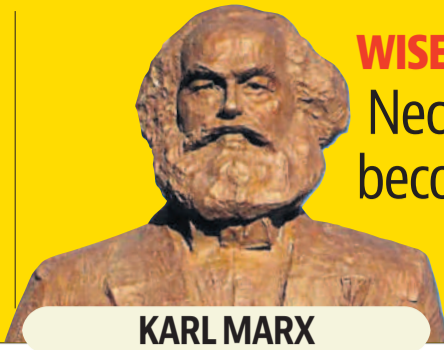


Friday
09.02.2024
hindustantimes.com.htpace
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NEW DELHI
■ VOL. C NO. 35 ■ PRICE ₹2.50 ■ 6 PAGES.



WISE WORDS >>
Necessity is blind until it becomes conscious. Freedom is the consciousness of necessity.

KARL MARX



Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

pak votes

COUNTING STARTS AS POLLS HIT BY VIOLENCE, SNAPPING OF MOBILE SERVICES >P3



paris oly

MEDALS MADE WITH CHUNKS FROM EIFFEL TOWER >P5

3-year mission

NASA CLIMATE SATELLITE BLASTS OFF TO SURVEY OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE >P4



A kayak left on the dry soil next to a low water-level reservoir of Sau in Catalonia, Spain, last month AFP FILE

world experienced warmest january on record
GLOBAL WARMING EXCEEDS 1.52°C ACROSS AN ENTIRE YEAR FOR 1ST TIME: MONITOR >P4

fa cup

CHELSEA BEAT ASTON VILLA TO EASE PRESSURE ON POCHETTINO >P5



Enzo Fernandez AFP

Now, TOEFL candidates can prepare with AI-powered platform, personalised insights

NEW DELHI: Candidates studying for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) can now use an AI-powered platform called TOEFL TestReady for additional practice and personalised study tips, according to the Educational Testing Service (ETS), which administers the tests.

The TOEFL TestReady platform gives test-takers free and paid offerings, including various scored activities, personalised preparation plans, targeted recommendations, study resources and test practice with feedback as they work on their reading, listening, speaking, and writing skills in English, it said.

"The platform is uniquely designed to bring all of a test-taker's perform-

ance metrics together and offer targeted recommendations and insights that help them close their individual skill gaps while tracking their progress," Rohit Sharma, SVP of Global Higher Education and Workskills at ETS, said.

"The unveiling of TOEFL TestReady is important not only because it addresses a need we have heard directly from our test-takers, but because we designed this with them as well. Based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback and data we have collected to date, we are confident that learners will find this platform to be an invaluable part of their testing experience," he said.

Initial research has found that the better one's performance is in TOEFL TestReady, the more likely they are to achieve a higher TOEFL iBT score, Sharma added. TOEFL is accepted by more than 12,000 institutions in more than 160 countries. Test-takers who have already created a TOEFL iBT account to register for a test, or who have engaged with the 'TOEFL Go!' app can use their login credentials to access the portal. Candidates who are new to TOEFL can create an account at the same link to begin their test prep journey. PFI



The TOEFL TestReady platform gives test-takers free and paid offerings SHUTTERSTOCK

Isro's INSAT-3DS, meteorological sat, to take off on Feb 17

NEW DELHI: Isro on Thursday said that the launch of its meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS, which will enhance meteorological observations and help in better weather forecasting and disaster warning, is scheduled for February 17.

The satellite will be launched onboard a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle F14 (GSLV F14).

The INSAT-3DS satellite is a follow-on mission of a third generation meteorological satellite to be placed in geostationary orbit, and it is fully funded by the ministry of earth sciences (MoES).

"The launch of the GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission is set for Saturday, February 17, at 5:30pm from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR at Sriharikota," Isro said. The satellite is designed to make enhanced meteorological observations and monitor land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting and disaster warning, the space agency said. PFI

Microsoft to train 75,000 women developers in India

BENGALURU: Microsoft chief Satya Nadella on Thursday announced the expansion of Microsoft's Code Without Barriers programme to India, aiming to train 75,000 women developers by 2024.

The programme is to democratise access to tech skills nationwide, the chairman and chief executive officer of Microsoft said, as he spoke about the impact Indian developers are making in accelerating AI innovation globally during his address to 1,100 developers and technology leaders at the Microsoft AI Tour here.

"One of the things that I'm very excited also is to bring one of the initiatives which we've had called Code Without Barriers, and expanding to India and really helping 75,000 women developers by 2024," Nadella said. According to Microsoft, the Code Without Barriers programme will be expanded to India this month, as the company aims to democratise access to tech skills nationwide. PFI

CITY LIGHTS

Book Fair starts tomorrow, to celebrate multi-lingual India

NEW DELHI: The 51st edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF), organised by the National Book Trust (NBT) of India, is all set to begin on February 10 at Pragati Maidan, Delhi. The fair will continue till February 18 and will host over 2,000 stalls with books in multiple languages, NBT officials said on Thursday.

The officials added that besides books covering a wide variety of genres, Braille books will also be available free of cost for visually impaired children.

Entry to the book fair is free for children in school uniforms, senior citizens and differently abled, according to Hema Maity, general manager, ITPO, co-organiser of the event. Entry for Metro commuters is from gate 10 and the nearest Metro station is Supreme Court. Other access gates are 4 and 6.

The book fair, organised under the ministry of education and the ministry of industry and commerce, will also mark the inauguration of a National e-library, where books can be accessed and downloaded for free. The guest country for this year's edition of the fair is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. "We are committed to the objective of developing a reading cul-



The fair, which will begin on Saturday and continue till February 18, will feature over 2,000 stalls HT FILE

ture in the country and we believe that the easier it is to access books, the faster we will achieve that goal.

The e-library will be available to everyone, in every corner of the country," said NBT director Yuvraj Malik at a press conference on the book fair. The theme of the NDWBF 2024 is Multi-lingual India, a living tradition.

Milind Sudhakar Marathe, the NBT chairman, said that this year exhibitors and publishers will also participate in discussions on how to contribute to the rising literary and publishing industries. HTC

Capital records 8.2°C min temp; AQI in moderate zone

NEW DELHI: Strong surface winds throughout the day helped maintain Delhi's streak of moderately clean air for a fourth consecutive day on Thursday. The 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 161 (moderate) at 4pm as per the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) daily national bulletin.

The minimum, on the other hand, went up slightly and was recorded at 8.2°C, a degree below the normal, compared to Wednesday's minimum of 6.9°C. The maximum was

recorded at 22.2°C, which was a couple notches higher than Wednesday's maximum of 20.7°C.

Officials from the India Meteorological department (IMD) said that while the strong surface winds are likely to start declining by Friday, the minimum and maximum might start going up from the beginning of next week. The minimum is forecast to oscillate between 7 and 8°C throughout the weekend and then show an upward trend. The maximum is forecast to hit 24 degrees by Monday. HTC

SCHOOL EVENT

RAGHUBIR SINGH JR. MODERN, HUMAYUN ROAD, CELEBRATES ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

Raghubir Singh Junior Modern School, Humayun Road, celebrated its Annual Sports Day with zeal. The chief guest for the event was Mira Pradeep Singh. The event, which was organised for the students of P3, P4 and P5, showcased healthy spirit of competition, camaraderie and sportsmanship. The mega sporting event was graced by a host of dignitaries including Board of Trustees of Modern Schools president Anuradha Singh and chairman Ajay Verma, other distinguished guests, PTA members of the school and the parent fraternity. >P2



WORD POWER

Circumscribe

Sur-kuhm-skrahyb (Verb)

Meaning: To draw a line around; encircle. To enclose within bounds; limit or confine.

Origin: First recorded in 1350-1400; Middle English -Latin circumscribere, equivalent to circum-circum- + scribere to write.

Synonyms: Delineate, bound, confine, define, demarcate, encircle

Antonyms: Aid, allow, assist, free, help, let go, liberate, permit, release, unloose

Usage: Her social activities are circumscribed by school regulations.

WORLD

US drone strike kills Kataib Hezbollah leader in Baghdad

BAGHDAD: A commander from Kataib Hezbollah, an Iran-backed armed group in Iraq that the Pentagon has blamed for attacking its troops, was killed in a US strike on Wednesday, the US military said. "(US) forces conducted a unilateral strike in Iraq in response to the attacks on US service members, killing a Kataib Hezbollah commander responsible for directly planning and participating in attacks on US forces in the region," a statement from the military said. It did not name the commander. It added that there were no indications of civilian casualties. Two security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the commander was Abu Baqir al-Saadi, killed in a drone strike on a vehicle in eastern Baghdad. REUTERS

Icelandic volcano erupts for third time since December

REYKJAVIK: A volcanic eruption started on the Reykjanes peninsula in southwestern Iceland on Thursday, the third to hit the area since December, authorities said. Live video images showed glowing lava oozing out of a fissure illuminating a plume of smoke rising up under the night sky. "At 5.30 this morning an intense seismic activity started north-east of Mt. Sylingarfell. Around 30 minutes later, a volcanic eruption started at the site," the Icelandic Meteorological Office (IMO) said in a statement. It occurred in the same area as two previous eruptions — the first on December 18 and the second on January 14 — near the fishing village Grindavik. AFP

US to launch next Moon mission on Valentine's Day

WASHINGTON: US companies are set to launch for the Moon on February 14, less than a month since a similar mission ended in failure with the space-ship burning up in the Earth's atmosphere, Nasa said on Wednesday. The upcoming attempt features a lander built by Houston-based Intuitive Machines fixed to the top of a SpaceX rocket, while the last try involved a United Launch Alliance rocket and Astrobotics lander. AFP

SCHOOL REPORTS



The event, which was organised for the students of P3, P4 & P5, showcased healthy spirit of competition, camaraderie & sportsmanship

Raghubir Singh Junior Modern, Humayun Road, celebrates Annual Sports Day with zeal

Raghubir Singh Junior Modern School, Humayun Road, celebrated its Annual Sports Day with great enthusiasm. The chief guest for the event was Mira Pradeep Singh.

The event, which was organised for the students of P3, P4 & P5, showcased healthy spirit of competition, camaraderie and sportsmanship.

The mega sporting event was graced by a host of dignitaries including Board of Trustees of Modern

Schools president Anuradha Singh and chairman Ajay Verma, other distinguished guests, PTA members of the school and the parent fraternity.

Headmistress Nalini Singh Rajput welcomed the august gathering to celebrate teamwork and indomitable spirit of the students and urged the young sportspersons to embrace a healthy spirit of competition and experience the joy of participation.

The headmistress reiterated that sports play a crucial role in instilling

discipline, fellowship and teamwork in students. In his address, the chairman stressed on the importance of sports in a student's life.

Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha House was honoured with the prestigious trophy for the Best March-Past and Chhatrapati Shivaji House clinched the trophy for the highest medal tally. The event was a resounding success as it provided an opportunity for the students to showcase their athletic prowess.

NEW GREEN FIELD, ALAKNANDA, CELEBRATES ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

New Green Field School, Alaknanda, celebrated its Annual Sports Day with zeal. The event began with the hoisting of the tricolour by principal Nidhi Chauhan, followed by the lighting of the torch. The torch bearers were school's sports stars who have brought laurels to their institution in sports. The inter-house march-past by Class 9 students displayed teamwork and synchronization.

Yoga and taekwondo students demonstrated their proficiency, winning the hearts of all. The colourful drills displayed grace, efficiency and co-ordination. The competitive spirit reached greater heights, with the relay race, hurdle race, tug of war, joys of winning and pride of having put in their best. The fun-filled day ended with the announcement of the trophy. Chetak House was adjudged the Best House of the session. It was a day when the participants celebrated strength, speed and stamina and the non-participants exhibited energy, enthusiasm and excitement.



It was a day when the participants celebrated strength, speed & stamina

CELEBRATION OF DAY OF LEARNING

'A good teacher inspires hope, ignites imagination and instils love of learning in students'

India is unique in numerous ways. In this great nation of ours, there is a day earmarked in our calendar, which is celebrated as a day of learning. This year, it is being celebrated on February 14. It is a day of great importance for the teacher and the taught. As an educator, I regard the student community as a wonderful collection of dreamers, learners and seekers of wisdom.

On this day, the Indians worship Goddess Saraswati, who is regarded as the goddess of learning in Hindu culture. She is considered a symbol of knowledge, wisdom, arts and creativity. It is a day which is celebrated as a day of intellectual and spiritual growth and it resonates with artists, musicians and scholars.

'Basant Panchami' as the day is commonly known is considered extremely auspicious. Growing up, it would remind us of marigold flowers, 'Khoi' and 'Ber': all offerings made to the goddess, the fasting and feasting thereafter. We would eagerly wait for the 'prasad' served in eco-friendly bowls made of leaves and filled with fruits and sweets. Seeking the blessings of the goddess was of utmost importance to get good grades in school and college.

The pursuit of knowledge and wisdom is a universal quest. It encourages cultural harmony and respect for diverse forms of art, music and knowledge. It also encourages artistic endeavours, fosters creativity and innovation. The process of learning from life's failures isn't easy, but it can be a good thing for students to experience. As a teacher, one can't stop students from struggling, but one can help them discover impor-



As an educator, I regard the student community as a wonderful collection of dreamers, learners and seekers of wisdom, says Alka Singh, HOD-English

tant lessons, while providing the encouragement to carry on. A good teacher inspires hope, ignites the imagination and instils a love of learning in learners. For effective learning in educational institutions, one must understand that education is not the learning of facts but training the mind to think.

As a student, one should be in the receptive mode. One should be humble, self-motivated, eager & enthusiastic. The love of learning is always gratifying and never self-destructive.

The more educated, the more cultivated a society becomes, the better off is everybody. So, let us celebrate the day of learning by promising to take the road less travelled, not be deterred by challenges, by sharing experiences with others and being exemplary in life by setting new benchmarks.

Alka Singh, HOD-English, Air Force Golden Jubilee Institute, Subroto Park

Red Roses Public School, Saket, organises farewell function for Grade 12 students



Class 12 students were given unique titles by their juniors during the party titled FARE-THREE-WELL

Red Roses Public School, Saket, organised its annual FARE-THREE-WELL party to bid adieu to its Grade 12 students. Class 11 students enthralled the audience with their enigmatic dance & music performances. Laughter mingled with tears as the juniors gave unique titles to their seniors, each one a testament to their individual quirks and contributions.

A ramp walk and questionnaire session was held for the girls and

boys of Grade 12 and based on which four most prestigious titles were given away.

Akarsh Sunil and Ankita Singh Rajput bagged the titles of Mr. & Ms. RRPS respectively whereas Prateek Singhal and Anaiika Maheshwari received the title of the Best Dressed. The day ended with the resonance of the lingering echoes of laughter, joy, and the unspoken promise of a future reunion.

St. Anthony's Senior Secondary School, Hauz Khas, celebrates 53rd Annual Day

St. Anthony's Senior Secondary School, Hauz Khas, celebrated its 53rd Annual Day for both wings - junior & senior. Students took part in the event with zeal.

The theme for the primary wing was 'Tartamya - The Harmony'. The

event was graced by Arooshi Nigam and Roopali Sehgal, both the alumni of school. Through dance and drama performances, students tried to give the message that harmony between nature and family is a precious gift that we should cherish and nurture.

The theme for the senior school was 'Chetna - The Awakening'. That event was graced by school alumni Nirmika Singh and Shreya Poonja. The students enthralled everyone with their beautiful dance and drama performances through which they

tried to spread awareness towards the hardships and challenges such as eve-teasing, child abuse, gender sensitivity and trolling a child might face while growing up. A very important message was conveyed in a commendable manner.



The event was organised for both the wings of the school - junior and senior - with all zeal

South Delhi Public School, Defence Colony, organises Annual Sports Day

South Delhi Public School, Defence Colony, hosted the much-awaited Annual Sports Day for Grades Nursery to 8 on its sprawling grounds. The celebration, which was filled with zeal, sportsmanship and lively energy, was a resounding success.

Director Urmila Rawat, chairperson Dipikka Rawat Marya, principal Jyotsna Jain, and school coordinator Vijaya Srivastava were the guests of honour for the day.

The event began with the students of Nursery and KG participating in some interesting yet fun races like frog race, toffee race, balloon burst race. Next, was the turn of the students from Grades 1 to 5. The energetic and nimble-footed participants performed and won various events with flying colours. It was a wonderful display of agility, coordination, strength and stamina by students in various races such as banana, fill the bottle, sack, three-legged, relay, skipping and hurdle for girls & boys.

The students of Classes 3-5 surprised the audience with their skilful



The sports event was organised for the students of Grades Nursery to 8

yoga performance. The agility, skill, and focus demonstrated by the taekwondo participants contributed to the overall success and diversity of the sports festivities.

The last segment had students from Classes 6-8 participating in entertainment race & tug of war. The director, the chairperson and the principal rewarded the winners with medals and certificates and congratulated them for their victory.



Students remembered the sacrifices of Sahibzade Zorawar Singh & Fateh Singh

St Cecilia's Public School, Vikaspuri, observes Veer Bal Diwas with fervour

St Cecilia's Public School, Vikaspuri, observed Veer Bal Diwas to mark the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's sons Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh. The school organised a special assembly and week-long activities to inform & educate children about the story of the exemplary courage of the Sahibzade.

A digital video made by senior students detailing the life story and sacrifice of the Sahibzade was shared and posted for students. Students were encouraged to participate in various online competitions and events such as interactive quizzes. They (students) pledged to remember the sacrifices made by the family of Baba Moti Ram Mehra and the devotion of Diwan Todarmal.

Students understood that true devotion towards the Gurus, which ignites the flames of devotion towards the nation. In the assembly, the school principal addressed the students and said that the day reminds us that age does not matter when it comes to zenith of bravery.

The week culminated with the faith that for today's India, the sacrifice of Sahibzade is a matter of inspiration. Similarly, the sacrifice of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and Guru Gobind Singh inspires the entire country. The school fraternity spread awareness that today's India has faith in its people, its capabilities and its inspirations and the whole world is acknowledging India as the land of opportunities.

MIND GAMES

SUDOKU

	7		1		9			
3				5				
5	8	7		6			2	
	9		2			6		
4			9			7		
				1	3			
			8					
		2						
			5	7		4	3	

SCRAMBLE

Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

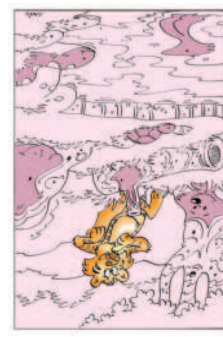
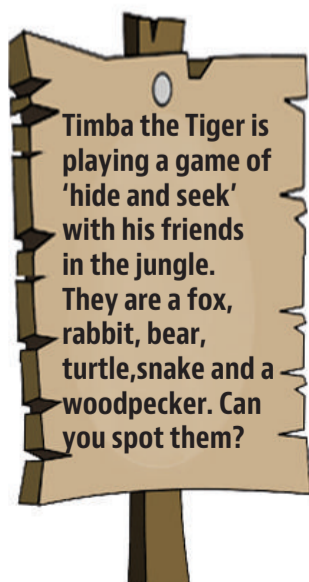
EEVER	*	*	*		
ELINN		*	*	*	
IITWDM	*		*		
CILNGY				*	*

Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.

The ___ of the ___ is the essence of life. - Aristotle (6,4)

Answer: The energy of the mind is the essence of life. - Aristotle

HIDE 'N' SEEK



Amrita Bharati Features

MATHDOKU

2-	4÷		15×	
		2-	9+	
5÷				1-
	3÷		40×	
6×		4÷		

Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-outlined cell contains a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x - /. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.

SCHOL QUIZVERSE
INDIA'S LARGEST QUIZZING PLATFORM IS HERE TO PICK YOUR BRAIN!
Scan the QR code or head to <https://htschool.hindustantimes.com/communities/Quizverse> to win exciting vouchers!

Solutions

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

9	6	2	1	5	7	8	4	3
8	3	7	2	4	9	1	5	6
1	4	5	6	8	3	7	2	9
2	8	9	5	7	1	9	3	4
4	5	3	6	8	2	7	1	9
7	1	9	3	2	2	2	4	6
5	9	8	7	3	6	4	1	2
3	2	1	4	9	5	6	8	7
6	7	4	8	1	2	3	9	5

MATHDOKU SOLUTION

3	2	4	1	5
5	1	3	4	2
1	5	2	3	4
4	3	5	2	1
2	4	1	5	3

SCRAMBLE Solution Words: Revere, Inn, Dimwit, Cingy

PAKISTAN VOTES

Counting starts as elections hit by violence, snapping of mobile services

Reuters

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan began counting votes after polling ended on Thursday in a general election marred by militant attacks and suspension of mobile phone services, with authorities saying that at least nine people were killed across the country.

The vote was held as Pakistan struggles to recover from an economic crisis while it grapples with rising militant violence in a deeply polarised political environment.

Many analysts believe the vote may not produce a clear winner.

Thousands of troops were deployed on the streets and at polling stations across the country and borders with Iran and Afghanistan were temporarily closed as security was stepped up to ensure peaceful polling.

Despite the heightened security, nine people, including two children, were killed in bomb blasts, grenade attacks and firing incidents.

The interior ministry said it took the security steps after 30 people were killed in two explosions near electoral candidates' offices in Balochistan on Wednesday. Islamic State later claimed responsibility for those attacks. Thursday's victims included five policemen killed in a bomb blast and firing on a patrol in the Kulachi area of Dera Ismail Khan district in the northwest, authorities said. Two children died in a blast outside a polling station in Balochistan.

Mohsin Dawar, a candidate from North Waziristan - a hotbed of Islamist insurgents in northwest Pakistan - said in a letter to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), that some polling stations in his constituency were taken over by local "Taliban" who were threatening polling staff and locals. In spite of the security wor-



A woman casts her vote as others wait their turn at a polling station during the parliamentary elections in Hyderabad, Pakistan, on Thursday

ries and bitter winter cold, people lined up at polling stations hours before voting was due to start.

Remove passwords

The move to suspend mobile networks sparked criticism from leaders of opposition parties, with the Pakistan Peoples Party's Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the 35-year-old son of former premier Benazir Bhutto, calling for its "immediate restoration".

Amnesty International called it "a blunt attack on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly".

Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja said the decision on mobile networks was made by "law and order agencies" following Wednesday's violence and the commission would not interfere in the matter. There was no word on when the networks would be restored.

Jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, in a post on X, called on people to remove passwords from their personal Wifi accounts "so anyone in the vicinity can have access to internet on

this extremely important day". ECP officials said they received several complaints from people who were unable to find their polling stations because of the internet shutdown.

Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, considered by many analysts to be the front-runner in the election, dismissed talk of an unclear result and emphasised the need for a "clear majority". "Don't talk about a coalition government. It is very important for a government to get a clear majority...it should not be relying on others," he told reporters after casting his vote in Lahore. The main contests are expected to be between candidates backed by Khan, whose party won the last national election, and the Pakistan Muslim League of Sharif, who analysts say is being backed by the powerful military.

If the election does not result in a clear majority, as analysts are predicting, tackling multiple challenges will be tricky - foremost being seeking a new bailout programme from the IMF after the current arrangement expires in March.

AID AGENCIES WARN OF A HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE

Israeli forces intensify strikes on Rafah after Netanyahu rejects truce proposal

DOHA/TEL AVIV: Israeli forces bombed areas in the city of Rafah where more than half of Gaza's population is sheltering on Thursday, a day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected a proposal to end the war in the Palestinian enclave.

Netanyahu said on Wednesday terms proposed by Hamas for a ceasefire that would also involve releasing hostages held by the Palestinian militant group were "delusional" and vowed to fight on, saying victory was in reach and just months away. The rejection followed intense diplomacy to end the four-and-a-half-month conflict before a threatened Israeli assault on Rafah.

Aid agencies have warned of a humanitarian catastrophe if Israel follows through on its threat to enter one of the last remaining areas of the Gaza Strip that its troops have not moved into during its ground offensive. Israel says it takes steps to avoid civilian casualties and accuses Hamas militants of hiding among civilians.

Israeli planes bombed areas in Rafah on Thursday morning, residents said, killing at least 11 people in strikes on two houses. Tanks also shelled some areas in eastern Rafah, intensifying the residents' fears of an imminent ground assault.

Diplomatic push

Despite Israel's rejection of the Hamas proposal, more talks are planned and US secretary of state Antony Blinken said he saw room for further negotiation. In a late-night press conference in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, Blinken said elements of the proposal put forward by Hamas had contained clear "non-starters", without saying what they were.

"But we also see space in what came back to pursue negotiations, to



Palestinians look at the destruction after an Israeli strike in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, on Thursday

see if we can get to an agreement. That's what we intend to do," he said. A Hamas delegation led by senior official Khalil Al-Hayya arrived in Cairo on Thursday for ceasefire talks with Egypt and Qatar, the mediators in the latest diplomatic push.

The delegation is expected to meet Egyptian intelligence chief Abbas Kamel and the team managing Egypt's mediation on Gaza, Egyptian security sources said.

Speaking in Nicosia, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said Egypt was working with all stakeholders to find a solution to end the conflict and urged the international community to apply more pressure to allow aid into Gaza.

Jordan's King Abdullah has also embarked on a diplomatic mission aimed at ending the war, visiting Western capitals in a tour that will include a meeting with US President Joe Biden. Hamas proposed a ceasefire of 4-1/2 months, during which all hostages held in Gaza would go free, Israel would withdraw its troops from Gaza and an agreement would be reached on an end to the war.

The Hamas offer was a response to a proposal drawn up by U.S. and Isra-

eli spy chiefs and delivered to Hamas last week by Qatari and Egyptian mediators.

Israel would be willing to let Hamas military leader Yahya Sinwar go into exile in exchange for the release of all hostages and an end to the Hamas government in Gaza, a half-dozen Israeli officials and senior advisers told NBC News.

Rising death toll

Israeli's military said on Thursday that over the past day its troops had killed more than 20 Palestinian militants in Khan Younis.

It said it had apprehended dozens of suspected militants, two of which they say may have been involved in the October attack on Israel.

Gaza's health ministry says at least 27,840 Palestinians have been confirmed killed, and more than 67,000 injured.

The Israeli bombardment continued in Khan Younis and Deir-Al-Balah in central Gaza overnight, killing a Palestinian television journalist, Nafez Abdel-Jawwad, and his son.

Israel on Thursday released 71 Palestinians detained in its offensive in Gaza, including 19 women. AGENCIES

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Grammys: Swift, women, Indian fusion shine

Taylor Swift captured two Grammy Awards including Album of the Year for Midnights, in Los Angeles on Sunday to become the first singer to win the music industry's top prize four times. It was three cheers for the Indian music industry too as 5 Indians, including tabla maestro Zakir Hussain and flautist Rakesh Chaurasia, picked up five of the coveted prize. Hussain won three Grammys, vocalist Shankar Mahadevan, violinist Ganesh Rajago-

palan and percussionist Selvaganes Vinayakram, Hussain's collaborators of the fusion group Shakti, won a Grammy each for the Best Global Music Album. Besides his award for Shakti, Hussain won the Best Global Music Performance for the song Pashto and Best Contemporary Instrumental Album for As We Speak. Flautist Rakesh Chaurasia also picked up two Grammys for Pashto and As We Speak. Women swept the top prizes, with Billie Eilish claiming Song of the Year for her track from the soundtrack of the movie Barbie, Miley Cyrus won the Record of the Year for her song Flowers, the rock trio Boygenius won three awards, Victoria Monét claimed the coveted Prize for Best New Artist, R&B singer SZA won two prizes, and Karol G became the first woman to win Best Música Urbana Album.



Advani: Bharat Ratna

The Bharatiya Janata Party stalwart and former deputy prime minister LK Advani, 96, will be conferred the Bharat Ratna, it was announced on Saturday. Advani, 96, was the BJP's longest serving president. Advani said that the award is not only an honour for him as a person but also for the ideals and principles that he strove to serve throughout life to the best of his ability. "One of the most respected statesmen of our times, his contribution to the development of India is monumental. His is a life that started from working at the grassroots to serving the nation as our deputy prime minister," Prime Minister said in his congratulatory note.



King Charles III

After having acceded to the royal throne less than 18 months ago, Britain's King Charles III has been diagnosed with cancer and has begun treatment, it was announced on Monday. The 75-year-old monarch will not take part in public engagements, but will look after state business and continue as head of state. While the type of cancer was not disclosed, Buckingham Palace said it was not related to Charles' enlarged prostate issue for which he was undergoing treatment. The King assumed charge in September 2022 after his mother passed away. Heir to the throne, Prince William, is now looking after the public engagements.



Hamilton: Ferrari

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton announced last week that he will move from Mercedes to Ferrari for the 2025 Formula One season and acknowledged that his impending move represents a "childhood dream." Hamilton, whose 103 wins are the most in F1 history, was with Mercedes since 2013. "I have had an amazing 11 years with this team," Hamilton said. "... It's a place where I have grown up, so making the decision to leave was one of the hardest decisions I have ever had to make." After winning his first F1 title with McLaren in 2008, Hamilton added six more with Mercedes to match Michael Schumacher's circuit record.



India beat Eng, level series

After a stellar showing in the second Test against England, which India won by 106 runs in Visakhapatnam on Monday, Man-of-the-Match Jasprit Bumrah became the first Indian pacer to top the ICC Test rankings. Spinners BS Bedi, R Ashwin and R Jadeja are other Indians who had topped the charts. Yashasvi Jaiswal's 209 in the first innings and Bumrah's 9-wicket match haul helped India to level the ongoing series at 1-1. Batting first, India scored 396 and bowled out England for 253 for a handy lead. In the second innings, India scored 255 with the help of Shubman Gill's 104 to set a 399-run target for England who mustered just 292 runs. Bumrah and Ashwin took three wickets each.



HT CHRONICLE from the archives of the Hindustan Times Quiz no. 24112023



1 On which day in February 2007 did US astronaut Sunita Williams set the spacewalk record for women?
A. February 4
B. February 1
C. February 7
D. February 9

2 In February 2007, US astronaut Sunita Williams set the spacewalk record

for women. What was the new record?
A. 20 hours and 19 minutes
B. 21 hours and 11 minutes
C. 21 hours and 43 minutes 7
D. 22 hours and 27 minutes

3 In which year did President Rajendra Prasad inaugurate the first blast furnace of the Bhilai steel plant?
A. 1950 B. 1954
C. 1956 D. 1959



4 How old was Satyendra Nath Bose, physicist and national professor who was famous for his 'Bose statistics', when he breathed his last?
A. 74 years
B. 76 years
C. 80 years
D. 82 years

5 In February 1966, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi dedicated to the nation Asia's longest road bridge over the Sone river at Dehri in Bihar's Shahabad district. What was the length of that bridge?
A. 2 miles B. 3 miles
C. 4 miles D. 5 miles

6 In which year did Kenneth de Courcy, the editor of the monthly Intelligence Digest, claim that there was evidence that the Soviets already had made

the hydrogen bomb?
A. 1941 B. 1944
C. 1947 D. 1950

7 In which year was American tennis player "Bill" Tilden voted as the greatest lawn tennis player of the past 50 years in a poll conducted in New York?
A. 1950 B. 1953
C. 1957 D. 1962

8 Tennis star "Bill" Tilden was the first American to win the Wimbledon men's title. In which year did he achieve this feat?
A. 1911 B. 1914
C. 1916 D. 1920

9 In which year did West Bengal Chief Minister B. C. Roy today inaugurate the Rs 10 crore heavy engineering plant, the largest of its kind in the private sector started with the collaboration of the British industry, in Durgapur?
A. 1957 B. 1960
C. 1962 D. 1965

10 In which month in 1976 did a devastating earthquake hit Guatemala, killing more than 15,000, as per

media reports?
A. February
B. December
C. August
D. October

11 How many people were killed when a big fire reduced a circus tent to ashes in Bangalore on February 7, 1981?
A. 100 B. 123
C. 137 D. 149

12 Who was Karnataka's chief minister when a big fire reduced a circus tent to ashes in Bangalore on February 7, 1981 and claimed lives of many people?
A. D. Devraj Urs
B. R. Gundu Rao
C. Ramakrishna Hegde
D. S. R. Bommai

Answers to quiz #02022024

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Pattabbi Sitaramayya | 7. 1953 |
| 2. 1981 | 8. Around 320 years |
| 3. Bukhara | 9. 1881 |
| 4. January 30 | 10. 1922 |
| 5. 1935 | 11. SS Allnutt |
| 6. Jaisalmer | 12. At least 200 |

CONTENT FOR QUIZ CALLOUT

Send in your answers separated by commas to htpcedelhi@hindustantimes.com
(For example: 1-A, 2-C, 3-D ... and so on) Subject Line: Answers for Quiz #09022024

Send in your entry by February 14, 2024. Remember: Earlier you respond, better your chances to win. The quiz is open only to school students.

'WARNING TO HUMANITY'

Global warming exceeds 1.52° Celsius across an entire year: Climate monitor

Copernicus Climate Change Service service confirms that February 2023 to January 2024 saw warming of 1.52° Celsius above the 19th century benchmark- a grave foretaste of the Paris climate deal's warming threshold.

Agence France-Press

PARIS: Earth has endured 12 months of temperatures 1.5°C hotter than the pre-industrial era for the first time on record, Europe's climate monitor said Thursday, in what scientists called a "warning to humanity".

Storms, drought and fire have lashed the planet as climate change, supercharged by the naturally-occurring El Nino phenomenon, stoked record warming in 2023, making it likely the hottest in 100,000 years.

The extremes have continued into 2024, Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) service said, confirming that February 2023 to January 2024 saw warming of 1.52° Celsius above the 19th century benchmark. That is a grave foretaste of the Paris climate deal's crucial 1.5°C warming threshold, but it does not signal a permanent breach of the limit, which is measured over decades, scientists said.

"We are touching 1.5°C and we see the cost, the social costs and economic costs," said Johan Rockstrom, of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

"1.5 is a very big number and it hurts us really badly in terms of heat waves, droughts, floods, reinforced storms, water scarcity across the entire world. That is what 2023 has taught us." Recent months have seen an onslaught of extremes across the planet, including devastating drought gripping the Amazon basin, sweltering winter temperatures in parts of southern Europe, deadly wildfires in South America and record rainfall in California.



This aerial view shows an ancient pier and boats on the dry bank of the low water-level reservoir of Sau in the province of Girona in Catalonia, Spain, on Friday. Sau is among the main reservoirs providing water to the Barcelona metropolitan area. Its water levels are below 4.06% after three years of drought in Catalonia.

"It is clearly a warning to humanity that we are moving faster than expected towards the agreed upon 1.5°C limit that we signed," Rockstrom told AFP, adding that temperatures will likely fall back somewhat after the El Nino comes to an end.

Copernicus said last month was the hottest January on record — the eighth month in a row of historic high monthly temperatures — with temperatures 1.66°C warmer overall than an estimate of the January average for 1850-1900, the pre-industrial reference period.

"2024 starts with another record-breaking month — not only is it the warmest January on record but we have also just experienced a 12-month period of more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial reference period," said Samantha Burgess, C3S Deputy Director.

Planet-heating emissions, mainly from the burning of fossil fuels, have continued to rise in recent years, when scientists say they need to fall by almost half this decade and the UN's IPCC climate panel has warned that the world will likely crash through

1.5°C in the early 2030s.

"The succession of very hot years is bad news for both nature and people who are feeling the impacts of these extreme years," Joeri Rogelj, professor of climate science and policy at Imperial College London, told AFP.

"Unless global emissions are urgently brought down to zero, the world will soon fly past the safety limits set out in the Paris climate agreement."

'Off the charts'

Copernicus said January temperatures were well above average in north-western Africa, the Middle East and central Asia, as well as eastern Canada and southern Europe.

But they were below average in parts of northern Europe, western Canada and the central region of the United States.

And while parts of the world experienced an unusually wet January, swathes of North America, the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula saw drier conditions.

In Chile, which has struggled with a brutal summer heatwave and

drought, the dry conditions have helped stoke wildfires, Copernicus said. Those conditions have continued into February, with fires that started on Friday whipping into a deadly inferno that tore through neighbourhoods in the coastal Valparaiso region over the weekend leaving more than 130 people dead.

The El Nino, which warms the sea surface in the southern Pacific leading to hotter weather globally, has begun to weaken in the equatorial Pacific, Copernicus said.

Meanwhile, sea surface temperatures have continued to smash records.

Rockstrom said 2023 "is a year where ocean dynamics have simply gone berserk, it's off the charts".

Oceans cover 70% of the planet and have kept the Earth's surface liveable by absorbing 90% of the excess heat produced by the carbon pollution from human activity since the dawn of the industrial age.

Hotter oceans mean more moisture in the atmosphere, leading to increasingly erratic weather, like fierce winds and powerful rain.

SAT TO SPEND 3 YRS TO STUDY OCEANS FROM 676 KM UP

Nasa climate satellite blasts off to survey oceans, atmosphere

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA.: Nasa's newest climate satellite rocketed into orbit Thursday to survey the world's oceans and atmosphere in never-before-seen detail.

SpaceX launched the Pace satellite on its \$948 million mission before dawn, with the Falcon rocket heading south over the Atlantic to achieve a rare polar orbit.

The satellite will spend at least three years studying the oceans from 676 kilometers up, as well as the atmosphere. It will scan the globe daily with two of the science instruments. A third instrument will take monthly measurements.

"It's going to be an unprecedented view of our home planet," said project scientist Jeremy Werdell.

The observations will help scientists improve hurricane and other severe weather forecasts, detail Earth's changes as temperatures rise and better predict when harmful algae blooms will happen.

Nasa already has more than two dozen Earth-observing satellites and instruments in orbit. But Pace should give better insights into how atmospheric aerosols like pollutants

and volcanic ash and sea life like algae and plankton interact with each other.

"Pace will give us another dimension" to what other satellites observe, said Nasa's director of Earth science, Karen St. Germain.

Pace — short for Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem — is the most advanced mission ever launched to study ocean biology.

Current Earth-observing satellites can see in seven or eight colors, according to Werdell. Pace will see in 200 colours that will allow scientists to identify the types of algae in the sea and types of particles in the air.

Scientists expect to start getting data in a month or two.

Nasa is collaborating with India on another advanced Earth-observing satellite due to launch this year. Named Nisar, it will use radar to measure the effect of rising temperatures on glaciers and other melting icy surfaces.

Nasa's Pace project persevered despite efforts by the Trump administration to cancel it.

"It has been a long, strange trip as they say," Werdell said before the launch.



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from the launch pad SLC-40 at the Kennedy Space Center on Nasa's Pace mission in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Thursday





Scan for more information

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Serving the poor and marginalised

25 crore people uplifted from poverty in last 9 years



Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat



Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

Honoring the skills of Vishwakarma brothers and sisters

Collateral-free loan of up to ₹3 lakh under PM Vishwakarma, 18 traditional trades included



Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

Scan for more information



Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

Ensuring bright future of our daughters

3 crore 20 lakh accounts of girl children opened under Sukanya Samridhi Yojana



Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

Scan for more information

**Office of the Chief Engineer
Public Health Engineering Department
Raipur Zone, Raipur**

Notice for Expression of Interest
EOI No. 29/06-02-2024, System No. 152642

Name of Work :- The submission of proposal by a consultant/ organization/agency as Third Party Inspection Agencies (TPIs) for inspection of different works under Multi village water supply schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) which includes out of village works for bulk water transfer as :- Intakewell, Water treatment Plants (WTP), Pumping mains, Master balancing reservoirs and Gravity mains up to village level OHT's of Multi-Village Schemes **Probable amount of total cost of work Rs. 370703.91 Lakh.**

Important Events and Time Schedule- Date of calling NIT- 06.02.2024, Bid Start Date - 13.02.2024, Pre Bid Meeting date- 19.02.2024, Bid Due Date- 28.02.2024, PHY Doc. Submission Last Date- 01.03.2024, PQ Document Download Date- 01.03.2024.

नोट :- उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति की सामान्य शर्तों, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विवरण, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वायर्समेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में उक्त निविदा दिनांक 12.02.2024 से देखी जा सकती है।

अधीक्षण अभियंता (प्रकोष्ठ प्रभारी)
कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग,
रायपुर परिक्षेत्र, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

G-07589/2

RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY, JAIPUR

Notice Inviting Bid (40/2023-24)

Bids for Implementation of Improvement measures for 25 High Priority Blackspots are invited from the interested bidders upto 11:00 on 06.03.2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on website <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>. The estimated value of Rs. 19.94 Crores.

UBN: PWD2324SLOB18772
PWD2324SLOB18773
PWD2324SLOB18774
PWD2324SLOB18775
PWD2324SLOB18776
PWD2324SLOB18777

Member (Works, Contracts & Operations)
Rajasthan State Highways Authority, Jaipur

Raj.Samwad/C/23/12773

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

N.I.T. No. 25/2023-24 & 26/2023-24

Tenders are invited from reputed contractors registered in A or AA class for item no 1 & appropriate class for item no 2 with RRVPNL and AA class in Central/State Govt. Department and their undertakings and registered in GST department for the bid S. No. 1 of NIT 25 under Superintending Engineer (Civil) and bid S. No. 1 to 3 of NIT No. 26 under Executive Engineer (Civil) Udaipur and bid S. No. 4 of NIT No. 26 under Executive Engineer (Civil) Bhilwara All details of above NIB are available on website www.rvnpn.co.in & <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> or <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>. UBN - VPN2324WSOB02096, VPN2324WSOB02097, VPN2324WSOB02098, VPN2324WSOB02099, VPN2324WSOB02092

Superintending Engineer (Civil), Udaipur

Raj.Samwad/C/23/12785 RRVPN/TR-6092/2024

F.No. A-12024/5/2023-Estt./

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Manavadhikar Bhawan, GPO Complex, 'C' Block, INA, New Delhi - 110023

Dated, 7th February, 2024

ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANT (RETIRED INSPECTOR) ON CONTRACT BASIS IN THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The National Human Rights Commission intends to engage 'Consultant (Retired Inspector)' on contract basis, for the various works of Investigation Division of the Commission.

Details of engagement including terms and conditions of the engagement, eligibility criteria, remuneration/fee etc. can be seen and downloaded from the Commission's website www.nhrc.nic.in.

Eligible and interested Retired Inspectors or equivalent from the Central/State Police Forces/Armed Forces of Union having at-least 5 years experience in Vigilance or Investigation or Intelligence work, may apply online on the link <https://hrnet.nic.in/job/candidate/Register.aspx>, provided on the website of the National Human Rights Commission www.nhrc.nic.in.

Applications are to be submitted online only on or before 20th February, 2024. Applications received physically/through e-mail etc. will not be considered.

(Barjesh Kumaria)
Under Secretary (Estt)
011-24663280

CBC 53101/12/0020/2324

COUNCIL FOR INSURANCE OMBUDSMEN

VACANCIES FOR THE POSTS OF INSURANCE OMBUDSMAN

Advt. No. 1/2024 Date: 08.02.2024

Online applications are invited for appointment as Insurance Ombudsman, for the position, one each at Mumbai, Chennai, Chandigarh, Bengaluru, Guwahati, Kochi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Bhopal and Thane (to be opened) centres from the eligible candidates.

Following details are available under the heading "Vacancies for the Post of Insurance Ombudsman" on our home page www.cioins.co.in

- The eligibility conditions, procedure, selection criteria and the terms and conditions for the appointment as Insurance Ombudsman under "Notification" tab.
- Application to be submitted online only. The link is available under "Online application for the post of Insurance Ombudsman" tab. Applications submitted through any other mode shall not be accepted.

Any query in this regard may be addressed to query-recruitment@cioins.co.in

Last date of submission of Online application is 08.03.2024 upto 1730 Hrs. (IST)

Please visit our website: www.cioins.co.in for Online application and other details or scan QR code

CBC 15227/12/0007/2324 Secretary General (CIO)

CRICKET

Rehan attributes spinners' success to Stokes

NEW DELHI: Exceeding expectations, England's inexperienced spinners have outperformed their seasoned Indian counterparts in the first two Tests, and young Rehan Ahmed attributed it to team environment and Ben Stokes' leadership.

The five-match series is level at 1-1 at the moment but, amazingly enough, spin is one area in which the tourists have emerged winners.

It is quite remarkable that the trio of Ahmed, Tom Hartley and Shoaib Bashir have taken more wickets (33) than the formidable group made up of titans such as Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav (23). "That just shows how great the team environment is," Ahmed, 19, was quoted as saying in BBC. "Tommy and Bash, you've seen them come in and not be nervous and that's credit to the team."

"The environment and the leadership we have, it does make you kind of forget the players you are playing against - we just focus on what we need to do." Even in terms of economy rate, the England spin attack is ahead of the Indians. With Stokes and Brendon McCullum at the helm, Ahmed cuts a relaxed figure. "They (Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum) just don't care about how bad things can go. It's always about what good you can get out of it."

"So if I bowl four bad balls and get a wicket, that's better than bowling 16 good balls in a row," Ahmed said. He became the youngest player to play Test cricket for England when he made his debut at 18 years and 126 days old in Karachi in December 2022, signalling his arrival with a match-turning five-wicket haul in Pakistan's second innings.



England's bowler Rehan Ahmed celebrates the wicket of Rajat Patidar in Vizag.

PTI

SQUASH

Introduce squash in schools: Saurav Ghosal

NEW DELHI: India's number one squash player Saurav Ghosal has called for introduction of the sport in schools to "create a huge ecosystem" and recruitment of experts from abroad to train the country's coaches.

"Squash should be introduced in the schools, it's a great workout within a rather short span of time. Squash in schools would be great as the kids would be involved, the parents would be involved, and it would create a huge ecosystem for squash," Ghosal said. The first player from the country to win a singles medal at the Commonwealth Games, the 37-year-old Ghosal said that the level today is

higher compared to when he started, and that India is very competitive on the world stage. "I started squash more than 25 years ago, the level now is a lot higher and we are extremely competitive on the world stage. The next step is to conquer and dominate at global level," Ghosal said.

"Some of the things that we need to look at is increasing the player base and also improve the quality of the players."

"On the higher performance side we should bring in high-quality coaches (from abroad) so that Indian coaches can learn from them and we can make it sustainable."

T20 WORLD CUP

'IPL performance will have greater significance'

CHENNAI: Veteran coach Tom Moody on Thursday said the players' performance in highly-competitive leagues like IPL and T20 will have an added heft this time because of the impact it can have on the team selection ahead of the T20 World Cup.

This edition of the marquee ICC event is scheduled to be held jointly in the West Indies and the USA in June and most of the teams, including India, have already finished their T20I assignments. "The IPL (set to be played between March-May), along with any other T20 tournament, like the T20, is important for any player to be performing because every home team is looking at the performances of all their players in these tournaments because of the high-quality cricket in these (leagues)," Moody said during a virtual media interaction facilitated by

the Desert Vipers team of the T20. Moody then described how these outings could help players to secure a berth in the World Cup-bound squads.

"If you are scoring runs, taking wickets and showing consistency, it only puts you in a good position as an individual when it comes to those final tough decisions around the selection table. It allows you to continue with that sort of confidence, going into an important (T20) World Cup," Moody added. Even India head coach Rahul Dravid had expressed a similar opinion recently. "We might not get many opportunities to play together, so we will have to work around that. We will obviously have the IPL, and you know, everyone will be watching closely to see how some of those guys play and what are the slots we need to fill in the team," Dravid had said.

SRI LANKA VS AFGHANISTAN



Sri Lanka's Avishka Fernando (R) and Wanindu Hasaranga (L) attend a practice session at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy on Thursday. Afghanistan will play 3 ODIs and 3 T20Is in Sri Lanka.

AFP

FA CUP

Chelsea beat Aston Villa to ease pressure on Pochettino

Agencies
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

BIRMINGHAM: Chelsea eased the spotlight on manager Mauricio Pochettino with a dominant 3-1 win at Aston Villa to reach the FA Cup fifth round on Wednesday, as Nottingham Forest set up a clash against Manchester United.

Conor Gallagher, Nicolas Jackson and Enzo Fernandez struck for the Blues at Villa Park to banish memories of a 4-2 home defeat to Wolves on Sunday.

Chelsea were booed off by a disgruntled home support at the weekend as Wolves' rout followed a 4-1 thrashing at Liverpool a week ago.

With Pochettino's men languishing in 11th in the Premier League, an early FA Cup exit would have further ramped up the pressure on the Argentine.

Pochettino insisted on Tuesday he would not lose his hair over the stress of the job and was rewarded for some bold calls with his team selection.

Thiago Silva was dropped to the bench just hours after his wife apologised for a social media outburst in which she called for "change" at the club.

Raheem Sterling was also left out on a night when a number of Chelsea's expensive young guns stood up to be counted.

"I think (it) was one of the best or maybe the best performance of the season," said Pochettino. "It arrived in a very good moment for us."

"We have a young team. It's about being solid and consistent and it is the most difficult thing in a young team."

It was one of the club's academy graduates who got the ball rolling as Gallagher smashed home from close range for his first goal of the season.

Jackson has been guilty of missing some glaring chances early in his Chelsea career, but was deadly with a downward header from Malo Gusto's cross to double his side's lead.

Villa were unbeaten in 17 home Premier League games dating back nearly a year until Newcastle won at Villa Park a week ago.

But Unai Emery's men have exited both domestic cup competitions imply at home this season.

The tie was over before the hour mark as Fernandez's stunning free-kick made it 3-0.

Rumours in recent days have suggested the Argentine World Cup winner could be looking for an exit, just over a year since his then British transfer record move from Benfica.



Chelsea's Enzo Fernandez celebrates after scoring their third goal against Aston Villa in the FA Cup on Wednesday.

REUTERS

But Fernandez gestured to suggest he is staying put after curling past international teammate Emi Martinez into the top corner.

Pochettino has the chance to mark a difficult first season in charge with his first trophy in English football when Chelsea face Liverpool in the League Cup final on February 25.

And they will be confident of

reaching the quarter-finals of the FA Cup when they host second-tier Leeds in the fifth round.

Villa got a consolation goal in stoppage time when Moussa Diaby fired in off the post, but it was too little, too late for the home side.

Forest earned the right to host United in the last 16 but needed penalties to see off Bristol City of the

Championship. Divock Origi fired Forest into an early lead, but Jason Knight quickly levelled for the visitors.

City were then left to rue missing a host of chances to win the game before extra-time and paid the price from the spot as Sam Bell was the only man to fail to score in the shootout.

Paris Olympics medals made with chunks from Eiffel Tower

Agencies
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

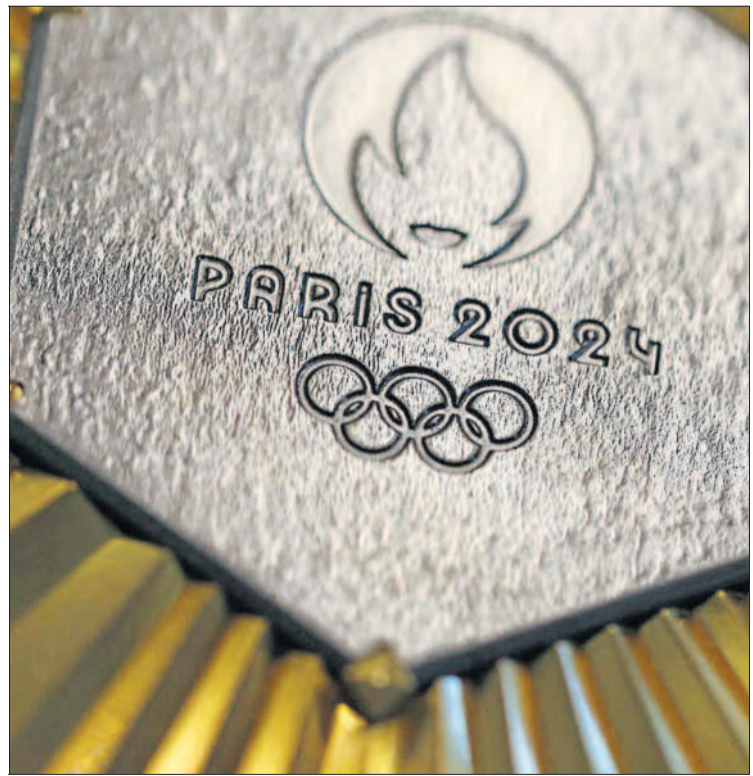
PARIS: An Olympic medal inlaid with a chunk of the Eiffel Tower. How's that for a monumental prize? A hexagonal, polished piece of iron taken from the iconic landmark is being embedded in each gold, silver and bronze medal that will be hung around athletes' necks at the July 26-August 11 Paris Games and Paralympics that follow.

Games organisers revealed their revolutionary design on Thursday.

Simone Biles has seven medals from her two previous Olympics and LeBron James has two golds and one bronze from London, Beijing and Athens. But neither of those athletes who are targeting the Paris Games nor any of the roughly 36,600 other medalists at 29 previous Summer Olympics stretching back to 1896 ever owned one quite like these.

By making history at the Games, Paris medalists will take a bit of France and its history home, too.

Here's a deep dive into the medals that are sure to wow: The 330-meter (1,083-foot) tall tower is made of 18,038 iron parts. But it's also getting a bit long in the tooth. Built for the 1889 World's Fair — which celebrated the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution — engineer Gustave Eiffel's tower was only intended to stand for 20 years. Instead, it just goes on and on — thanks to a bit of rejuvenating surgery from time to time and constant care. The 135-year-old tower is a veteran of two previous Games — in 1900 and 1924, the last held in Paris. The iron pieces embedded in the center of the Olympic medals each weigh 18 grams (about two-thirds of an



Paris Olympics gold medal designed by Fench luxury jewellery house Chaumet. On the medals' head side, the engraved figures of the goddess of victory Athena, Nike, the Panathenaic stadium and the Acropolis are imposed by IOC. But Paris has obtained authorisation to add the design of the Eiffel Tower and use 18 grams of Eiffel Tower metal on each medal.

AFP

ounce). They were cut from girders and other bits that were swapped out of the Eiffel Tower during renovations and stored for safekeeping, according to Joachim Roncin, head of design at the Paris Games committee.

"The concept came after a few discussions. We realized that there's one symbol known across the world, which is the Eiffel Tower," Roncin

said. "We said to ourselves, Hey, what if we approached the Eiffel Tower Operating Co. to see if it's possible to get a bit of the Eiffel Tower to integrate into the medal?" The company agreed, and "the dream became reality," he said. "It's really a bit of metal from the Eiffel Tower." They were stripped of paint, polished and varnished for their second life.

BUMRAH WILL BE BEST PACER OF T20 WORLD CUP: VERNON PHILANDER

Agencies
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

JOHANNESBURG: His ability to hold a line, bowl wicket-taking deliveries without leaking runs along with those lethal yorkers make Jasprit Bumrah the most complete bowler in international cricket, says former South African seamer Vernon Philander, who foresees the Indian outperforming all his contemporaries in this year's T20 World Cup in the Americas.

Bumrah on Wednesday became the first Indian pacer to be crowned number one in ICC Test rankings. This was after his magical performance in the second Test against England that yielded nine wickets on a sporting track at Visakhapatnam.

Philander, who has played 64 Tests for South Africa with 225 wickets against his name, said Bumrah doesn't seem to have any chinks in his armour.

"Bumrah is the (most) complete bowler at the moment. He has got magnificent skills and he has also learnt the trade of holding a line and length and that is the reason behind his success at the Test level," Philander told PTI Bhasha in an interview on the sidelines of the SA T20 Tournament here. "Initially, he wanted to bowl wicket-taking deliveries all the time and leaked runs but now he has learnt consistency," he pointed out.

The T20 World Cup will be held in June across the West Indies and the USA and inaugural champions India would be among the title favourites.

Philander said the team will rely heavily on Bumrah as he has become the sort of bowler who can never be written off in the shortest format.

OUP INDIA WELLNESS CURRICULUM FOR CLASSES 1-8 LAUNCHED

Initiative aimed at helping children achieve holistic health, learn life skills

As part of an initiative aimed at helping school-going children understand emotions, build an active body, develop healthy relationships with people and understand the importance of ecological care, Oxford University Press (OUP) India has designed a holistic wellness curriculum, along with content partner Rangeet, according to an OUP India press release.

Titled My Happiness and Me, the series of eight activity workbooks, has been designed for school-going children in classes 1-8. The series, which is aimed at helping children navigate their mental, emotional, and physical well-being, is now available, filling a crucial gap that core education alone could not address, the press release added.

The wellness curriculum aligns with the vision set out by the National Education Policy 2020 and outlined under the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023 that emphasises the holistic development of

MY HAPPINESS AND ME

Publisher: Oxford University Press India

Content Partner: Rangeet



learners. Furthering the SDG 3 (good health and well-being), the course helps learners imbibe healthy practices, distinguish good and bad feelings and equips them with the tools to address them.

Shedding light on the series, Sumanta Datta, managing director, OUP India, said, "OUP's wellness curriculum is a unique, research-based publication aligned with the NCF 2023. The series titled My Happiness and Me offers learners a toolkit to navigate their emotions and relation-

ships successfully. This approach, validated by the Oxford Impact Study, not only enhances well-being but also leads to improved educational outcomes in core disciplines. We are confident that this active learning pedagogy will bring joy to the learning experience and contribute to shaping well-rounded individuals."

The Oxford Impact Study has found that incorporating wellness curriculum in schools ensures that learner engagement is high, and they experience greater 'success'. It reduces dropout rates in schools and raises self-efficacy and self-esteem levels among learners. The curriculum focuses on developing capacities that promotes aspects of learners' wellness such as fitness, good health, psycho-social well-being and sound ethical grounding, especially in the post-pandemic period. The lessons in

the wellness curriculum have been planned in collaboration with curriculum developer Rangeet and feature its proprietary Social Emotional and Ecological Knowledge curriculum. It uses active play-based pedagogies which help children connect with themselves, the society and ecological systems and develop a breadth of skills, well-being, and global stewardship, among others.

Each book in the series has five overarching themes: My Mind, My Body, My Relationships, My World, and Nature Is beautiful. Each of these guides learners through a range of topics including managing anger, anxiety, stress, as well as issues such as recognising good and bad touch, bullying, gender discrimination, nutrition, exercise and many others.

The series helps children unpack their thoughts and feelings, helping them become well-rounded individuals, the press release added. OUP, a department of the University of Oxford, publishes in many countries, in more than 50 languages.

HANDS ON

PAPER PLATE SUN AND RAINBOW

SUPPLIES

- Paper plate
- Yellow paint
- Orange and yellow construction paper
- Tissue paper in rainbow colours
- Glue
- Scissors
- Marker



INSTRUCTIONS

Cut the paper plate in half and paint it yellow. Let it dry.

Using a marker, draw a smiley face on the plate as shown in the above image.

Next, cut small triangles out of orange and yellow construction paper.

Glue these triangles on the back of the paper plate towards the curved edge as shown.

Now cut strips of tissue paper and glue them to the back of the paper plate towards the straight edge.

Your paper plate sun and rainbow craft is ready.

PAPER PLATE SHEEP

SUPPLIES

- Small paper plate
- Black cardstock
- White cardstock
- Cotton balls
- Glue gun



INSTRUCTIONS

Glue cotton balls to your paper plate until your plate is full.

Draw a circle about 3.5-4 inch wide with two 1/2-1 inch ears (doesn't need to be exact) for a sheep head from your black paper and glue to

the centre of your cotton ball covered plate.

Cut out two large circles about 1-1 1/2 inches from the white paper, make two smaller black dots in the centre and glue to the sheep's head as shown in the

above image. All there is left to do now is to cut out 4 small rectangles and glue 2 on each side of the sheep's head for legs. Your paper plate sheep is complete and ready to be played with.

WHAT'S COOKING

VEGETABLES IN HOT GARLIC SAUCE

INGREDIENTS

3 cups of vegetables (mushrooms, baby corn, onions, capsicum), 3 tbsp garlic (finely chopped), 1 tbsp ginger (finely chopped), 1/4 cup spring onions (finely chopped), 2 green chillies (finely chopped), 1 & 1/2 tsp dark soy sauce, 1 tsp green chilli sauce, 3 tbsp sriracha sauce - opt, 1 tsp tomato ketchup, 1/4 tsp black pepper powder, 2 tsp cornflour, 2 tsp oil, 2 & 1/2 cups water, salt to taste



METHOD

Heat oil in a wok or thick bottom pan and saute chopped garlic, ginger, green chilli and spring onions. Then add the chopped vegetables, sprinkle salt and pepper powder and saute until the vegetables have been cooked slightly.

Add the condiments - soy sauce, sriracha sauce, tomato ketchup and green chilli sauce and coat the vegetables well.

Add water and allow it to reach a boil.

Meanwhile, make a slurry using 2 tsp of cornflour with 1/2 cup of water and add it to the gravy to make it thick. Check for seasoning and add extra if required. Ensure the flame is on medium heat.

Once the gravy has thickened, switch off the flame, add finely chopped spring onion greens and serve with fried rice or noodles.

MOCHA TRUFFLES

INGREDIENTS

700g semi-sweet chocolate chips, 250g cream cheese, softened, 3 tbsp instant coffee granules, 2 tsp water, 500g dark chocolate candy coating, coarsely chopped



METHOD

Melt the chocolate chips in a microwave. Stir till it's smooth. Now beat in the cream cheese in the melted chocolate.

In a separate bowl, mix coffee with water. Add this coffee liquid to the chocolate and cream cheese and beat it into a smooth mix.

Refrigerate till it becomes hard enough to mould easily.

Next, shape this mix into small balls and place on a tray lined with butter paper. Refrigerate for 1-2 hours or until its firm.

Melt chocolate coating in a microwave. Dip the balls in this chocolate coating.

Place the balls on butter paper lined tray and let the coating harden. You can also melt white chocolate coating and drizzle over the mocha truffles.



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