



JOHN F KENNEDY

**WISE WORDS >>**

Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.



# Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

**warm climate**  
**GREENLAND HAS LOST 20% MORE ICE THAN EARLIER THOUGHT, REVEALS STUDY**  
-P4

**oz open**  
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**25-mn-yr itch**  
**ANCIENT LICE ARE TELLING NEW TALES ABOUT HUMANS**  
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**tennis**  
**BOPANNA ENTERS HIS 1ST OZ OPEN DOUBLES SEMIS, SET TO BE OLDEST WORLD NO. 1**  
-P5

Bopanna will be crowned the doubles no. 1 on Monday at the end of the Australian Open HT FILE

**prez polls**  
**FORMER PREZ TRUMP CRUISES TO NEW HAMPSHIRE WIN**  
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**NATION**

## National Girl Child Day: PM Modi lauds indomitable spirit, accomplishments of girls

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday lauded girls as change-makers, and said his government has been making every effort to build a nation where they have an opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

He made the remarks in a post on X on the National Girl Child Day, which is observed to promote awareness about their rights and the importance of female education and health.

Modi said, "On National Girl Child Day, we salute the indomitable spirit and accomplishments of the Girl Child. We also recognise the rich potential of every girl child in all sectors. They are change-makers who

make our nation and society better. Over the last decade, our government has been making many efforts to build a nation where every girl child has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive."

The Modi government had launched its flagship scheme, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save daughters, educate daughters), in 2015 to boost the child sex ratio and empower girls through different measures.

The National Girl Child Day has been celebrated every year throughout the country since 2008. The initiative focuses on addressing the challenges that girls face because of gender biases.

The day also aims at changing the attitude of society towards girls and provides an opportunity to highlight the inequalities that they face. It is also intended to promote awareness among girls about their rights, education, health, and nutrition.

To create wider awareness and for encouraging a participative spirit, the ministry of women and child has requested all states and Union Territories to conduct a five-day special campaign specially designed for public engagement up to the grassroots level.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that his government has taken steps to give every girl child the chance to learn, grow and thrive ANI FILE

**CITY LIGHTS**

## Slight respite from cold, minimum temperature at 8.3°C

**NEW DELHI:** Delhiites on Wednesday woke up to a slight respite from biting cold as the national capital recorded a minimum temperature of 8.3°C, a notch above the season's average, according to the weather office.

Delhi has experienced five cold days and five cold wave days in January so far, the highest in the past 13 years, according to India Meteorological Department data. The city witnessed mainly clear skies with moderate fog, according to the IMD.

Delhi's IGI Airport reported a visibility of 600 metres at 5.30 am. Twenty-four Delhi-bound trains were delayed by one to six hours due to fog in parts of northern India, according to the Indian Railways.

**AQI crosses 400, strict curbs on hold**  
Amid worsening air quality, the Centre on Wednesday decided to hold off the implementation of stricter measures to curb pollution in Delhi-NCR as forecasts suggested that the situation may improve.



Youngsters in central Delhi wrapped up to fend off the cold weather on Wednesday SANCHIT KHANNA/HT

Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index on Wednesday breached the 400 mark, a level that requires authorities to invoke stricter curbs under Stage 3 of the Centre's air pollution control plan called the Graded Response Action Plan. PTI

## Experts seek regional cooperation to combat pollution

**NEW DELHI:** Urban-centric measures currently employed to combat air pollution overlook rural sources, according to experts who recommend the creation of regional air quality plans, inspired by successful models in Mexico City and Los Angeles.

A collaborative effort between the University of Surrey, England and Delhi's regional government officials has identified rural sources such as crop burning, wood stoves, and power plants as major contributors to urban smog.

Professor Prashant Kumar, director of the Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARE) at the University of Surrey, emphasised that air

pollution transcends city boundaries, necessitating a regional approach.

A study by Kumar and experts in Delhi stated that current urban-centric measures, such as enhancing public transport or controlling industrial emissions, overlook these rural sources.

The GCARE proposes the creation of regional air quality plans similar to successful models in Mexico City and Los Angeles.

To enhance monitoring, the experts suggest generating "smog forecasts" using satellite technology to detect pollution sources and predict interactions with weather conditions. PTI

**SCHOOL EVENT**

## RAMJAS INT'L, RK PURAM, ORGANISES CLOSING EVENT OF BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

In a spectacular showcase of talent and unity, Ramjas International School, RK Puram, organised closing ceremony of the 27th Ramjas Basketball Champions League 2023, concluding the league's thrilling journey. The event left a lasting impression on all attendees. The chief guest for the ceremony was IAS officer and director of education (Delhi) Himanshu Gupta. More than 150 teams participated in the tournament in the junior, under-14, and primary boys' and girls' categories. >P2



**WORD POWER**

## Capitulate

**Kuh-pich-uh-leyt (Verb)**

**Meaning:** To surrender unconditionally or on stipulated terms.

**Origin:** First recorded in 1570-80; from Medieval Latin capitulatus (past participle of capitulare to draw up in sections), equivalent to capitulum (um) section, literally, small head + -atus.

**Synonyms:** Bow, cede, concede, defer, relent

**Antonyms:** Conquer, defend, fight, win

**Usage:** The teacher refused to capitulate: no calculators were to be used during the exam.

## R-Day: Nat'l School Band Competition winners announced

**NEW DELHI:** Odisha and Rajasthan schools secured top spots in the Pipe Band Girls and Pipe Band Boys' categories, respectively, during the National School Band Competition held ahead of the Republic Day celebrations.

The winners of the National School Band Competition, which was jointly organised by the ministries of defence and education at the Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium, New Delhi, were announced on Monday. The event is part of the Republic Day celebrations.

In the Pipe Band Boys' category, PM SHRI School Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Suratgarh, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan, bagged the first prize. In the Pipe Band category for girls, Droupadi Girls High School, Nishaposi, Mayurbhanj, Odisha won the first prize.

As many as 457 school students from 15 States and Union Territories took part in the grand finale. ANI

## Namibian cheetah Jwala gave birth to 4 cubs, not 3, at Kuno

**NEW DELHI:** Namibian cheetah Jwala has given birth to four cubs at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh and not three, as reported previously, Union environment minister Bhupendra Yadav said on Wednesday. The births, first reported on Tuesday, came just weeks after three cubs were born to another cheetah, Aasha.

Yadav said in a post on X, "Wildlife wonders! As frontline wildlife warriors managed to get closer to Jwala, they found she has given birth to four, not three, cubs. This has increased our joy several times over. Congratulations all. We pray the cubs thrive and prosper at their home in India."

Officials said that the cubs were born to Jwala on January 20. This is Jwala's second litter and comes after a gap of 10 months. Jwala (Namibian name Siyaya) had given birth to four cubs last March. While three of the cubs succumbed to extreme heat while the sole survivor is being raised under human care. PTI

**WORLD**

## Ukraine shoots down plane carrying 65 POWs: Russia

**MOSCOW:** Russia accused Ukraine on Wednesday of deliberately shooting down a Russian military transport plane carrying 65 captured Ukrainian soldiers to a prisoner exchange, and a local official said all 74 people on board had been killed. Russian state media said six Russian crew members and three guards were on the Ilyushin Il-76 military transport plane which was shot down near the Russian city of Belgorod near the Ukrainian border. "It was done deliberately to sabotage the prisoner exchange," Andrei Kartapolov, lawmaker in Russia's parliament and retired general, said in a TV interview with the SHOT. REUTERS

## US hits Iraq militia sites and anti-ship missiles in Yemen

**WASHINGTON/BAGHDAD:** The US military struck three facilities in Iraq and two anti-ship missiles in Yemen operated by Iranian-backed militias that have attacked US personnel and ships in the region as the United States tries to keep the Israel-Hamas war from spilling over into a wider conflict. Both the strikes in Iraq and Yemen late on Tuesday targeted sites that the US has said are involved in the attacks against US forces in Iraq and Syria and were threatening US military and commercial vessels in the Red Sea. Meanwhile, several drones on Tuesday targeted an airbase in Iraq hosting US troops, causing injuries and damage, a US military official said. AGENCIES

## Turkey approves Sweden's Nato membership bid

**ANKARA:** Turkey's parliament ratified Sweden's Nato membership bid on Tuesday, clearing the biggest remaining hurdle to expanding the Western military alliance after 20 months of delay. Turkey's general assembly, where President Tayyip Erdogan's ruling alliance holds a majority, voted 287-55 to approve the application that Sweden first made in 2022 to bolster its security in response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. REUTERS

## SCHOOL REPORTS

## Ramjas Int'l, RK Puram, organises closing ceremony of 27th Ramjas Basketball Champions League 2023

In a spectacular showcase of talent and unity, Ramjas International School, RK Puram, organised closing ceremony of the 27th Ramjas Basketball Champions League 2023, concluding the league's thrilling journey. The event left a lasting impression on all attendees.

The chief guest for the ceremony was IAS officer and director of education (Delhi) Himanshu Gupta.

The distinguished personalities present during the event's closing ceremony included Ramjas Foundation president and Ramjas International School chairman Rajnath Gupta, DDE (District Southwest - A) Sanjay Chaturvedi, DDE (Zone 19) Rajbeer Singh, and Ramjas International School manager Harsh Gupta. They collectively handed out well-deserved accolades to the victorious students. With more than 150 teams participating in junior, under-14, and primary boys' and girls' categories, the tournament was a testament to the commitment to fostering young basketball talents.

Affiliated to the Delhi Basketball Association, the league witnessed intense competition among 60 premier schools. The ceremonial lighting of the lamp and recitation of Vedic mantras was led by host school director Rachna Pant.

Following the chairman's address, the audience was treated to a mes-



With over 150 teams' participating in various categories, the tournament was a testament to the commitment to the fostering basketball talent among students

merizing orchestra performance by the school's talented students. Addressing the audience, Chaturvedi expressed gratitude for being a part of the event. Acknowledging the achievements of the participating schools and students in the basketball league, Chaturvedi commended the dedication, discipline, and teamwork displayed on the courts. The event took on an even more vibrant note with the inclusion of a captivating Chau dance performance. Following that cultural interlude, the school choir took the stage and presented an energetic song that infused the venue with enthusiasm.

The occasion featured an impressive display by the Delhi Police Band, whose precise execution and musical

expertise contributed to an energetic and grand spectacle, evoking admiration from the audience for their synchronized excellence.

Thereafter, the school's student council, under the leadership of the head girl and the head boy, proceeded with a dignified march.

As the closing ceremony approached its conclusion, the school director addressed the crowd, inspiring them to achieve great success. School principal Richa Sharma took the stage to express her gratitude and she thanked the Ramjas Foundation and Rachna Pant, the guiding force behind the success of the event, and appreciated all participants, emphasizing the spirit of unity and determination that defined the occasion.

## SOUTH DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, DEFENCE COLONY, CONDUCTS SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES

South Delhi Public School, Defence Colony, conducted a series of special assemblies, fostering a sense of community and instilling values in students from Nursery to Grade 12.

The Kindness Assembly focused on empathy, with students actively participating in discussions and activities. The G-20 Assembly provided insights into global cooperation, encouraging critical thinking.

The Festivals of India Assembly showcased vibrant traditions. The Attitude of Gratitude Assembly focussed on cultivating positivity. Save Trees and Save Environment assemblies focussed on environmental awareness, educating students about the crucial role of trees. The participation of teachers & students in those assemblies reflected the school's commitment to holistic education, global citizenship, and values beyond the academic curriculum.



The assemblies fostered a sense of community among students

## LOOKING AT THE LARGER PICTURE

## 'Taking global events on their face value is perhaps not right approach, one must investigate all aspects'

The black dot one sees might be a part of a beautiful landscape and the spray of saffron across the sky may not always announce the arrival of the sun, rather an eerie fire in the distant horizon' is the most common and the most important thing that I tell my students may edify their life in the later stages.

It not only implies to the subject that I teach but also to the life in general. Teaching social sciences

and subjects like political science and history has become more challenging in the changing equations of the countries, leaders, religions and people more so, in the technically evolved world where the line between the truth and the things that are not so true has blurred. Taking the global events on their face value is perhaps not the right approach. One must investigate all the aspects of it.

This perspective makes one aware



In today's world, the line between the truth and the things has blurred, writes Navneet Kaur Boonga

of the context of the things and events in life both personally and professionally.

This philosophy can be applied to any and every aspect of life and not only in teaching. In life we must think what impact our actions will bring, rather than being short sighted one must look and set a goal far away so that it may have far reaching better consequences.

This is what goes into the planning of the economy of the country for the smaller detail may be sacrificed for the 'larger good'. Perfection lies in the smaller detail' is no longer the best strategy for the best of the results. Taking a step back and broadening the outlook strives to learn from one's mistakes and experiences. Thinking strategically in the constantly evolving world helps being agile and persistent.

Navneet Kaur Boonga, TGT, Social Science, Red Roses Public School, Saket

## Mater Dei School, Tilak Lane, organises farewell ceremony to bid farewell to its Class 12 students

Mater Dei School, Tilak Lane, organised a farewell ceremony in its Helen Hall to bid adieu to its Class 12 students of the 2023-24 batch. Principal Sr. Stella Joseph, headmistress Sr. Arul, coordinator Anne Albin, a parent representative and a student representative lit the lamp. Rakhi Varghese spoke on behalf of the staff and inspired students to keep believing and working towards their goals.

Thereafter, Gunjan Mehta Gambhir shared her reflections on her association with the school as a parent. Terecita Maria, a student, spoke about her golden days in Mater Dei and thanked the sisters and all the teachers for their role in bringing out the best in each student. This was followed by a litany by Class 12 students. The principal addressed the gathering and explained to students that in



During the ceremony, staff members and teachers encouraged students to work towards their goals

their journey through life, they may have to face many obstacles.

Students were given special citations. Then it was time for the sharing of the symbolic light. The principal passed on the light from her lamp to student representatives who passed it on to the other Class 12 students. This was accompanied by the strains of the hymn "Pass it on". The event ended with the school song.



Students showcased an impressive band performance and a march-past

## Shivani Vidya Niketan, Chhatarpur, celebrates Annual Sports Day, students participate in various activities

Shivani Vidya Niketan, Chhatarpur, celebrated its Annual Sports Day with enthusiasm. The chief guest for the function was deputy director of education (District South) Ashok Kumar Tyagi.

Students showcased an impressive band performance and a march-past. They took pledge to adhere to the

spirit of sportsmanship.

The event featured an array of races including the pyramid, burst the balloons, three-leg race and passing under the table etc.

The chief guest felicitated the winners with certificates and medals for their efforts. In addition, the school also organised a sports exhibition.

## Vice-principal, teacher of Government Co-ed. Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Hiran Kudna, bring laurels to their institution

LN Joshi, the vice-principal of Government Co-ed. Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Hiran Kudna, and drawing teacher Gaurav Dahiya brought laurels to their institution with their contributions and receiving the State Teachers Award in 2023.

Under the guidance of Joshi, the Vidyalaya seized the spotlight with two consecutive years of zonal sports championships and dual victories in collage championships.

Joshi, a beacon of inspiration, catalysed a transformative shift in attitude among both teachers and stu-

dents, fostering an environment steeped in positivity, discipline, and multifaceted skills. The crowning jewel in Joshi's illustrious tenure is the well-deserved honour of the State Teachers Award in 2023. His unwavering commitment and profound impact will forever resonate within the school premises. Under his astute guidance, the school soared to unprecedented heights.

Dahiya, a luminary in his own right, illuminated students' path to triumph, securing the coveted first position in a state-level collage competition. His unwavering support for the BaLA government initiative adorned the school ambience artistically, inspiring students and nurturing their artistic talents, resulting in numerous accolades. This dynamic duo's collaborative efforts, including Dahiya's fervent encouragement, cultivated a fertile ground for artistic excellence. Together, they were instrumental in clinching the prestigious State Teachers' Award 2023, a testament to their unparalleled dedication and transformative impact.



School's drawing teacher Gaurav Dahiya, left, and vice-principal LN Joshi, right, receiving the award from Delhi government minister Atishi

## St. John's School, Mehrauli, hosts capacity building programme with zeal

St. John's School, Mehrauli, hosted a capacity building programme and organised a session mainly to emphasise and highlight the paradigm shift in school education, to train faculty members and parents and build up a stronger bond between them. The resource persons for the programme were specialised trainer and mentor Nishi Phogat and DAV Public School faculty member Neera Kohli.

The session also focussed on psychological problems of children who need extra attention and care of teachers and parents. Through that session, the teachers were made aware of the various strategies to be adopted and conveyed to the parents. The resource persons focussed on developing a much stronger bond between teachers and students.

The session also discussed the NEP Policy 2020 and how the curriculum should focus on developing core competencies like critical thinking, creativity, communication and digital literacy. It was an interactive session which suggested a myriad of ways to



The resource persons focussed on developing a much stronger bond between teachers and students

tackle the problems faced by the students, teachers and parents. Doing away with the rote-learning was also part of the programme.

Handouts were provided to the teachers and a couple of videos were shown to illustrate how to engage children in various activities.

## MIND GAMES

## SUDOKU

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

## SCRAMBLE

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

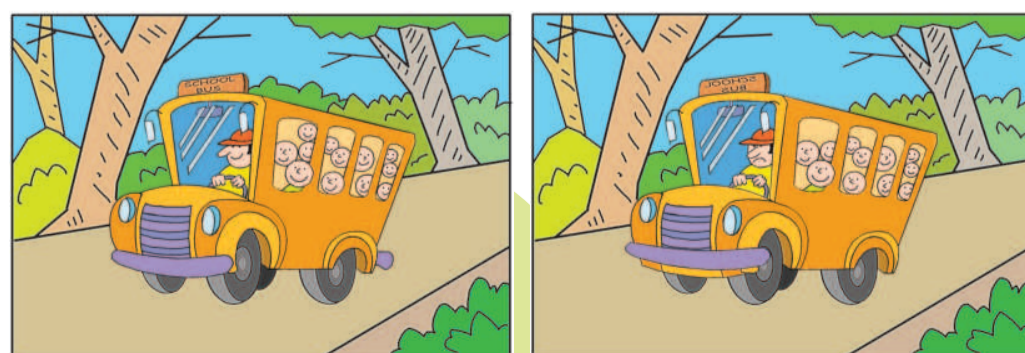
EYEUR	*		*	*
OWYNS	*	*		
EFRGU			*	*
EGYFF	*	*		

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

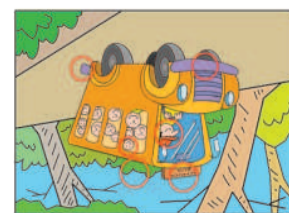
We are never so defenceless against \_\_\_ as when we love. - Sigmund Freud (9)

Answer: We are never so defenceless against suffering as when we love. - Sigmund Freud

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



Can you find six differences between the two pictures?



Answer:

Amrita Bharati Features

## MATHDOKU

5+	10+		3×	
		15×		2×
24×	8+		11+	
	6+	1-		
			7+	

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 +, ×, -, /. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.



## Solutions

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

MATHDOKU SOLUTION

SCRAMBLE Solution Words: EYEUR, OWYNS, EFRGU, EGYFF

NIKKY HALEY VOWS TO FIGHT ON IN SOUTH CAROLINA ON FEBRUARY 24

# Trump cruises to New Hampshire win

## Agencies

**MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Donald Trump cruised to victory in New Hampshire's Republican presidential contest on Tuesday, marching closer to a November rematch with Democratic President Joe Biden even as his sole remaining rival for the nomination, Nikki Haley, vowed to soldier on.

"This race is far from over," Haley told supporters at a post-election party in Concord, challenging Trump to debate her.

"I'm a fighter. And I'm scrappy. And now we're the last one standing next to Donald Trump."

At his own party in Nashua, Trump, 77, opened his speech by mocking Haley, 52, calling her an "imposter". The next competitive contest is scheduled for Feb. 24 in South Carolina, where Haley served two terms as governor.

Trump has racked up endorsements from most of the state's Republican figures, and opinion polls show him with a wide lead there.

In New Hampshire, with 86% of the expected vote tallied, according to Edison Research, Trump held a

comfortable 54.4% to 43.5% lead. Haley had hoped the north-eastern state's sizable cadre of independent voters would carry her to an upset win that might loosen Trump's iron grip on the Republican Party.

Instead, Trump became the first Republican to sweep competitive votes in both Iowa and New Hampshire since 1976, when the two states cemented their status as the first nominating contests.

The result will likely bolster some Republicans' calls for Haley to drop out so the party can coalesce behind Trump.

## One-on-one

Tuesday's vote was the first one-on-one matchup between Trump and Haley, after Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, once seen as Trump's most formidable challenger, dropped out on Sunday and endorsed Trump.

Meanwhile, Edison projected Biden, 81, the winner of the New Hampshire Democratic primary, brushing aside challenger, US Representative Dean Phillips. Despite Trump's win on Tuesday, exit polls hinted at his potential vulnerabilities in a general election campaign.



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump reacts after speaking at a primary election night party in Nashua, New Hampshire, on Tuesday

Trump faces 91 criminal charges for a range of offences, including his efforts to overturn his 2020 defeat and his retention of classified documents after leaving the White House in 2021.

About 42% of voters who participated in the Republican primary said

he would not be fit to serve if convicted in court, according to exit polling by Edison.

There were also warning signs for Biden, however. Three-quarters of Republican primary voters said the economy was either poor or not good, an area where Biden has struggled to highlight his administration's accomplishments.

Republicans made up a slightly smaller share of voters in the primary relative to the state's 2016 Republican contest in the state, the exit polls showed.

Some 51% of voters considered themselves Republican, compared to 55% in the 2016 primary. Six percent said they considered themselves Democrats, compared to 3% in 2016. The share of independents was little changed at 43%.

Biden declined to appear on the ballot in New Hampshire's Democratic primary, having supported an effort by his party to move their first primary election to the more diverse state of South Carolina.

New Hampshire supporters were still able to vote for Biden by writing his name on the ballot, offering a barometer of his political strength. With

56% of the estimated vote counted, according to Edison, Biden had 67.0%, far ahead of Phillips at 19.6%.

## Biden aims at trump

The Democratic president, whose advisers are anticipating a rematch with Trump, said: "It is now clear that Donald Trump will be the Republican nominee. And my message to the country is the stakes could not be higher. Our democracy. Our personal freedoms — from the right to choose to the right to vote. Our economy — which has seen the strongest recovery in the world since Covid."

Haley had stepped up her attacks on Trump as the election drew near, criticizing his affinity for strongmen such as North Korea's Kim Jong Un. Haley has also gone after Trump's age and mental acuity, attacks she has also regularly levelled at Biden.

In her speech on Tuesday, Haley warned that Trump would lose to Biden again if nominated.

"The worst-kept secret in politics is how badly the Democrats want to run against Donald Trump," she said. "They know Trump is the only Republican in the country who Joe Biden can defeat."

# ISRAEL HITS KHAN YOUNIS AMID TALKS ON ONE-MONTH GAZA TRUCE

## Agencies

**DOHA/GAZA/JERUSALEM:** Israel and Hamas have made some progress toward agreement on a 30-day ceasefire in Gaza when Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners would be released, sources told Reuters, as Israel pressed ahead with its assault on Khan Younis.

Qatar, the US and Egypt have for weeks shuttled between Israel and Hamas trying to broker terms for a break in fighting.

But the two sides remain at odds over how to permanently end the Gaza war, which Hamas insists must be decided as part of any ceasefire agreement, the sources said.

Israeli spokesperson Eylon Levy said on Tuesday there would be no ceasefire that left Hamas in power and hostages in Gaza.

And the White House reiterated its insistence that Gaza's future government could not include Hamas leaders, prompting Hamas to say it would not let the US or anyone else "enforce a mandate on our free people".

In their biggest operation in a month, Israeli tanks have pushed through Khan Younis, where thousands of displaced Palestinians are sheltering. On Tuesday, the Israeli military ordered the evacuation of an area that the United Nations humanitarian office said was inhabited by half a million people while also shutting off the road from the city towards the Mediterranean coast.

Residents reported fierce gunbattles in the west of the city, where the military said it had killed "numerous" squads of gunmen "with sniper, tank and aerial fire" in the area, which is close to its two main hospitals.

## Hospitals, aid services under attack

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said three displaced individuals had been killed and two others wounded at the gate of its headquarters in Khan Younis. Gaza health ministry spokesman Ashraf Al-Qidra accused Israel of targeting the Nasser Hospital saying attacks were blocking access for medicines and patients.

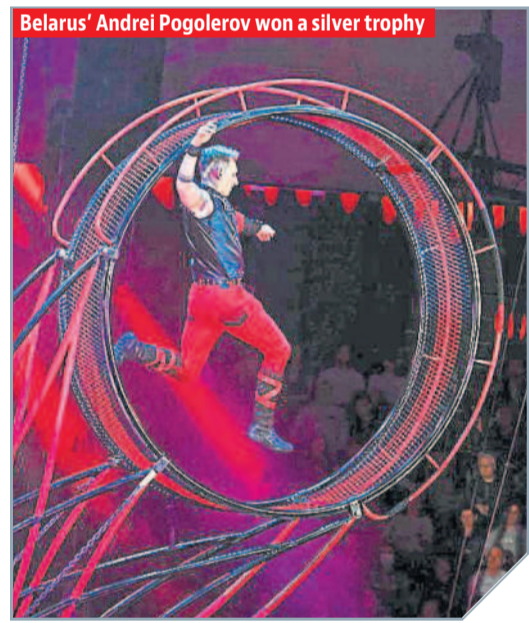
Israel says Hamas fighters operate in and around hospitals, which hospital staff and Hamas deny. Three hospitals, including Nasser, are in the areas ordered evacuated on Tuesday, the UN humanitarian office said.

Video footage from various areas has shown Palestinians burying their dead in streets and markets as well as the grounds of hospitals and, more recently, inside Al-Aqsa University.

The World Health Organization said it had managed to deliver 19,000 litres of fuel to Al-Shifa Hospital in northern Gaza. It said 120 health and care workers and 300 patients remained at Al-Shifa, and that its convoy had been continually surrounded by thousands looking for food and water.

# BEST OF CIRCUS ART ON SHOW

The Budapest Circus Festival, organised at the Capital Grand Circus in the Hungarian capital recently, featured a six-day extravaganza that celebrated the very best in circus art from across the world. The event brought together the best representatives of the profession such as circus directors, art leaders and performers. The three-decade-old event aimed at keeping alive the art of circus that has survived centuries.



Belarus' Andrei Pogorelov won a silver trophy



Russian duo who won a bronze trophy performs at the Capital Grand Circus, Budapest



Ukraine's Evgeniia Zavadskaiia in action



Italian Elisa Cussadie won a silver trophy



Belgian Anthony Cesar during the performance that won the gold trophy

HT CHRONICLE January 25 >> from the archives of the Hindustan Times

# The Hindustan Times

ESTABLISHED IN 1924

## Body-line bowling controversy

LONDON - The General Committee of the M. C. C. meets this evening at the House of Lords to consider the protest from the Australian Board of Cricket Control regarding bowling at batsmen's body in Test matches. The general opinion in cricket circles here is that the Committee will find itself in a peculiar position, because the Committee is conscious of the fact that the Australian Board would not have protested without, due consideration of the whole situation.

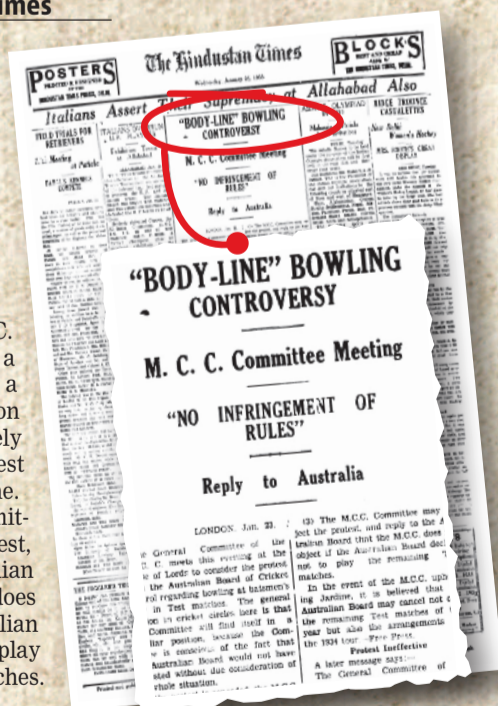
If the protest is conceded, the M.C.C. Committee will be charged with disloyalty towards Jardine in particular, and the whole English team in general.

It is believed that the Committee may adopt any of the following three courses open to it:

(1) The Committee may suggest that a conference be held between Jardine and the English manager on one side and an equal number of representatives of the Australian Board on the other side, with a view to arriving at an amicable settlement.

(2) The M.C.C. Committee may appoint a sub-committee for a thorough investigation and report, immediately before the fourth Test match begins at Brisbane.

(3) The M.C.C. Committee may reject the protest, and reply to the Australian Board that the M.C.C. does not object if the Australian Board decides not to play the remaining Test matches.



## Nixon ends war in Vietnam



WASHINGTON - President Nixon last evening formally announced conclusion of an agreement to end the Vietnam war.

Mr Nixon's 10-minute statement, which some observers said may well be the most important announcement of his Presidency, said the

agreement would be signed on Saturday and that a ceasefire would become effective later in the day (Sunday morning IST).

Under the agreement, all US forces would be withdrawn from Vietnam within 60 days and all US prisoners of war would be released within that period. Besides assuring the American people that the agreement just concluded would bring the

promised peace with honour, Mr Nixon claimed that it provided the people of South Vietnam the "right to determine their own future without outside interference."

The final draft of the peace agreement, he asserted, conceded all conditions that he had laid down.

Mr Nixon said the agreement had full support of President Thier and his Government.

## Riot mars Bombay Test

BOMBAY - It was Black Friday for Indian cricket- for in what was an obnoxious incident in the history of world cricket, the second day's play of the crucial fifth and final Test between India and the West Indies had to be abandoned at ten when the riots that broke out left hundreds of people injured. Several men, women and children fell unconscious.

The prestigious Wankhede Stadium, built by the Bombay Cricket Association at a cost of nearly Rs 2.35 crores, was the scene of riots, pitched battles between the police and the spectators.

The pitch was, however, protected by a cordon of cricket fans as soon as the riot started. The rival teams have agreed to resume play tomorrow as per schedule.

The trouble started after the West Indies skipper, Clive Lloyd, took a single off Karsan Ghavri and completed his double century

## Riot mars Bombay Test

Hundreds injured in crowd-police clash

Play abandoned at tea



Two enthusiastic young boys ran on to the pitch from two directions and shook hands with Lloyd. And then they ran back even faster but a posse of policemen, in blue uni. form, chased them and beat them. The boy from the west stand zig waggled his way and the way he dodged four policemen provoked the slow-moving constables.

## WATCH OUT THIS SPACE FOR QUIZ ON FRIDAYS

The quiz will be based on HT archives. Send in your answers at [htpcedelhi@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htpcedelhi@hindustantimes.com)

GENETIC DATA OF LICE IS PROVIDING CLUES TO HUMAN'S GENETIC HISTORY

# The 25-million-year itch

Puny, pesky lice are providing surprising answers to pivotal questions: Whom did early humans raise families with? When did clothing begin? How did we get crab lice from gorillas?

Natasha Rego

**M**an's best friend may be you-know-who, but his earliest companion was likely the head louse.

Lice have been so intrinsically linked to humans, evolving alongside us for over 25 million years, that their genetic data is providing clues to our genetic history. They are helping archaeologists map, more accurately, how early and modern humans may have dispersed around the world.

In a study published in November, researchers from the University of Florida and Argentina's CIPEIN (Centro de Investigaciones de Plagas e Insecticidas) traced the settlement of the first Americans and the colonisation of the Americas by Europeans, through a genetic variation in modern lice.

The researchers analysed six markers in the DNA of 274 specimens from 25 regions around the world, and found two distinct genetic clusters that arrived in the Americas via human hosts.

One of these clusters was present in present-day specimens from Africa, Asia and the Americas, supporting the theory that the first Native Americans (believed to have settled there about 30,000 years ago), had origins in East Asia. The second cluster of markers was found in samples from Europe, Mexico, the US and Argentina, indicating that they arrived on the heads of European colonisers.

This is just a small corner in a very large puzzle that the tiny louse has been helping piece together.

The period in which lice diverged into two species — *Pediculus humanus capitis* or head lice, as distinct



Lice also contributed to Napoleon's downfall, spreading typhus among his army and decimating his troops. And they spread a bacterial infection nicknamed "trench fever" among soldiers during World War I.

from *Pediculus humanus* or body lice — for instance, has been key to determining when humans first began to use clothing.

Body lice, armed with tiny claws seemingly designed to cling to fabric, evolutionarily diverged from head lice between 83,000 and 170,000 years ago, according to a 2011 study by geneticists at University of Florida.

Before this finding, the advent of clothing had been dated to only about 75,000 years ago. Because early clothes were entirely biodegradable, evidence of the garments is unlikely to ever be found, but estimates were made based on tools such as bone awls and stone blades, likely used to turn fur and leather into cladding.

Since the lice study, more such tools have been found, including some in a cave in Morocco that have been dated to the beginning of the last Ice Age, 120,000 years ago, in keeping with the timeline the lice indicated.

Incidentally, our head (and body) lice can be traced to the lice that live on chimpanzees. The genetic signatures of these two species diverged about 5.5 million years ago, around the same time that the first apes began

to walk on two legs. Crab lice trace their ancestry to an entirely different genus (*Pthirus*) that lives on gorillas too. It is believed that humans only began to host crab lice (*Pthirus pubis*) about 3 million years ago. "Humans most likely got the gorilla's lice from sleeping in their nests or eating the giant apes," David Reed, a biologist and curator at the Florida Museum of Natural History (and lead author of the 2011 paper on body lice and prehistoric clothing) said in a statement.

**Tip of the liceberg**

What other stories can lice tell? Well, they provided the first hard evidence that our early ancestors, Homo sapiens, cohabited and procreated with Neanderthals.

The Homo sapiens, the only species of this genus to survive, was taller than the Neanderthal, with a rapidly evolving brain. The overlap between the two was extensive. Homo sapiens evolved about 300,000 years ago; Neanderthals, already on the scene, went extinct about 40,000 years ago.

In 2004, a study by Reed indicated that the two species shared lice, indicating that they likely shared habita-

tion and inter-bred. About a million years ago, a set of early humans left Africa, carrying their lice with them, and picked up others from soon-to-be-extinct hominids such as Neanderthals, in parts of present-day Europe, stated the report published in PLOS Biology. The findings sparked intense debate. At the time, large parts of the scientific community still believed sub-species as different as these would not have intermingled. In 2010, when ancient Neanderthal DNA was fully sequenced, they confirmed the study's findings. Today, it is acknowledged that many humans alive have Neanderthal genes making up as much as 4% of their DNA.

It hasn't been a friendly bond, of course, the one between humans and lice. They have so plagued us, in fact, that one of the oldest known sentences wishes the reader luck in beating the minuscule menace.

Inscribed on a **double-edged ivory comb from about 1700 BCE (above)** — surprisingly similar to those still in use today — an inscription in an early Canaanite script reads: "May this tusk root out the lice of the hair and the beard."

SATELLITE IMAGES IDENTIFY REAL SITUATION

# Greenland has lost 20% more ice than earlier thought, reveals study

Agence France-Presse

**PARIS:** Climate change has caused Greenland's ice sheet to lose 20% more ice than previously thought, according to research published Wednesday that used satellite imagery to track the retreat of glaciers over the past four decades.

Previous studies have found that about 5,000 gigatons of ice has been lost from the surface of the Greenland ice sheet in the past two decades, a major contributor to rising sea levels.

In the new study, researchers in the United States compiled nearly 240,000 satellite images of glacier terminus positions — where glaciers meet the ocean — from 1985 to 2022.

"Nearly every glacier in Greenland has thinned or retreated over the past few decades," lead author Chad Greene, a glaciologist from Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, told AFP. "There really aren't any exceptions, and this is happening everywhere, all at once."

They found that over 1000 gigatons (1 gigaton is equivalent to 1 billion tonnes), or 20%, of ice around the edges of Greenland had been lost over the past four decades and not been accounted for. "The Greenland ice sheet has lost appreciably more ice in recent decades than previously thought," researchers said in the journal Nature.

Because the ice at the island's edges is already in the water, the authors stressed that this would have had a "minimal" direct impact on sea level rise. But it could herald further overall ice melt, allowing glaciers to more easily slip towards the sea.

Researchers found that the Greenland glaciers most susceptible to seasonal changes — that is expanding in winter and retreating in summer — are also the ones most sensitive to the impact of global warming and experienced the most significant retreat since 1985.

The melting of Greenland's vast ice sheet — the world's second-largest after Antarctica — is estimated to



In a new study, researchers have found that over 1,000 gigatons of ice around the edges of Greenland had been lost over the past four decades and not been accounted for.

have contributed more than 20% to observed sea level rise since 2002. Rising sea levels threaten to intensify flooding in coastal and island communities that are home to hundreds of millions.

**Warming**

Last year was the hottest on record, and ocean temperatures were "persistently and unusually high", according to Copernicus, Europe's climate monitor. The Arctic, warming roughly four times faster than the rest of the planet, saw its warmest ever summer in 2023, the result of accelerating human-caused climate change.

Warming of the atmosphere can cause the surface of glaciers to melt and trickle down into the bottom of the ice sheet, which makes it easier for more ice to be lost.

Warmer oceans, which have absorbed around 90% of the excess heat caused by humanity's carbon pollution, are linked to the melting of crucial ice shelves buffering the vast ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica.

Researchers also raised concerns about another potential impact: the disruption of the deep-water currents that are key drivers of global weather patterns. They said this flood of extra freshwater melting into the ocean could affect the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation that regulates the global transfer of heat from the tropics into the northern hemisphere.



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National Cadet Corps is not about uniform or uniformity; it is about unity.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



**Prime Minister Rally  
27<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
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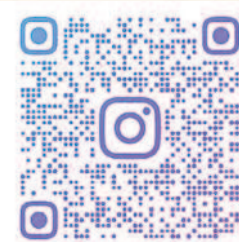
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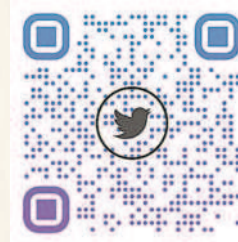
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TENNIS

No.1 rank will inspire Gen Next, says Bopanna

**NEW DELHI:** Rohan Bopanna feels that his ascent to world No. 1 in doubles rankings at the twilight of his career is perfect boost that Indian tennis needed just when it was falling off the radar.

Bopanna is set to become the oldest tennis player to achieve the world No. 1 ranking in men's doubles after reaching the semi-finals of the Australian Open along with his partner Matthew Ebden of Australia here on Wednesday.

The 43-year-old, who had entered the tournament with a career-high ranking of world No. 3, and Ebden recorded a comfortable 6-4, 7-6(5) win over sixth seeded Argentinian duo of Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni in the quarter-finals that lasted an hour and 46 minutes here.

Bopanna will be crowned the new numero uno at the end of the tourna-

ment. "It (the feat) means a lot not to just me but for Indian tennis also. You need something to inspire the next generation. Sumit (Nagal) also had a great Australian Open," Bopanna told PTL.

And the star player said the feat came with a lot of sacrifices.

"It's a special moment. Lot of sacrifices have gone into this. My coaches, family everyone," he said.

In fact, he is more happy that for the past week, Indian tennis has been in the news.

"Nothing at all was happening in Indian tennis. You (journalists) also did not have much to write about, so this has happened at the right time." Earlier, Rajeev Ram of the USA was the oldest player to be ranked world no. 1 when he achieved the top ranking in October 2022 at the age of 38 for the first time in his career.



Rohan Bopanna (R) (with Mathew Ebden) will be the oldest world No.1 in men's doubles. AFP

INDONESIA MASTERS

Lakshya, George win, Prannoy, Srikanth exit

**JAKARTA:** Lakshya Sen and Kiran George advanced to the second round but HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth made early exits after suffering narrow losses in their respective opening matches at the Indonesia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

World No. 19 Sen, who is looking to qualify for the Paris Olympics, avenged his Malaysia Open first-round loss to China's Weng Hong Yang with a 24-22, 21-15 win in his opening round match here.

The 23-year-old George, who had won Super 100 titles at 2022 Odisha Open and 2023 Denmark Masters,

bounced back from an opening game reversal to eke out a 18-21, 21-16, 21-19 win over France's Toma Junior Popov in another opening round match.

However, world No. 8 Prannoy lost to former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 18-21, 21-19, 10-21 in his opening round match.

For Srikanth, it was yet another day when he had to return empty handed despite putting up a brave effort against Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia, ranked 10th. Srikanth, who is racing against time to qualify for Paris, squandered an opening game advantage to lose 21-19, 14-21, 11-21 to Lee in a 54-minute clash to bow out.

CRICKET

Surya named ICC T20I Player of the Year

**DUBAI:** Big-hitting batter Suryakumar Yadav was on Wednesday named the T20I Player of the Year for a second consecutive time by the ICC, which described him as the "backbone of India's middle order" in the format.

Yadav did quite well in 2023 with an average that closed in on 50 and a strike rate exceeding 150. He is currently recuperating from a groin surgery that he underwent in Germany earlier this month. He is expected to be back in action in the IPL for the Mumbai Indians in March.

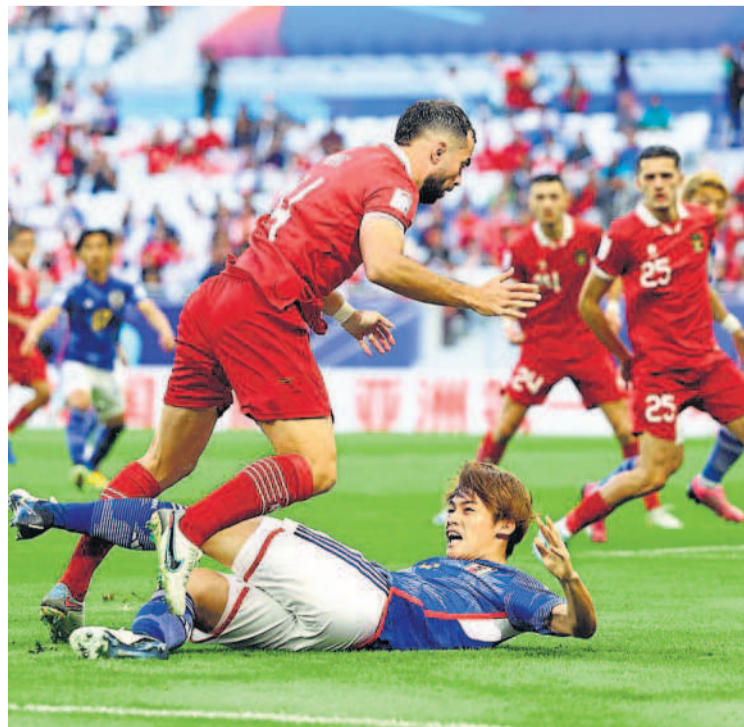
"The backbone of India's middle order got starts throughout the year, delivering several match-winning contributions. This is the second consecutive year that the India batter has taken this award home," the ICC stated. Yadav's first innings of just seven to start the year against Sri

Lanka was a mere speed bump in another prolific year." Consistent scoring in 20s to 40s continued, before an innings of 83 (44) against the West Indies in Providence proved his class. He ended the series against the West Indies with a knock of 61 (45) in Florida.

"Yadav flourished despite the burden of captaincy, taking the reins of a young side towards the end of the year," the world body stated.

Yadav made half-centuries against Australia (80 off 42 balls) and South Africa (56 from 36 balls), before posting a 100 against the Proteas off just 56 balls in their final T20I of the year in Johannesburg. His knock of 112 off 51 balls against Sri Lanka in January included nine sixes and seven fours, equating to almost a boundary every three deliveries.

FOOTBALL



Indonesia's Jordi Amat (in red) fouls Japan's Ayase Ueda, leading to a penalty in their AFC Asian Cup Group D match at Al Thumama Stadium, Doha on Wednesday. Japan won 3-1. REUTERS

INDIA VS ENGLAND



Shubman Gill during a practice session ahead of the first Test against England in Hyderabad on Wednesday. AP

Rohit's men bank on spin for series opener in Hyderabad

**Press Trust of India**  
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

**HYDERABAD:** India's dominance at home over the last 12 years will be put through its most unique examination till date when Rohit Sharma's side faces England in the first match of what promises to be a stirring five-Test series from Thursday.

No team has been as invincible as India at home since their 1-2 defeat against the Three Lions led by Alastair Cook in 2012, stitching together a run of 16 successive series wins, including seven series sweeps.

If one further breaks down the stats, India have lost just three Tests out of 44 they played in their own backyard in this phase, and this is a power walk even beyond the all-conquering West Indies in the '80s or

Australia of the turn of the century.

Several factors have contributed to this astonishing run over the last decade, including favourable pitches, bowlers who knew how to exploit those tracks and batters who churned out runs like popcorn from a vending machine.

But two players have stood head and shoulders above the rest in these conquests — off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja.

From Thursday, the Ash-Jaddu duet will be on show here at the RGI Stadium, where the pitch is expected to turn and grip as the match moves on. England already have a taste of what these two can do from their past visits here, and they will be worried, particularly about Ashwin. The 37-year-old still works on his craft

and since 2012, the off-spinner has grabbed 283 wickets from 46 Tests averaging a shade over 19.

Jadeja might often get viewed as a supporting act to Ashwin, but in his own right, the Saurashtra man is a potent threat, and his deliveries that dart on straight could confuse the batters on a turner.

Jadeja has taken 191 wickets from 39 Tests in the period where Ashwin kicked up a bedlam in opposition ranks to ensure that they don't get breathing space from either end. Together, they have bagged 500 wickets at an average of 21.

In all likelihood, India will also include a third spinner to the combination in the form of either Axar Patel or Kuldeep Yadav, with the former having a better chance at the moment.

England will be aware that no amount of preparation involving scruffing up pitches some 1600 miles away in Abu Dhabi will be enough to tackle this real menace, and in that sense, they will also need to tame the demons inside their own minds.

What could work for them is that India will not have the presence and solidity of Virat Kohli at No. 4, as he has skipped the opening two Tests owing to personal reasons.

He is a towering presence against England in Test cricket. The star batter has made 1991 runs against them from 28 matches with five hundreds, but more than the numbers, his ability to master grand occasions will be missed.

Middle-order batter Rajat Patidar is expected to join the squad as a replacement for Kohli.

Zverev ousts Alcaraz, moves into Australian Open semis

**Agencies**  
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

**MELBOURNE:** Alexander Zverev made no mistake with his second chance to close out a win over No. 2-ranked Carlos Alcaraz on Wednesday night and moved into an Australian Open semi-final against two-time finalist Daniil Medvedev.

The sixth-seeded Zverev was a up a break in the third set and missed a chance to serve it out but he didn't blink the second time, finishing off a 6-1, 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-4 victory.

Wimbledon champion Alcaraz was the only player to beat 10-time Australian Open winner Novak Djokovic in a Grand Slam match last year. He won't get the chance in Australia this time.

It was Zverev's first win over a top-5 player at a Grand Slam, and the reward was a spot in the semis for the seventh time at a major.

Earlier, two-time runner-up Daniil Medvedev battled past big-serving Hubert Hurkacz on Wednesday to set up a potential Australian Open semi-final against Carlos Alcaraz as Ukrainian qualifier Dayana Yastremska's dream run continued.

Former US Open champion Medvedev came through a gruelling five-setter in sweltering conditions on Rod Laver Arena 7-6 (7/4), 2-6, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 and will face either second seed Alcaraz or sixth seed Alexander Zverev in the last four.

The Russian world No.3 was twice pegged back by Polish ninth seed Hurkacz after going a set up but produced the crucial break in the decider to get over the line.

The 27-year-old, who lost to Novak Djokovic in the 2021 final and Rafael



Alexander Zverev (left) is congratulated by Carlos Alcaraz after their Australian Open quarter-final match on Wednesday. AP

Nadal the following year, said he felt "destroyed" after the contest, which lasted nearly four hours.

"I honestly was feeling it physically at the end of the second set already and I said to stay tough," he said.

"Fourth set I'm just no more concentration and I have to try my best to do whatever I can."

In the opening match on centre court, 93rd-ranked Yastremska cruised past unseeded Czech Linda Noskova to become just the second women's qualifier in the Open Era to

get so far at the Australian Open.

She broke three times to win 6-3, 6-4 in 78 minutes and set up a clash against unseeded Russian Anna Kalinskaya or Chinese 12th seed Zheng Qinwen for a place in the final.

Yastremska is the first women's qualifier to reach the last four at the season-opening Grand Slam since Australia's Christine Matison in 1978.

Yastremska faced a tough battle to reach the main draw at Melbourne Park, being taken the distance in all three of her qualifying matches.

AUSTRALIA FACE COVID, WEATHER OBSTACLES IN 2ND WEST INDIES TEST

**Agence France-Presse**  
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

**BRISBANE:** Australia will be battling an outbreak of Covid-19 and forecast wild weather in their bid to complete a clean sweep of the summer Test series when they face the West Indies in Brisbane on Thursday.

After taming Pakistan 3-0 in December and early January, the world Test champions thumped the West Indies by 10 wickets in Adelaide last week.

They are heavily favoured to again sweep past their under-strength opponents in the pink-ball Test at the Gabba, a format at which the Australians excel. However, Covid has hit their camp with all-rounder Cameron Green and coach Andrew McDonald the latest to come down with it on Wednesday.

They fell ill after batter Travis Head contracted the virus at the end of the first Test. He has since tested negative and will play in Brisbane, with Green also set to take the field unless he feels too sick.

"Cameron Green and Andrew McDonald will be separated from the group until they return a negative test," Cricket Australia said.

"It will not hinder Green taking part in or McDonald attending the match in line with CA protocols."

The Australians may also have to contend with the after-effects of Cyclone Kirrily, which is expected to cross the North Queensland coast in the next few days.

While the weather is predicted to be fine on Thursday, there are showers forecast for Friday and heavy rain from Saturday to Monday.

# Artistic talent takes centre stage

Today's art section is adorned with colourful paintings created by talented students. The works featured include paintings inspired by the epic Ramayana, drawing of friends at a campsite, and a vibrant illustration of a beautiful bird. The adjacent section features a piece on the first Bal Puraskar recipient, Harish Chandra Mehra.



1 Vanshika Upreti, Class 7 D,  
Rukmini Devi Public School, Pitampura, Delhi



2 Aarna Jain, Class 7,  
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## WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

# 1st child bravery award recipient looks back

Vivek Shukla

As he has done many times in the past, Harish Chandra Mehra will once again watch the Republic Day parade tomorrow on television with his family in Chandni Chowk, Delhi.

Every time he sees the award-winning children on the small screen or in newspapers reports, his thoughts go back to the Republic Day in 1959. That was when he became the first child to win the bravery award.

Now aged around 80, Mehra was just 14 years old when he became a national hero after he saved the life of then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, on October 2, 1957, at Delhi's Ramlila Ground.

Recalling the incident, he says: "Pandit Nehru, Indira Gandhi and others were watching Ramlila at the famous venue. I was on duty as a scout at the tent where the VIPs were seated. It was around 5.30 pm. Suddenly, flames broke out due to a spark from the fireworks. I scrambled up an electric pole to cut off the burning tent cloth using my scout's knife, all in less than five minutes."

However, Mehra's hands were severely burnt and he underwent treatment at the Irwin Hospital (that was later renamed as the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan or LNJP Hospital). Jagjivan Ram, then Union Minister, visited him at the hospital. When he had recovered, Mehra resumed attending school in the walled City. Recalls Mehra, "One day, our school Principal Tej Bhan Sethi informed that I was nominated for a national gallantry award instituted by the Union government."

In February 1958, he received the award from Pandit Nehru at the Teen Murti in Delhi. "My parents were also with me. Patting my back, Pandit Nehru told my parents: 'Your son has saved my life. I am sure he will become a great man.' My parents were thrilled and they distributed sweets in our neighbourhood."

Article on Mehra's bravery were featured in leading newspapers. The government agency DAVP (Director-



Top, Harish Chandra Mehra receives the first child bravery award from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1958. Above, Mehra's current photograph.

ate of Advertising and Visual Publicity), made a documentary on him that was screened in cinema halls.

In 1959, he took part in the Republic Day parade. It was after the bravery award was conferred on him that the gallantry honours for children was instituted. Not long after those euphoric moments, Mehra took up a job as a lower division clerk to help his family tide over financial woes. After decades, he retired as an upper division clerk.

Now in his twilight years, Mehra says with a tinge of sadness, "I can't fathom this. While policemen get promotions for saving the lives of people, which is their duty, couldn't I have been promoted for saving the life of the Prime Minister of India?"

The author of this article is a senior journalist and columnist with several dailies



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## 'A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO WELLBEING DURING EXAMS'



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