



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

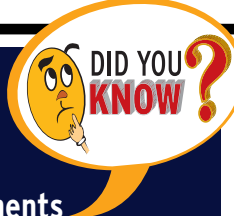
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022



**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

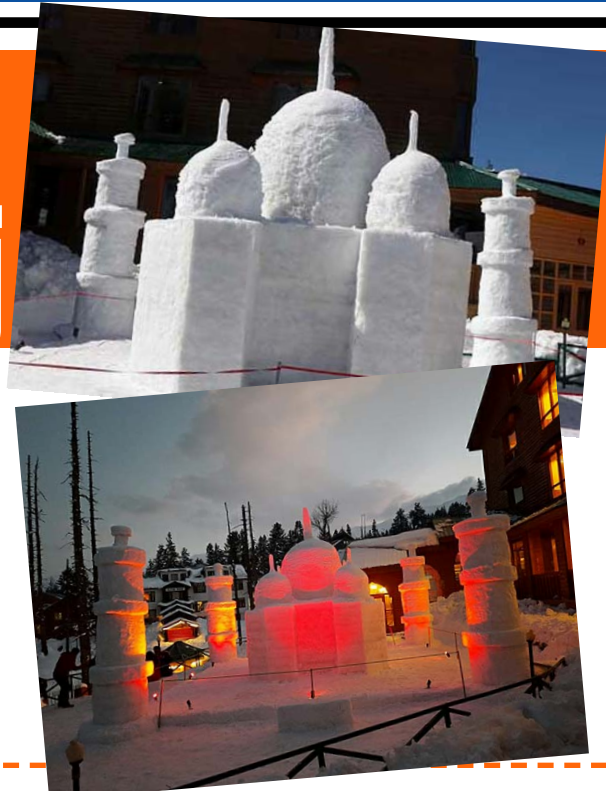
■ With the win, Pragganandhaa became the third Indian to beat Norway's Carlsen. Only Viswanathan Anand and P Harikrishna had managed to get the better of Carlsen

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


[PAGE-2](#)

➤ 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


[PAGE-4](#)



# 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



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## 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.

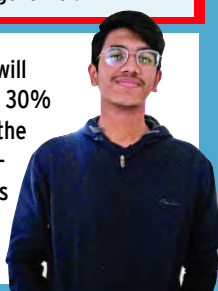
#### WE SPEAK

■ 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





## Happy Model School hosts 'HMSMUN 2021'

**H**appy Model School, B-2 Janakpuri organised the 'Happy Model School Model United Nations 2021' powered by Aspirant Learning (A II Learning Foundation) recently with an aim to sensitise future citizens about matters of global importance and issues which are of utmost concern to the world leaders today.

As envisioned by the team, the conference oversaw a wide spectrum of thoughts from the students of classes III - XII, who tried to solve these problems in their best way possible.

HMSMUN 2021 was a journey that started months back with several training sessions to ensure that the students were well equipped and prepared for the conference. The Model United Nations Conference witnessed a presence of over 100 participants which was held on Zoom, the cloud based video conferencing platform, under the guidance of Astha Ghai Wallia, principal of Happy Model School.

The conference consisted of deliberations in four unique and distinctive committees which discussed matters of current



global importance. The open forum committees for the students of classes III - V discussed the measures that need to be taken to reduce air pollution. The United Nations Children's Fund for the students of classes VI - VIII on the contrast, deliberated on the topic of preventing and treating malnutri-

tion amongst children. Furthermore, the United Nations Development Programme for the classes of IX - XII had its focus upon methods to strengthen global partnership for better implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

Despite their age, the young delegates did not leave any stone unturned and each one of them was eager to put their best foot forward. Their participation and response surpassed the expectations and their efforts were commendable, as they were tough competitors.

The two day conference concluded on December 14, 2021 with the executive board members impressed by the amazing debate held between all the age groups.

To acknowledge the efforts made by the young diplomats, a felicitation ceremony was held offline on February 15 at Happy Model School, Janakpuri in order to felicitate and applaud the students for their remarkable diplomatic and leadership skills in the conference.

The ceremony began with the lamp lighting ceremony by Astha Ghai Wallia. This was followed by an address by

Priyanshu Grover, founder, president and ceo, Aspirant Learning (A II Learning Foundation) consisting of words of enthusiasm to encourage the future global citizens and to enlighten the participants on the proceedings of the event, followed by a few dance and music performances to fill the environment with joy.

## 'Abhyuday': Annual prize distribution ceremony



**D**L DAV Model School, Pitampura, organised 'Abhyuday' the annual prize distribution ceremony on a virtual platform. The guests on the occasion were Dr Nisha Peshin, director; PS and Academics, DAVCMC and dean, DAV United Foundation and Dr NK Uberoi, vice president, DAVCMC and vice chairman of the school.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of ballets on two powerful historical characters - Julius Caesar and Chanakya. The guests released 'Asmita', the school magazine on the occasion. Principal Anita Wadehra presented a report of the outstanding achievements of the school. She

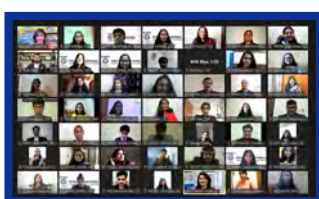
thanked guests, management, parents, staff and students for their role in this performance of the school.

Under Univision, a synopsis of the achievements of students, events organised and new initiatives taken by the school was delivered by senior students. Dr Peshin congratulated the principal and staff for the school's accomplishments and its role in shaping the destiny of students. Dr NK Uberoi emphasised the role of values in the development of children. Prizes were distributed to meritorious students for outstanding performances in the field of academics, co-curriculars and sports. The function concluded with singing of the national anthem.

## Invincible leap towards the incandescent world

**R**yan International School, Sohna road bid adieu to the outgoing class batch of 2021-22 through a fantastic array of events in the form of a farewell ceremony.

The programme commenced by invoking the blessings from the Almighty with Bible reading, Lord's Prayer, Special Prayer and praise and worship songs. The celebration of reminiscence memories began with the welcome melodies which were presented by the students of class XI to their



most beloved seniors. It was the real emulsion of enthralling young Ryanites and an ever charming gamut of memories that passing students carved throughout their school life.

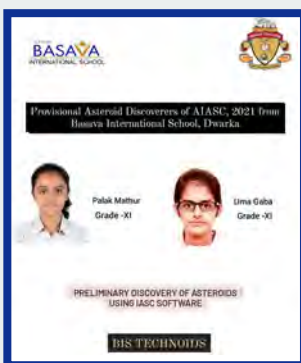
The gathering was addressed by ceo Ryan who ad-

mired admired students for putting in their sincere efforts, inspired young Ryanites and shared the magical 'Seven Aim' to opt in their lives.

Each student felt nostalgic and was left teary eyed. The closing chorus and farewell songs making class XII batch nostalgic where they got immersed in the bottomless ocean of emotions and feelings. School principal Peeya wished them good luck and encouraged them to move ahead in life always with confidence, courage and determination.

## Basava students make provisional discovery of asteroids

**U**ma Gaba and Palak Mathur of class XI, Basava International School, Dwarka were given the coveted opportunity to represent the school for the All India Asteroid Search Campaign (AIASC) 2021. Furthermore, they were one of the few to make a provisional discovery of an asteroid. AIASC 2021, an outreach campaign organised by Space India enables Indian students and amateur astronomers to get an exclusive access to astronomy images and training is imparted in advanced data analysis and software to search asteroids in the main belt asteroid. These citizen scientists are able to make original astronomical discoveries, in-



teract with international scientists and participate in hands-on astronomical events/processes. Discoveries with provisional status are maintained in the Minor Planet Centre (MPC) database until there have been a sufficient number of observations to fully determine the orbit.

The students said that AIASC is an exclusive international platform for anyone who has an interest in astronomy, to get exposure in the field and also make a contribution to the society. This was irrefutably an invaluable experience for them. Under the aegis of AIASC mentors, the students were able to augment their knowledge about space and asteroids.

## Student Corner

ALISHA KHAN, class VI B, Rukmini Devi Public School



### Start caring

Earth comes to an end, save it my friend, pollution is going on, In every city, village and town.



PARV GUPTA, class VIII E, Rukmini Devi Public School

My friends stop this pollution, There are many solutions. Don't pollute, don't throw garbage here and there.

You can do something now, or never, So friends let's save our environment together and forever.

ANMOL, class IX, Sam International School, Dwarka

## INTRA-CLASS DEBATE AT RAMJAS

**A**n intra-class debate competition, 'I Believe, I Speak', was organised for the students of class XI of Ramjas School, Pusa Road in an online mode. The debate was held at two levels. In the preliminary round the debate was conducted in all the sections of class XI where the students deliberated on different issues. In the preliminary round, four best speakers were selected from each section of class XI who represented their class as a team. In the final round of the debate, all the teams voiced their views on the topic, 'Tolerance is a weakness.' The strong



conviction with which the students presented their wide-ranging arguments, made the debate very thought provoking and interesting. The session was a kaleidoscope of opinions, thoughts, ideas and perspectives that enhanced the knowledge and un-

derstanding of the topic among students.

In the prize category, the first position was bagged by XI Com B, classes XI Sc A and XI Sc B, both were at the second position. Class XI humanities secured the third position.

In the Best Speaker category, Anirudh Kuriwal (XI ScA), KKaatyansh Bajaj Singh (XI Sci) and Yashika Singh (XI Humanities) were adjudged as the best speakers.

Principal Surabhi Dua congratulated the students for their commendable performance and the rich quality of the debate.

vised the Covid protocols to ensure their safety. Students were thrilled to be back in School though all the emotions hid behind their masks.

The classrooms bustled with laughter and cheer but we do not know how long it would persist. All teachers were delighted that students are back in school. It might take some time for everyone to adjust in this new norm but we believe the school bell will keep on ringing after its interval of time to boost up our morale and keep our spirits alive.



mixed feelings of excitement and confusion both among the teachers as well the students.

The school staff was happy to see the children back and de-

## BACK TO NEW NORMAL!

**C**ovid-19 disrupted our lives and forced our students to open their gadgets and learn from home but this spring season, Manav Stali Global School reopened the doors for its students and implemented the hybrid model for students' learning.

Returning to school after Covid-19 isolation is very important for children's social and emotional development. There were

## A stunning natural treasure that intoxicates you



**I**would like to share my experience with this stunning natural treasure- Switzerland.

Mountains offers a breath-taking panoramic view. I could not resist my urge to climb the mountain and was intoxicated by the spectacular view and wanted to indulge in a "mountain expedition".

The sunrays fell from the sky through the rift in the vagrant, white clouds like a spotlight, lighting up the scene below with a warm radiance. The mountains stood boldly covered in tufts of green trees, grass and bushes dotting the sharp drops and slopes. On the higher cliffs there was powdery snow, slowly melting in the

spring evening dampening the dirty rock under it.

Behind the closer mountains were smaller and farther ones. The other mountains looked hazy and dull in contrast to the lively grass and water. They looked dark and grave glaring at the centre of the scenery where the vegetation swayed happily.

The green stretched further to the foot of the mountains. It draped the ground like a carpet. Patches of butter yellow flowers were present, their velvety petals fluttering delicately. The lime tinted grass bustled around the lake admiring their reflections bent towards the turquoise water.

Nearby were tall, proud pine trees in a dense crowd. Behind the sharp, towering pines were fluffy bushes

swaying gently in the breeze stretching across the hill back to the little clutter of white and yellow flowers.

Behind us, people bustled and ate, conversing loudly at the small restaurant we were in. Our food lay before us draped with stretchy cheese and small pieces of vegetables scattered around the plates. The people around us spoke many languages and they were polite. The streets were clean and safe, with children playing around in friendly groups.

Switzerland is a wonderful country, it is small, mountainous and calm. The people are very amicable and friendly and it is one of the greatest journeys of my life!

Rithvika Gumpina, class IX IGCSE, Vishwa Vidyapeeth - Cambridge International, Bengaluru

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

**I**n my opinion allotting just one day in a year to women is just symbolism indeed. Harsh treatment meted out to women continues to prevail for the rest of the days of the year. It is hard to believe that even in the 21st century, women and girls from all the sections of the society still have to struggle for opportunities and recognition. Cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, insecurities at workplace, demolishing the right to education and human trafficking are unveiled dime a dozen and are matters of great concern all over the world. Especially in a stereotypical country like India, the mindset of the people stagnates the progress of numerous women. More than just creating opportunities, they need to be understood and embraced as human beings. A real women's day will be a day when all the misconceptions, restrictions and torment meted out to women would cease, when their relentless contribution to the society would

be recognised, making it more sensible and worthy to honour such dynamic and empowered souls.

Pragati Mahesh, class XI, MG School for Excellence, Bengaluru



**W**omen have played a vital role in shaping our world to be what it is now. Yet, women have not been appreciated for their efforts. To commemorate their actions, "Women's Day" is earmarked. In India, women are respected in various forms. Our culture teaches us to respect our mother or motherland. Our festivals give importance to women in one form or the other, be it sisters during Raksha Bandhan, or daughters during Gauri festival. Respecting a woman is a part of our daily upbringing. From finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to our humble eco-warrior Saalu marada Thimakka, to the boxer Mary Kom, if these women have been recognised, and valued, been able to make a difference in society, it is because every day is a day of empowerment for them. This is not just symbolism. It is a form of appreciation and a yearly reminder to men that women are the backbone of society. When a day is dedicated for women, we are appreciating them, recognising and honouring the super power that is "HER."

Aparajithan Nadathur, class XII, MG School For Excellence, Bengaluru



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

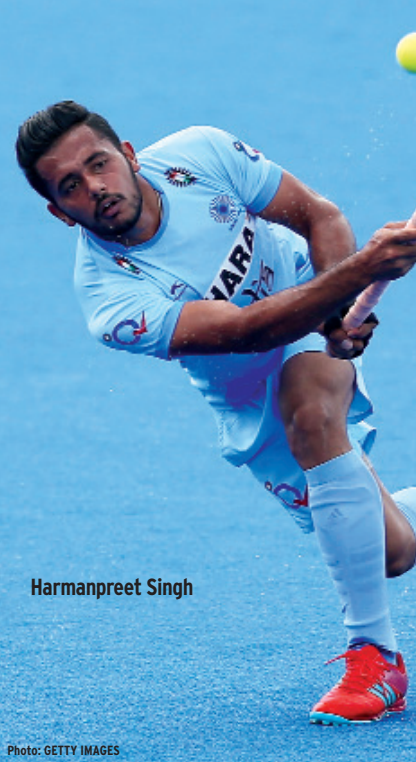


**Teenager Richa Ghosh's counter-attacking 52 off 29 balls was the only silver lining in an otherwise disastrous performance which has now led to five defeats on this tour including the one-off T20.**

Photos: GETTY IMAGES

## INDIA GO WITH TRIED AND TESTED

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



Harmanpreet Singh

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

**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

**I**ndian 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 Ghanghas

## 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