medal at the 2012 London Olympics?

- 92 kg
- 58 kg
- 125 kg
- 66 kg

**ANSWERS:** Q1. a. 6 years  
Q2. d. Commonwealth Games  
Q3. a. Baron Coubertin Q4. a. Japan  
Q5. b. Man of the Series Q6. c. Germany  
Q7. a. China Q8. b. 21 Q9. d. 66kg