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NEW DELHI
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PAGES.



GEORGE WASHINGTON

WISE WORDS >>

Happiness and moral duty
are inseparably connected.

Hindustan Times



FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

ht litfest

YOUNG MINDS REVEL IN STORYTELLING, CRAFT, MUSIC

>P4-5



cause for concern

JANUARY 2025 WAS WARMEST ON RECORD: EU CLIMATE BODY

>P3



league cup

NEWCASTLE FINISH OFF ARSENAL TO REACH FINAL, AIM TO END 70-YEAR DROUGHT

>P8

An illustration depicts the Cretaceous Period bird named Vegavis iaai diving for fish off the coast of the Antarctic peninsula. A fossil of the bird that lived about 69 million years ago has been found.

REUTERS



fossil of vegavis iaai is 69 million years old

LOON-LIKE WATERFOWL FROM DINOSAUR-ERA ANTARCTICA IS OLDEST 'MODERN' BIRD

>P3

national games

NIRAJ UPSTAGES OLY BRONZE MEDALLIST SWAPNIL, AISHWARY TO STRIKE GOLD

>P8



Niraj Kumar

ANI

NATION

Deepika Padukone, Mary Kom, Sadhguru to join 8th edition of PM's Pariksha Pe Charcha

NEW DELHI: The eighth edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's annual Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) is set to be held in a different format with renowned personalities like actor Deepika Padukone, boxer MC Mary Kom and spiritual leader Sadhguru sharing their experiences and knowledge with students on key aspects on life and learning.

According to officials, in a shift from the traditional town hall format, the Prime Minister took 35 students to Sunder Nursery this year and interacted with them on a host of issues related to exams and stress management. PPC, scheduled on Feb 10, will feature eight episodes where these experts will talk to students and be part of their journey from becoming exam "worriers" to "warriors".

The first interaction with the Prime Minister will be telecast on Doordar-

shan, Swayam, Swayam Prabha, PMO YouTube channel and social media channels of ministries of Education and Information and Broadcasting at 11 am. "Pariksha Pe Charcha is back and that too in a fresh and livelier format! Urging all #ExamWarriors, their parents and teachers to watch #PPC2025, consisting of 8 very interesting episodes covering different aspects of stress-free exams!" Modi said in a post on X, sharing a video showing glimpses of the interaction.

The 35 students from across states and Union territories were selected from state board government schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Sainik Schools, Eklavya Model Residential Schools, CBSE and Navodaya Vidyalayas.

Groups of up to 100 students each interacted with the other renowned personalities – paralympics gold medalist Avani Lekhara, badminton player Suhas Yathiraj, nutritionists Rujuta Diwekar and Sonali Sabherwal, health influencer Food Pharmar, actors Vikrant Massey and Bhumi Pednekar, YouTuber Gaurav Chaudhary (popular by the screen name Technical Guru ji) and business executive Radhika Gupta. "The renowned personalities from diverse fields will share their experiences and knowledge, guiding students on aspects of life and learning, in seven subsequent episodes of PPC.

PTI



Actor Deepika Padukone, boxer MC Mary Kom and spiritual leader Sadhguru, among others, will share their experiences and insights with students

HT FILE

Indian Army's Eastern Command hub renamed Vijay Durg

KOLKATA: In a bid to move away from the colonial legacy, the Indian Army has renamed the Eastern Command headquarters, Fort William in Kolkata, as Vijay Durg, a defence official said on Wednesday. In a decision taken internally, the Army has also rechristened some landmark buildings inside the sprawling campus situated in the heart of the city.

"We are gradually moving away from the colonial legacy," the defence official said about the Army's decision to rename Fort William and some other buildings inside it.

The Army has renamed St George's Gate as the Shivaji Gate, he said, maintaining that the decision to rechristen the fort and some historic edifices situated inside it was taken in November-December. "We have renamed Kitchener House as Manekshaw House," he said.

PTI

Chandrayaan-4 to be launched in 2027: Science, tech minister

NEW DELHI: India will launch the Chandrayaan-4 mission to bring back samples of Moon rocks to the Earth in 2027, science and technology minister Jitendra Singh said. Chandrayaan-4 will involve at least two separate launches of the heavylift LVM-3 rocket that will carry five different components of the mission which will be assembled in orbit.

"The Chandrayaan-4 mission aims to collect samples from the Moon's surface and bring them back to the Earth," Singh said in an interview. He said the Gaganyaan mission, which involves sending Indian astronauts in a spacecraft to low-earth orbit and bringing them back safely, will be launched next year. In 2026, India will also launch Samudrayaan, which will take three scientists in a submersible up to a depth of 6,000 metres in the deep ocean.

PTI

CITYLIGHTS

Polls: 70 strong rooms set up with 3-tier security for EVMs

NEW DELHI: The EVMs and VVPAT machines used in the Delhi assembly elections have been kept in 70 strong rooms with a three-tier security system in place, an official said on Thursday. Delhiites cast their votes in the assembly elections on Wednesday, with results to be declared tomorrow.

"These strong rooms, one for each assembly constituency, are being safeguarded with stringent security measures as part of the Election Commission of India's protocols," an official statement by Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) R. Alice Vaz said.

With a three-tier security system in place, these strong rooms are being heavily guarded by Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPF) at the innermost perimeter, while state-armed police secure the outer perimeter, the statement said. "24x7 CCTV surveillance is in place, covering all sealed doors and corridors, and a double-lock system ensures additional security," the Delhi CEO said.

The strong rooms are accessible only through a single entry/exit point to prevent unauthorised access, he added.

Vaz emphasised that the security measures



Security personnel keep vigil at a counting centre on Thursday

PTI

are not only robust but also transparent, with agents from contesting candidates allowed to monitor the security arrangements round-the-clock via CCTV feeds displayed on monitors at the strong room locations. These agents will also be granted periodic access to the inner perimeter in batches to ensure transparency and verify that all security protocols are being followed, she added. "We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of security and transparency," said Vaz.

PTI

Delhi records minimum temperature of 8.2°C

NEW DELHI: The national capital on Thursday recorded a minimum temperature of 8.2 degrees Celsius (°C), 1.2 notches below the season's average, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The humidity level was 92% at 8.30 am. The IMD has forecast strong surface winds during the day. The maximum temperature is expected to settle around 25 degrees Celsius, it said. Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 180, in the 'moderate' category, at 9 am, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). An AQI between zero and 50 is consid-



People engage in outdoor activities at the Lodhi Garden on Wednesday

SANJEEV VERMA/ HT

ered good, 51 to 100 satisfactory, 101 to 200 moderate, 201 to 300 poor, 301 to 400 very poor, and 401 to 500 severe.

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SCHOOL EVENT

GREEN FIELDS, SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE, HOSTS DISTRICT- LEVEL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION



Green Fields School, Safdarjung Enclave, hosted two-day district-level philatelic exhibition titled UtsavPex 2024 on the theme Festivals and Culture of India with zeal. The exhibition was organised by Sapna Kumari, senior superintendent of post offices, New Delhi South West Division. >P2

WORD POWER

Officious

Uh-fish-uhs (Adjective)

Meaning: Objectionably aggressive in offering one's unrequested and unwanted services, help, or advice; meddlesome.

Origin: First recorded in 1555-65; from Latin officiosus "obliging, dutiful," equivalent to offic(um) "service, duty" + -osus adjective suffix; office, -ous.

Synonyms: Busy, intrusive, obtrusive

Antonyms: Modest, shy, timid, uninvolved

Usage: Officious people who are always ready to offer unasked advice.

WORLD

Trump's Gaza plan: US seems to retreat after global outcry

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's administration appeared to backtrack on Wednesday after his proposal to take over Gaza sparked uproar, with the United Nations warning against "ethnic cleansing" in the Palestinian territory. Facing a wave of criticism from Palestinians, Arab governments and world leaders, Trump's Secretary of State Marco Rubio said any transfer of Gazans would be temporary, while the White House said there was no commitment to sending US troops. Trump, however, insisted "everybody loves" the plan, which he announced to audible gasps during a White House press conference with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

AFP

Architect of B'desh Sheikh Mujibur's house set on fire

DHAKA: Thousands of protesters set fire to the home of Bangladesh's founding leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as his daughter, ousted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, called on her supporters to stand against the interim government. The South Asian nation of 170 million people has struggled with political strife since Hasina was forced to flee to India in August following weeks of protests against her rule in which more than 1,000 people were killed. Witnesses said several thousand protesters gathered around the historic house and independence monument to demolish the building late on Wednesday.

REUTERS

Diversity, inclusion no longer a priority in Google's offices

SAN FRANCISCO: Google parent company Alphabet has stopped making diversity and inclusion a workplace priority, according to a filing on Wednesday with US regulators. The internet giant's annual 10-K report, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), no longer contained a commitment to workplace inclusion and diversity that had been there the prior year. Internally, Alphabet workers were given word that the company no longer had hiring goals based on race or gender.

AFP

SCHOOL REPORTS



The exhibition celebrated India's cultural heritage, festivals and traditions through the fascinating world of philately

Green Fields School, Safdarjung Enclave, hosts district-level philatelic exhibition

Green Fields School, Safdarjung Enclave, hosted two-day district-level philatelic exhibition titled 'UtsavPex 2024' on the theme 'Festivals and Culture of India' with zeal. The exhibition was organised by Sapna Kumari, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, New Delhi South West Division. The event celebrated India's cultural heritage, festivals and traditions through the fascinating world of philately.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Akhilesh Kumar Pandey, Chief Postmaster General, Delhi Circle, and

Major General Sumit Mehta VSM, Chief of Staff, HQ Delhi Area. The exhibition showcased 32 frames of postage stamps, reflecting the country's rich heritage. The highlights of the exhibition included the release of Special Cover with special cancellation on UtsavPex 2024 and NCERT's Jaadui Pitara promoting learning through play.

The activities like DhaiAkhar Letter Competition, stamp designing competition, philately quizzes, magic show, origami and exhibits captivated participants of all ages.

Approx. 2,000 children from 30 schools witnessed the exhibition. The exhibits on Indian cinema, armed forces, flora & fauna, woman empowerment, stamp on khadi, rose & jasmine, Indian culture, and Indian cuisines were showcased.

The initiative fostered cultural awareness and preserved history through philately, underscoring its importance as an educational and creative medium. The event concluded with a grand ceremony, leaving a lasting impact on all those who attended the event.

PRAGATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, DWARKA, HOSTS WORKSHOP ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Pragati Public School, Dwarka, hosted an impactful workshop on disaster preparedness in collaboration with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The workshop, organised by DDMA, aimed to educate students and teachers about effective disaster management strategies and the use of specialized rescue tools during emergencies.

The event featured live demonstrations by NDRF personnel, who showcased advanced rescue equipment, such as a circular saw, and explained its use in real-life rescue scenarios.

The interactive session highlighted the importance of quick response and preparedness in managing disasters like floods, earthquakes, and building collapses. Attendees were given insights into the functioning of life-saving tools and techniques. A senior NDRF officer addressed students, emphasizing the significance of collective efforts in minimizing the impact of disasters. The session also included practical tips for ensuring personal and community safety during crises. Students & staff expressed gratitude for the session, saying such initiatives play a crucial role in building awareness and resilience.



The impactful workshop featured live demonstrations by NDRF personnel



School principal A Amos, centre, addressed the august gathering and welcomed the guests

Students of St. Thomas' Girls Sr. Sec. School, Mandir Marg, present musical 'The Lion King'

The Nursery department of St. Thomas' Girls Senior Secondary School, Mandir Marg, presented the musical, 'The Lion King', the timeless story of courage, destiny and friendship. The chief guest for the first day was Christina Lewis, principal of Frank Anthony Public School, Delhi, while for the second day the chief guest was Christel Devadawson, manager of Queen Mary's School.

It was wonderful to see 325 tiny tots of the Classes Nursery and KG, attired in a kaleidoscope of colours, perform with great zeal.

The event began with seeking God's blessings with the rendition of 'I Wanna be Thankful', a beautiful prayer song by the Nursery choir. Principal A Amos addressed the gathering and welcomed the guests. She appreciated and motivated the

children for their dedication while preparing for the spectacular epic.

Students brought alive the African Savanna on stage with Simba, Rafiki, Mufasa, Scar, Timon, Pumba and other characters, as they journeyed from the Pride Rock to the Jungle. The melodious singers, graceful dancers and energetic performers captivated the audience with their scintillating performance, conveying the important message that one must overcome his or her fears and obstacles, take up responsibilities and embrace our true identity in order to become a good leader.

The guests applauded students for their marvellous performance and wished them good luck. The event ended with a vote of thanks to stakeholders, followed by the national anthem sung with unity and pride.

Students of St Cecilia's Public School,Vikaspuri, take part in INSPIRE Internship Programme

A team of six Class 11 (science stream) students of St Cecilia's Public School,Vikaspuri, who had scored above 90% aggregate marks in Class 10 board exams, took part in five-day INSPIRE Internship Programme, held at Miranda House, DU, under the guidance and supervision of school's science department teachers.

The programme is open annually for students of top 1% performers in Class 10 board exams and pursuing science at +2 level . The event is held under the aegis of ministry of science and technology, government of India.

Students were exposed to interactive hands-on sessions, expert-led demonstrations, keynote lectures by famous scientists, science show by National Science Centre & more.



Six students, who had scored above 90% aggregate marks in the Class 10 board examination, took part in the five-day programme

Students took part in on-the-spot events such as poster presentations, quiz, creative writing challenge, etc. Sherel Rajput won the second position in essay writing competition, displaying her scientific acumen in vocabulary. The principal lauded Sherel for her accomplishment.

SAM International School, Dwarka, hosts district-level competitions with great fervour



The competitions were a spectacular showcase of students' talents & teamwork

SAM International School, Dwarka, hosted the district-level competitions under the aegis of Directorate of Education to bring together the brightest young minds from across the district.

The event was a spectacular showcase of talents & teamwork. The competitions kicked off with a vibrant opening ceremony, featuring a variety of musical categories, including

patriotic songs, folk songs, classical, semi-classical, and light music.

The students from various schools took part in those competitions with passion, showcasing their talents in a display of musical diversity. The competitions were a resounding success as they fostered a spirit of healthy competition, teamwork, and camaraderie among participants.

Rainbow English Senior Secondary School, Janakpuri, celebrates its 19th annual inter-school competition

Rainbow English Senior Secondary School, Janakpuri, celebrated its 19th annual inter-school competition titled 'Infinity: Unleash the Creativity Within' on its premises with splendour. The chief guest for the event was JK Yadav, CTET Director, CBSE, while the special guest was Rabani Jolly, India's youngest graphologist, popularly known as 'Wonder Girl'. Her talent of recognising things by being blindfolded left all spellbound.

School chairman JR Kashyap and principal Sourabh Kashyap welcomed the guests with shawl, memento & a bouquet. The chairman thanked the guests & said they are a source of inspiration for students. Kashyap appreciated participants for putting in their sincere efforts.

The chief guest emphasised that inter-school competitions serve as a platform for students to showcase their potential & talent. He lauded the school's efforts for organising the event in an organised manner.

The annual extravaganza included a myriad of competitions such as Food-O-Manic, Artofest, Mural Art, Mystery Chamber, Mathelete, Lyrical Showdown, Parampara Beats and



The winners were felicitated with cash prizes, trophies, and certificates

Shlok Pravah. The participants demonstrated their creativity and skills to the best of their abilities.

About 900 participants from over 45 schools gathered under one roof to exhibit their skills and talents. The professionals from different fields judged the participants for their aesthetics and creative competency.

The prize distribution ceremony witnessed the proud winners' vivacity. The winners of the competition were felicitated with the cash prizes of ₹3,100, ₹2,100, and ₹1,100 along with trophies and certificates. The event was a grand success as it garnered appreciation of participating schools for providing students a platform to showcase their talents.

South Delhi Public School, Defence Colony, celebrates Annual Sports Day with all zeal

South Delhi Public School (SDPS), Defence Colony, celebrated its Annual Sports Day with great enthusiasm. The school ground was beautifully decorated with colorful balloons, creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere.

The students from Nursery to Class 8 participated in the event, showcasing their athletic skills and sportsmanship. School director Urmila Rawat, chairperson Dipikka Rawat Marya, principal Jyotsna Jain, and co-ordinator Vijaya Srivastava were the guests of honour. The event was



To recognise the efforts of the participants, medals were awarded to the winners of each race

officially declared open by the director, who encouraged students to participate with enthusiasm and enjoy the spirit of sports. The day began with an aerobics and yoga session, where students demonstrated their flexibility, strength, and coordination. The highlight of the event was the variety of races, which included: frog race (where children hopped like frogs to reach the finish line), skipping race (which tested students' agility and endurance), ice cream race (a fun race where participants balanced a ball on a cone while running), and three-legged race, which promoted teamwork and coordination.

Students participated with great excitement, and the cheering from teachers added to the lively atmosphere. To recognise the efforts of the participants, medals were awarded to the winners of each race. The principal congratulated all students for their enthusiasm and encouraged them to continue participating in sports for a healthy & active lifestyle.

MIND GAMES

SUDOKU

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

SCRAMBLE

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

GLAEE
LACKS
AAYCPP
AIUBKK

*	*			*
*	*	*	*	
*		*	*	
*		*	*	

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

To carry care to bed is to __ with a __ on your __ - Thomas Chandler Haliburton (5,4,4)

Answer: To carry care to bed is to sleep with a back on your back - Thomas Chandler Haliburton

KEEPING COUNT

If you count 20 houses on your right while going to school, and 21 on your left while returning, how many houses are there in all, along that road?



Answer: Twenty-one. The houses that were missed out one house during the first count. on your right while going to school are on your left while you're returning, but you missed out one house during the first count.

Amrita Bharati Features

MATHDOKU

7+	9+	2÷		3×
		7+		
3÷	6×	5÷	80×	
			20×	
8+				

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-out lined cells contain a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x - /. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.



Solutions

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

English, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Punjabi, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bengali, Assamese, Bodo, Dogri, Gurmukhi, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Punjabi, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bengali, Assamese, Bodo, Dogri, Gurmukhi

NEW FOSSIL UNEARTHED ON VEGA ISLAND OF VEGAVIS IAAI DATES TO ABOUT 69 MN YEARS AGO

Loon-like waterfowl from dinosaur-era Antarctica is oldest ‘modern’ bird

Reuters

Near the end of the age of dinosaurs, a bird resembling today's loons and grebes dove for fish and other prey in the perilous waters off Antarctica. Thanks to a nearly complete fossil skull, scientists now have identified this waterfowl as the oldest-known member of the lineage spanning all birds alive today.

The new fossil unearthed on Vega Island near the Antarctic Peninsula of the ancient bird named Vegavis iaai dates to about 69 million years ago, approximately three million years before the asteroid strike at the end of the Cretaceous Period that wiped out the dinosaurs, aside from their avian descendants.

Fossils of Vegavis were first described two decades ago. But without sufficient cranial remains its place on the bird family tree had remained ambiguous. The researchers now were able to diagnose Vegavis as nesting among the anatomically modern birds based on two cranial characteristics - the bones of its upper beak and the shape of its brain.

"Both of those features are observable in the new Vegavis specimen," said evolutionary biologist Chris Torres of the University of the Pacific in California, lead author of the research published in the journal Nature.

Vegavis was an early waterfowl, a group that also includes ducks and geese. Vegavis appears to have been ecologically specialized to pursue fish and other prey underwater in a shallow marine ecosystem. Antarctica at the time was not the desolate



A Cretaceous Period bird called Vegavis iaai diving for fish in the shallow ocean off the coast of the Antarctic peninsula, with nautilus-like ammonites and marine reptiles called plesiosaurs nearby, about 69 million years ago, is seen in this illustration image released on Wednesday

REUTERS

land of snow and ice that it is today, but rather a forested landscape with a temperate climate.

Birds evolved during the Jurassic Period from small feathered dinosaurs.

The oldest-known bird, Archaeopteryx, dates to about 150 million years ago. With a mouthful of teeth and long bony tails, the earliest birds were a far cry from modern ones. Vegavis is one of only two modern birds known from the age of dinosaurs. The other one, Asteriornis maastrichtensis, lived about 67 million years ago in what is now Belgium.

Vegavis was the size of a mallard but did not have a bill like a duck. It instead had a spear-shaped beak like a loon.

Its skeletal structure indicates that it dove for its dinner.

"Vegavis almost certainly preyed on fish and small invertebrates that lived in the shallow marine environment near the Antarctic Peninsula, like the diet of certain birds alive today like loons, grebes and even penguins. Exactly how deep it could go and the length of time it could spend underwater is not clear," said evolutionary biologist and study senior author Patrick O'Connor of Ohio

University and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

"We know that Vegavis would have shared the marine ecosystem with other birds and an array of different fishes. But unlike today, it would have also shared the water with classic Cretaceous creatures," O'Connor added, including marine reptiles such as long-necked plesiosaurs and strong-jawed mosasaurs as well as large nautilus-like ammonites.

As preserved, the skull measures about 3 inches (7.6 cm) long, but would have been a bit longer in life because it is incomplete.

"Previous studies noted its body was shaped very similarly to - and thus functioned very similarly to - modern loons and especially grebes. The legs were shifted towards the back of the body, an adaptation to swimming and especially foot-propelled diving, like loons and grebes," Torres said.

"The new fossil expands that similarity to the skull," Torres added, showing that Vegavis had a beak suited to fish hunting along with musculature adapted for pursuit diving, like loons and grebes.

Functionally, its skull is similar to that of loons and grebes - birds that snap their jaws closed against the resistive forces of water in pursuit of fish, Torres said.

Noting that waterfowl are a specialized avian form, the researchers suspect that the first anatomically modern birds actually appeared millions of years before Vegavis.

"We predict that there should be even older examples," O'Connor said. "Whether in Antarctica or elsewhere remains to be seen."

TEMPERATURE IN JANUARY WAS 1.75° CELSIUS HIGHER

Jan was warmest on record despite La Nina's cooling effect: EU climate agency

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The planet experienced its warmest January on record last month despite the development of La Nina, a climate pattern that usually brings cooler global temperatures, the European climate agency said on Thursday. This comes on the heels of the Earth experiencing its hottest year on record in 2024, also the first to see global average temperatures rise 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

According to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), January 2025 recorded an average temperature of 13.23° Celsius, 0.09° warmer than the previous hottest January (2024) and 0.79° above the 1991-2020 average.

Scientists also found that the Earth's temperature in January was 1.75° Celsius higher than pre-industrial levels. Global temperatures have stayed above the 1.5-degree mark for 18 of the last 19 months.

Samantha Burgess, deputy director of C3S, said, "January 2025 is another surprising month, continuing the record temperatures observed throughout the last two years, despite the development of La Nina conditions in the tropical Pacific and their temporary cooling effect on global temperatures." La Nina is a climate pattern where the surface waters in the central Pacific Ocean become cooler than usual, affecting weather worldwide. It typically brings stronger monsoons and heavier rainfall to India while causing droughts in parts of Africa and South America. It also tends to cool global temperatures slightly, unlike its opposite, El Nino, which warms them.

Copernicus scientists also reported that the last 12-month period (Febru-



January 2025 recorded an average temperature of 13.23° Celsius, 0.09° warmer than the previous hottest January (2024) and 0.79° above the 1991-2020 average..

SHUTTERSTOCK

ary 2024 - January 2025) was 1.61° Celsius warmer than pre-industrial times.

Meanwhile, sea surface temperatures (SSTs) remained unusually high in many parts of the world. The average SST for January (between 60° South and 60° North) was 20.78 degrees Celsius, making it the second warmest January on record.

Although signs of La Nina were visible in the central Pacific, ocean temperatures in the eastern Pacific remained above normal, suggesting that the shift toward La Nina may be slowing or stalling. In the Arctic, sea ice reached its lowest extent for January, falling 6% below average, almost matching the record low set in January 2018, Copernicus said.

The World Meteorological Organisation in January declared 2024 the warmest year on record, with the global mean temperature 1.55° Celsius above the 1850-1900 baseline, the period before human activities, such as burning fossil fuels, began significantly impacting the climate.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Budget earmarks ₹128,650 cr for education

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2025-26 on February 1.

In it she earmarked ₹1,28,650.05 crore for education, including ₹78,572.1 crore for the department of school education and literacy and ₹50,077.95 crore for the department

of higher education. She also announced that the government will add 6,500 more seats at Indian Institutes of Technology and 10,000 more medical seats next year.

She also announced that the government will add engineering seats at IITs that started functioning after 2014.

The minister also said the government will establish five national Centres of Excellence for skilling, a new CoE in artificial intelligence for education and 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs at government schools along with broadband connectivity to all government secondary schools.

Sitharaman also announced a sweeping income tax rebate aimed at pleasing the middle class wherein people earning up to ₹12 lakh annually will not have to pay any tax.

Isro's 100th mission

Isro achieved a historic milestone with its 100th mission on Wednesday (Jan 29) when it launched a navigation satellite that would aid in terrestrial, aerial and maritime navigation and precision agriculture, among others, aboard a GSLV rocket. The satellite is the second in the series of the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC). Starting off with the SLV in 1979, it took 46 years for the space agency to cross the 100-mission mark. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle has been used the most with 62 missions.



Grammys

Beyonce won the Grammys' top prize, Album of the Year, for the first time in her career with her country record Cowboy Carter on Sunday. She earned a total of three trophies, bringing her career haul to 35. Indian-American vocalist and entrepreneur Chandrika Tandon won the Grammy for the album Triveni in the Best New Age, Ambient or Chant Album category. Tandon, the older sister of PepsiCo's former CEO Indra Nooyi, won the award with flautist Wouter Kellerman and cellist Eru Matsumoto. One of the biggest moments of the night was Taylor Swift presenting Beyonce with the Best Country Album award.



India win T20 series

India crushed England by 150 runs in the fifth T20I in Mumbai on Sunday to win the series 4-1, courtesy opener Abhishek Sharma's 135 in 54 balls, the second-fastest ton after Shubman Gill's 126 versus New Zealand in 2023 and the highest in T20Is by an Indian. Having been sent to bat, India posted 247/9, their highest in T20Is versus England which mustered just 97 in 10.3 overs. Sharma was named Player of the Match and Varun Chakravarthy Player of the Series.

Tata Steel chess

Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa beat world champion D. Gukesh 2-1 in the tiebreaker to win the prestigious Tata Steel Masters chess tournament in Wijk Aan Zee, Netherlands, on Sunday (Feb 1).

There was huge drama typical of two young players looking to win each and every game they played in the tournament as they played the tiebreak. Praggnanandhaa faced the Benoni with reversed colours in the first game of the tiebreak and it seemed like he had equalised easily in the middle game. However, Gukesh had other thoughts as he kept trying and won, thanks to a blunder by Praggnanandhaa that cost him a full rook.



HT CHRONICLE from the archives of the Hindustan Times

Quiz no. 07022025

The Hindustan Times

ESTABLISHED IN 1924



1 On which day in 1953 did Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurate the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board?

- A. Jan 26 B. Feb 2
C. Aug 10 D. Sept 5

2 In which year did US President George WH Bush and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin announce plans for two full-fledged

summits in that same year, first in Washington and then in Moscow?

- A. 1988 B. 1989
C. 1990 D. 1992

3 On which day in 1934 did a massive earthquake, then known to be world's most terrible one, strike Bihar, killing thousands of people?

- A. Jan 15 B. Apr 22
C. Sept 19 D. Nov 10



4 In which year did India's former cricket team skipper Kapil Dev claim his 400th Test victim, a milestone only crossed by Sir Richard Hadlee of New Zealand till that time?

- A. 1985 B. 1987
C. 1990 D. 1992

5 How many matches did India's former cricket team skipper Kapil Dev play to claim his 400th Test victim?

- A. 97 B. 100
C. 108 D. 115

6 Who was the 400th Test victim of India's former cricket team skipper Kapil Dev?

- A. Mark Taylor
B. Javed Miandad
C. Vivian Richards
D. Arjun Ranatunga



7 How many wickets has legendary New Zealand pacer Sir Richard Hadlee claimed in Test cricket?

- A. 411 B. 418
C. 425 D. 431

8 In which year was Manilal Gandhi sentenced to a fine of ₹50 or 50 days' compulsory labour in South Africa on a charge arising out of a 'passive resistance' procession?

- A. 1947 B. 1950
C. 1953 D. 1955

9 In which year did Capt. CD Barnard tour the British Isles with the "World's First Air Circus," visiting 180 centres and demonstrating the most up-to-date civil aircraft at each town?

- A. 1925 B. 1921
C. 1931 D. 1934

10 In which year did Asif Azim, a 24-year-old engineer from Delhi, earn the dubious distinction of being the first person in India to be convicted for a cyber-crime?

- A. 1999 B. 2003
C. 2005 D. 2008

11 On which day in February 1937 was the Hindu Women's

Right to Property Bill passed in Assembly?

- A. Feb 4 B. Feb 10
C. Feb 16 D. Feb 19

12 In which year did Ceylon celebrated the first anniversary of its independence amid a 21-gun salute fired from the British cruiser Birmingham?

- A. 1949 B. 1952
C. 1954 D. 1957

Answers to quiz #31012025

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 1939 | 7. Annamalai University |
| 2. January 26 | 8. 32 years |
| 3. S. K. Patil | 9. 1940 |
| 4. January 27 | 10. January 28 |
| 5. 1951 | 11. West Bengal |
| 6. 1 | 12. 1947 |

CONTENT FOR QUIZ CALLOUT

Send in your answers separated by commas to htpcedelhi@hindustantimes.com (For example: 1-A, 2-C, 3-D ... and so on) Subject Line: Answers for Quiz #07022025

Send in your entry by February 12, 2025. Remember: Earlier you respond, better your chances to win. The quiz is open only to school students.



Learners explore new vistas, have fun

The five-day HT LitFest held in schools across Delhi-NCR enabled students to look at literature, storytelling, music and craft-making in a new light.

Students in Gurugram, Gautam Buddh Nagar and Dwarka took part in numerous activities on the third, fourth and concluding days of the HT LitFest at KIIT World School, Gurugram; Delhi Public School, Gautam Buddh Nagar and Indraprastha International School, Dwarka, respectively.

At KIIT World School, Gurugram, a sizeable number of learners and teachers cheered as the host school principal Neelima Kamrah and luminaries lit the ceremonial lamp. A gripping dance drama based on the heroism of Rani Laxmibai was performed, that was followed by contests titled Impress Prowess – Ad Mad; Cover Craft – Book Cover Designing;

and Sway & Sync – Dance. Sessions held by resource persons included Aspiring Authors – Crafting Unforgettable Story Characters, Tales Trove – Storytelling, Rhythmshala – Rhythm & Beats and Action Canvas – Theatre & Dramatics.

Action shifted to Delhi Public School, Gautam Buddh Nagar, on day 4 of the festival. The host school principal, Supriti Chauhan, and other dignitaries inaugurated the event. Contests and workshops which were held included Mosaic – The Craft Competition that included Waste to Wonder and Comic Strip Designing; as well as EcoCraft – Bottle Art; Dialogue with the Author – On Suspense Story; Craft, Creativity & Challenges, Tales Trove –

Storytelling session and Kavita Manthan – Poetry Recitation.

At the Indraprastha International School, Dwarka, Anupama Rana, additional director, Indraprastha Schools; Shefalee Gupta, the host school principal; Indra Narayan Das, national head, circulation – HT, and Sanjeev Virmani, sales head, Delhi circulation – HT, set the ball rolling. Engaging the young minds were Mosaic – The Craft Contest, that featured Waste to Wonder, Comic Strip Designing and the Tribal Mask Competition. The sessions held included Rhythmshala – Rhythm & Beats, Tales Trove – Storytelling, Aspiring Authors – Crafting Unforgettable Story Characters, Action Canvas and EcoCraft.

RHYTHMSHALA – RHYTHM & BEATS

Masterful blend of learning and fun

Rhythmshala was an electrifying session that immersed participants in the world of rhythm and beats. Centered around the vibrant energy of percussion instruments, it delved into the fundamentals of rhythm, its cultural significance and the ability to connect and inspire.

Led by rhythmist Ankur Sharan, it offered a hands-on experience where participants discovered the joy of cre-

ating beats and synchronising in a collaborative musical flow.

Whether tapping into their creativity, honing new skills, or simply enjoying the dynamic energy of the moment, the attendees found themselves deeply engaged.

The session blended learning and fun, making it a journey into the heart of music. Perfect for music enthusiasts of all ages, Rhythmshala fostered appreciation for the universal language of rhythm, reminding everyone of its powerful role in bringing people together and sparking joy. It left the students energised and inspired.



NURTURED SKILLS

Neelima Kamrah, Principal, KIIT World School, Gurugram

HT LitFest was a celebration of creativity, innovation and talent. With the enthusiastic involvement of over 850 students, it showcased the transformative essence of literature, art and performance. Organised to mark 100 years of the Hindustan Times, it brought together accomplished authors and experts to conduct enriching workshops. It nurtured creativity, confidence and critical skills of students, enabling them to explore their talents and broaden horizons.



A glimpse of a Rhythmshala session during which artistes enthusiastically jammed on the drums, djembe, flute and other instruments. The students sang initially but gradually took the lead on the instruments as well.



(Top) Students perform during the grand opening and closing ceremonies of the HT LitFest. (Bottom) Principal, KIIT World School, Gurugram, with other dignitaries during the inauguration of the day 3 event.

PEOPLE WHO SHARED VALUABLE INSIGHTS WITH LEARNERS

What experts said about their HT LitFest experience

CONNECTED GEN Z TO MUSIC

Varun Swarup, Flautist (Rhythmshala – Rhythm & Beats Session)

Interacting with children is what I enjoyed most. Music has a way of connecting with students, even if I may not be able to play the flute myself. It's remarkable how music in any form can create an unspoken bond, bridge gaps and foster creativity. Through this workshop, we explored the rhythmic power that music holds, allowing children to express themselves freely and confidently. It was heartening to see the students become more attuned to the melodies around them. Music not only enhances cognitive abilities but also nurtures emotional well-being and I'm glad to have been part of that process, inspiring young minds to embrace the universal language of music.



LIVELY EXCHANGE OF IDEAS

Seema Wahi Mukherjee, Storyteller, Puppeteer & Education Consultant (Tales Trove – Storytelling Session)

The puppetry students actively engaged during the show, which enhanced their creativity and added dynamism to their movements. They not only grasped the basics of puppetry but also embraced storytelling with enthusiasm, transforming the session into a lively exchange of ideas. I was amazed by the students' ability to embody their puppets and bring them to life, weaving narratives that captivated one and all. This interactive learning environment helped them to think critically and express themselves confidently, demonstrating that puppetry is a powerful tool for manifesting creativity. The energy was electric and it was a rewarding experience.



FOCUS ON SELF-EXPRESSION

Rutuparna Das, Performing Artist & Dance Educator (Action Canvas- Theatre & Dramatics Workshop)

As artists, students should know their own feelings, be comfortable with themselves and bring infectious enthusiasm to their performances. Confidence is key to authentic expression and I could see that many of them tapped into their inner selves, letting emotions guide their movements. The workshop wasn't just about learning dance techniques, it was about expressing who they are and what they feel. The energy they brought was contagious and it reminded me of the joy that true expression brings. They didn't just perform; they told their own stories through movements which made every performance unique.



PROMOTED UPCYCLING

Jyoti Shekhar, Craft Expert, Pidilite (EcoCraft- Bottle Art Workshop)

Through workshops on creating the best out of waste using pastel kits, dot mandalas, and bohemian art, students learned how colours can inspire change, developed motor skills and how to create versatile pieces for home décor and school projects. It was incredible to see the students turn everyday objects into beautiful, creative pieces of art. They not only learned valuable skills but also understood the importance of sustainability and creativity in everyday life. The transformation of discarded materials into something new and beautiful sparked a sense of pride and accomplishment in the students. This hands-on approach not only developed their artistic abilities but also helped them discover the endless possibilities of upcycling.



BOOST TO SUSTAINABILITY

Moushumi Choudhury, Craft Expert, Pidilite (EcoCraft- Bottle Art Workshop)

The artistic decoration session encouraged students to explore creativity professionally. It steered them away from gadgets while promoting recycling of materials for meaningful creations. By using everyday items, the students learned how to transform them into works of art which demonstrated how you can be creative with things easily accessible. These sessions highlighted the importance of sustainability and innovation. It was inspiring to see how they embraced the concept of using materials that would otherwise be discarded to create something beautiful and purposeful. The sessions also empowered students not only to develop new skills but also to understand the value of being resourceful and imaginative.



BROUGHT STUDENTS CLOSER TO LITERATURE

Vikramjit Singh Rooprai, Author, Educator and Founder- Libration, (Judge, Mosaic- The Craft Contest)

The HT LitFest, loaded with creative activities, helped bring students closer to literature and rekindle their love for books. The event not only introduced them to various literary forms but also encouraged them to reflect critically on what they read. In an age where misinformation is rampant, this festival served as a timely reminder of how books and literature can shape minds and empower individuals. It was heartening to see students engage so passionately with literature and developing a more profound appreciation for the written word. Students created beautiful comic strips and the creative energy was truly infectious, inspiring both peers and mentors alike.





(Top) Experts from diverse fields hosted engaging sessions for students to make the latter future ready; (Bottom) Students showcased their imaginative prowess and bagged awards galore during the HT LitFest.

ECOCRAFT - BOTTLE ART WORKSHOP

When art, creativity spurred sustainability

The EcoCraft Bottle Art Workshop, led by Pidilite craft experts, was a creative session focused on transforming ordinary bottles into stunning decorative pieces. Participants learned sustainable crafting techniques using eco-friendly materials to upcycle bottles into unique works of art. The workshop taught a variety of skills such as painting, decoupage, and embellishment with expert guidance, ensuring easy-to-follow steps for all skill levels. Beyond crafting, the session emphasised on the importance of recycling and repurposing in a fun, artistic way. Perfect for DIY enthusiasts and eco-conscious individuals, this workshop inspired creativity while promoting sustainability, leaving participants with both beautiful creations and lasting skills.



Experts guide participants in the art of enhancing everyday items like plastic bottles through creative craftsmanship to turn them into beautifully decorated pieces



VIBRANT AND IMMERSIVE LITERARY EXPERIENCE

Supriti Chauhan, Principal, Delhi Public School, Gautam Buddha Nagar

HT LitFest transformed the realm of literature into a vibrant, immersive experience. The attendees were inspired, as the festival bridged the gap between the written word and real-life creativity. It encouraged them

to think critically, create imaginatively and express themselves, transcending the boundaries of reading and learning. HT LitFest encouraged an appreciation for literature and left an indelible mark on young minds.

ASPIRING AUTHORS - CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE STORY CHARACTERS

Insightful experience for aspiring writers



The author shares tips on creating compelling story characters

Aspiring Authors: Crafting Unforgettable Story Characters was an engaging workshop led by award-winning author Sutapa Basu. It was designed to help aspiring writers create compelling and memorable characters. Through interactive sessions, Basu shared techniques for developing multidimensional characters with distinct voices, personalities and motivations. Participants explored

the art of character arcs, backstory creation and emotional resonance, learning how to make their characters relatable and impactful. The workshop included exercises, discussions and insights from Basu's own writing journey. Ideal for budding as well as experienced writers, the session taught participants how to breathe life into their stories and leave a lasting impression on readers.



VIBRANT PLATFORM

Anupama Rana, Additional Director, Indraprastha Schools

The HT LitFest at Indraprastha International School, Dwarka, was a spectacular celebration of creativity, literature and arts. It was a vibrant platform for young minds to explore their potential through engaging competitions, workshops, and performances. Students showcased exceptional talent in crafting stories, creating art and embracing varied forms of expression. The festival fostered a collaborative environment of inspiration and learning. It empowered students to dream, create and thrive.

MOSAIC: THE CRAFT CONTEST

Forum that showcased students' art skills

Mosaic: The Craft Contest was a vibrant celebration of talent and creativity, featuring a variety of engaging competitions that showcased the participants' artistic and expressive skills. The event included exciting challenges like DIY Craft, Bottle Art, Waste to Wonder and Tribal Mask Making, along with imaginative contests such as Comic Strip and Book Cover Designing. Each competition highlighted the participants' ingenuity and artistic flair, fostering innovation and collaboration. Mosaic left a memorable impression, not just for its creative diversity but also for the camaraderie it inspired among participants.



IMMERSION OF ALL SENSES

Shefalee Gupta, Principal, Indraprastha International School, Dwarka

It was a privilege for Indraprastha, Dwarka, to host the HT LitFest closing ceremony. The huge footfall of students and teachers for the bouquet of events was a delight for the eyes and complete immersion of all senses! The sessions were engrossing for the children who listened wonderstruck to stories through puppetry, jammed during Rhythmshala - Rhythm & Beats, made monotonous looking bottles vibrant and picked up tips from a renowned author.



Students display their creations during Mosaic - The Craft Contest. Their enthusiasm to hone existing skills and learn new ones was very impressive.

STUDENTS' VOICES

SPURRED PASSION FOR WRITING

Yash Swami, Class 10, Sri Venkateshwar International School, Dwarka



I attended the Aspiring Author event and the Quiz in which I won the Outstanding Performance Award. I feel inspired to pursue my passion for writing and storytelling with more vigour.

FASCINATING TIME

Ruhani Kumar, Class 7, Ahlcon Public School, Mayur Vihar



It was a wonderful experience attending the rhythm and beats workshop. We got to learn a lot and played a lot of instruments like the shaker and djembe. I feel my understanding of music has expanded.

SHARPENED MY SKILLS

Srishti Mazumder, Class 7, Lotus Valley International School, Noida Extension



As a participant in the drawing competition, I was swept away by the creativity and talent around me. It was a great platform to showcase my skills.

CONFIDENCE BOOSTER

Ishani, Class 5, Sachdeva Public School, Sec-13, Rohini



The slogan I created won the second prize during HT LitFest at Indraprastha School, Dwarka. The amazing experience has instilled in me a lot of confidence.

WORDS AS VEHICLE FOR IMAGINATION

Vivaan Malik, Class 5, G D Goenka Public School, Sec 48, Gurgaon



The workshop on crafting story characters taught us how to express imagination through words.

GOT NEW INSIGHTS

Vanshika Rathee, Class 11, Dwarka International School, Dwarka



It was fascinating to explore how smallest details can bring a story to life. Now I am excited to write stories with deeper emotional layers.

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Aishwarya Choudhary, Class 9, Cambridge School, Noida



Author Chetna Keer told us a lot about suspense stories and the art of dialogue delivery. The workshop encouraged me to look at storytelling from a different perspective.

ENRICHING EVENT

Divya Dhangra, Class 10, Jaspal Kaur Public School, Shalimar Bagh



It was an enriching experience to meet the renowned author Sutapa Basu and attend interactive workshops. For aspiring writers, it was a fulfilling event.

This wraps up the two-part feature

ALL CONNECTED AND ENERGISED BY MUSIC

Kuldeep Sewak, Assistant Manager, MSC Shipping Line & Music Enthusiast (Rhythmshala - Rhythm & Beats Session)



Music was the thread that connected us all. The rhythm flowed effortlessly through the sessions, and the spontaneous energy from both the students and participants created an environment of joy and shared creativity. Music was the perfect medium to bring everyone together, transcending barriers and enhancing the sense of community within the group. It was inspiring to see how music, even in its simplest form, has the power to unify and energise, reminding us all of the collective joy that creative expression brings. Watching students clap, sing along, and create their own beats made the experience even more special.

HONED STORYTELLING SKILLS

Swetcha Pershad, Storyteller & Writer (Tales Trove - Storytelling Session)



Expressing oneself authentically allowed students to break free from the limitations of their imagination and build their own narratives. Storytelling encouraged them to think beyond linear paths, explore perspectives and find creative solutions to daily challenges. Through the session, they not only honed their storytelling skills but also developed their problem-solving abilities, learning to weave experiences and ideas into compelling stories. It was remarkable to see how freely they expressed themselves, broke away from conventional structures and created unique and thought-provoking narratives. In future, the art of storytelling will help them in many aspects of their lives.

WHIRLWIND OF INSPIRATION

Gagandeep Kaur, Craft Expert, Pidilite (EcoCraft - Bottle Art Workshop)



The HT LitFest 2024 was a whirlwind of inspiration and creativity, where every session sparked lively discussions and the energy of the students made it truly unforgettable. Their curiosity and enthusiasm turned the event into a celebration of ideas and stories. From crafting to painting, every student brought something new to the table, enriching the event with their diverse talents and insights. The interactions were filled with joy and the creativity was palpable in every activity. This event highlighted the power of creative expression and how it can bring people together, creating a memorable and impactful experience. It highlighted the power of creative expression and how it can bring people together.

ABSOLUTE DELIGHT

Milli Bhargava, Art & Craft Expert (Judge, Mosaic - The Craft Contest and Kaleidoscope - Painting Competition)



Judging the arts competition was an absolute delight. Seeing the creativity and talent of the young artists was truly inspiring. Their enthusiasm and pride in their work was palpable, making the experience even more enjoyable. As I was reviewing their artworks, I was impressed by the imagination and skills on display. It was a joy to encourage and acknowledge their efforts and I was left with a renewed sense of wonder and appreciation for the artistic talents of the next generation. Each work told a unique story, reflecting the efforts and passion of its creator. Some pieces stood out for their innovative concepts while others captured emotions and exceptional skills.

COMMENDABLE INITIATIVE

Ishika Singh Rathore, Kathak performer /Artist (Action Canvas - Theatre and Dramatics Workshop)



I was invited by the Hindustan Times with Rutuparna Das to conduct a workshop on dance. What stood out to me the most was how enthusiastic the students were about dance — they not only participated but also took the initiative to share their challenges and experiences related to it. The environment was very friendly, fostering open discussions and creativity. HT's initiative to organise the event across different schools to raise awareness among students about arts was commendable. I answered both amusing and thought-provoking questions from the students, helping them to understand and appreciate the art of dance. It was a heartwarming and inspiring experience that I will always cherish.

MUSIC AS THERAPY FOSTERED MENTAL CLARITY

Sourabh Janagal, Mindfulness Coach (Rhythmshala - Rhythm & Beats Session)



The aura of an open roof makes everything more encouraging. The rhythm session was very powerful. As a stress management trainer, I love blending music with therapy. In a space where nature and music met, the students connected with themselves and the world around them. Through the fusion of mindfulness and rhythm, we explored how music can be a form of therapy, how it can promote mental clarity and emotional stability. It was inspiring to see the students embrace this practice and realise how rhythm can serve as a personal outlet and universal language for healing. I look forward to incorporating this in future sessions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, Smt. Ranjana Singh, W/o Sri Sudhir Kumar, aged about 53 years, Sri Sudhir Kumar S/o Sri Ram Kripal Singh, aged about 60 years and Sri Aayush Kumar, S/o Sri Sudhir Kumar, aged about 28 years are permanent residents of Sri Krishna Nagar, Deepshikha Road, Begusarai, Bihar and presently residing at The Aralias, residential colony of DLF City, Phase-V, Gurugram, Haryana, which we had purchased from M/s AHV Infracon Pvt. Ltd. vide Sale Deed No. 291 dated 06.04.2012. M/s AHV Infracon Pvt. Ltd. have also handed over to us their Sale Deed No.24208 dated 11.01.2013 in respect of above property which they had purchased from M/s Universal Advisory Services.


We hereby declare that previous link deeds/documents in respect of the aforesaid property were reported lost by the respective beneficiaries of the property under reference viz.

- (i) Apartment Buyer's Agreement dated 07.08.2003 executed by DLP Universal Limited in favour of M/s Apollo International Limited.
- (ii) Original Conveyance Deed dated 06.01.2009 executed by M/s DLF Utilities Limited and M/s DLF Limited in favour of M/s Apollo International Limited vide their Conveyance/Sale Deed No. 21174, Book No.1, Registered on 06.01.2009.
- (iii) Original Sale Deed No. 21990, Book No.1, Vol No.832, Page No.52-53, Registered on 20.01.2009 executed by M/s Apollo International Limited in favour of Sri Navtej Kohli, S/o Late S. M. S. Kohli.
- (iv) Original Sale Deed No.30535, Book No.1, Vol No. 12988, Page No.18, also posted in Book No.1, Volume No. 1906, Page No.90-91 registered on 06.02.2012 executed by Sri Navtej Kohli in favour of M/s Universal Advisory Services.

We hereby state that necessary FIRs were filed by Sri Navtej Kohli, S/o Late S.M.S. Kohli on 22.03.2010 with Palam Vihar Police Station, Dist.-Gurgaon regarding loss of his original Conveyance Sale Deed No.21990 dated 20.01.2009 and Md. Firoz Khan, S/o Yamin Khan on behalf of M/s Universal Advisory Services filed a FIR No. UD47 on 03.10.2012 with Sadar Police Station, Saharanpur regarding loss of the original Conveyance Sale Deed No.30535 dated 06.02.2012 in respect of the aforesaid property.

We further declare that information regarding loss of above conveyance/sale deeds were given to the general public through insertions/advertisements in two local News Papers at Gurgaon (One in Hindi and one in English) on 07.05.2013, whereby public were requested to deliver the said documents at the stated address if the same are found. Till date nobody has turned up with any and/or all documents.

We now intend to mortgage the above-mentioned property with the State Bank of India, SME CMPDI Branch (Br Code - 05598), Ranchi. Therefore, as a matter of due diligence, even at the cost of repetition, through this insertion /advertisement we once again request the general public to come forward and deliver the said documents to our above address, if at all they have found it. Public at large is hereby informed that if the aforesaid documents are not received or made available to us within 15 (fifteen) days from publication of this advertisement. It will be conclusively assumed that the same is not in existence and the matter will be treated as dealt with and closed and no claim in this regard shall be entertained.



INDIAN RAILWAYS
PATIALA LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
PATIALA - 147003
Tel.: 2396000, 2396001, Fax No.: 91-0175-2306413

CORRIGENDUM to Tender Notice No. PLW/EL/429/R/24
No.PLW/EL/429/R/24 Date 04/02/2025
Tender Notice No. PLW/EL/429/R/24, for "Replacement of defective PCB for inverter type AC installed at various locations of PL W Complex, PL W Patiala for the period of 2 years" was published in Hindi, English and Punjabi news paper on dated 04/02/2025. The Completion period of work may be read as 24 months instead of 03 months in column No. 05. 404/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
निविदा सूचना/2024-25


निम्नीलिखित कार्य के लिए केन्द्र/प्रान्त सरकार के अधिकाधिकी विभाग एवं उनके अधिकृत संयंत्रों में संकीर्ण एवं अनुपेक्षी संयंत्रों से निविदा प्रकाश में है:-
कार्य का विवरण कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत (रु.) निविदा सूचना संख्या
Utility Shifting work on Widening & Strengthening of SH-86A to Borunda. 214.78 Lakh अकाउन्ट्स ई-477/24-25
SITC of MGPS and MOT work for Phase-II of Medical College and Upgradation of Hospital at Tonk. UBN: RRC2425WSO800883 502.73 Lakh अकाउन्ट्स ई-478/24-25
SITC of MGPS and MOT work for Phase-II of Medical College and Upgradation of Hospital at Dausa. UBN: RRC2425WSO800887 547.11 Lakh

निविदा के संबंधित प्रकाश में निविदा सूचना, कोडर नमूना, डाकडाली करने के अधिकारी की सूचना सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन केसाइट: <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in> तथा <http://pwwd.rajjasthan.gov.in/rsrdc> पर देखा जा सकता है। दृष्टिकर्ता संकेतों को अपने निविदा प्रकाश में केसाइट: <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> पर रीकटर्न करवाकर अवलोकन है।
राजस्थान सरकार



RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD
No.:- 481
NIB : 13/2024-25
Dated :- 05/02/2025

Bids for 1. SITC Work of EPABX System, CCTV, Surveillance System, Video Conference System and Fire Alarm with Three year AMC at CM Jan Sunwai Kendra, Mansarovar, Jaipur 2. Lighting & Miscellaneous electrical works of Dome at CM Jan Sunwai Kendra, RHB, Mansarovar, Jaipur 3. 2 Year AMC of 11 KV Package Substation and LT Panels Installed at Coaching Hub, RHB, Pratap Nagar, Jaipur 4. Construction of Nallah at Gaddi Thorianr Beawar 5. Development work of Commercial Shopping Center at Sector-07, Pratap Nagar, Sanganeer, Jaipur are invited from interested bidders from 10.02.2025 to 20.02.2025 up to 6.00 PM. Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state & <http://urban.rajjasthan.gov.in/rhb> Department Website.
UBN No.: RHB2425WSO800334 To RHB2425WSO800338
Raj.Samwad/C/24/11308 Addl. Chief Engineer-I



Office of the General Manager (ADMIN) E-Mail: pejyalnigam@gmail.com
UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL SANSADAHAN VIKAS EVAM NIRMAM NIGAM,
Head Office: 11- Mohini Road, Dehradun
E-Tender Notice

Letter No.: 76/Nivida/30 Dt. 05.02.2025

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. In Lakhs)	Completion Period (In month)
1	Construction Of Proposed Cabins For V.C Room At Distt- Almora, Pithoragarh, Nainital, U.S. Nagar, Dehradun, Haridwar, Tehri, Pauri (Uttarakhand)	875.47	12 Months
2	Name and Address of Officer Inviting the Bid:-	General Manager (Admin), Head Office, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Dehradun	
3	Date and Time of Availability of bid documents in the portal:-	10/02/2025 - 13.00 Hrs.	
4	Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal:-	28/02/2025 - 17.00 Hrs.	

Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in"
General Manager (Admin)



कार्यालय नगर निगम ग्रेटर जयपुर
(जीएन डेवलपमेंट एंड कंस्ट्रक्शन, कार्पाइड, टेंडर सेल, जयपुर)

क्रमांक :- जी.ए.डी./2024/243 दिनांक :- 05/02/2025

ई-निविदा सूचना क्रमांक :- 58/2024-25

मुहाना मण्डी परिसर से सेवापुरा कम्प्लेस्ट प्लाट तक कचरा परिवहन कार्य हेतु पंजीकृत फर्म्स से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र, विकसित सूचना एवं शर्तें आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाइट www.jaipurmc.org, www.sppp.raj.nic.in and www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in पर स्टेट पब्लिक प्रोक्यूरमेंट के UBN No. JMC2425LSO801232 पर देखी जा सकती है।
जयपुर (महानगर), नगर निगम ग्रेटर जयपुर
राज.संवाद/री/24/11297



NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.JHS-N-W-07-25 Date: 03.02.2025

E-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Jhansi, DRM's office, Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite open Tender through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following works.


Description of work : Provision of CCTV Cameras at IBH, RH and LSC over Jhansi division.

Approx Cost : ₹ 17977048.49	Earnest Money: ₹ 239900/-
Cost of Tender Form : Nil	Opening of tender: 25.02.2025 Time 15.00

Completion period from issue of letter of acceptance: 09 Months

Tender on line can be submitted upto 15.00 hrs. on 25.02.2025. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in. (NORTH CENTRAL RLY/JHANSI DIVISION-SAND T) 238/25(DG)

 North central railways  @CPRONCR  www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in



UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2001SGC025867/2358
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwal Road, Dehradun-248001,
Telephone-(0135)-2763672-75, Fax-(0135)-2760289, Website: www.uktenders.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE (NIT)
TENDER SPECIFICATION No. CCP-II/19/2024-2025
Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. Dehradun invites e-tender for following items:

Sl. No.	Name of items	Quantity (Nos.)	Estimate cost (in ₹ Crore)	Average yearly Turn Over of Preceding Three Financial Year (in ₹ Crore)	Earnest Money Deposit (in ₹ Lakh)	Cost of tender document including GST (in ₹)	Last Date & time of online request for Tender and submission of tender in online & off line mode	Date of opening of Part-I of tender in online & off line mode
1	Portable CT-PT Combined Test equipment (Secondary injection based)	20	6.097	9.145	12.193	23 600	24.02.2025 upto 17:00 Hrs.	25.02.2025 at 15:30 Hrs.

For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in.
No.: 57/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Date:- 05.02.2025
"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" Use LED Bulb to Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912)
"Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org" (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 1804185 0405/Fax No. 0135-2760911)

Superintending Engineer
Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)

Office of The Chief Engineer,
M.P. P.W.D., Bridge Construction Zone, Bhopal (M.P.)
Tender Notice

NIT No. 23/C.E. (Bridge Zone)/2024-25 Date : 03.02.2025

Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the mptenders. System of Public Works Department on the Portal www.mptenders.gov.in Tender details are as below :-

S. No.	Tender No.	District	Nature of work	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. in Lack)	(EMD Fee/Tender Fee) All Tender Document & Other Document Submission
1	2025 PWDRB_400456_1	Ujjain	Bridge Work	Balance Work of Railway Over Bridge at L.C No. 103 Nagda Birlagram Road Including Electril Pole Shifting and Street Lighting Work District Ujjain	First	1463.73	Online Only
2	2025 PWDRB_400463_1	Rajgarh	Bridge Work	Balance Work of Construction of Submersible Bridge Across Kali Sindh River on Limboda Kundaliya Road District Rajgarh.	Fourth	797.67	Online Only
				Total		2261.40	

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for Purchase of Document on line is Dated 25.02.2025 up to (17:30). Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

Chief Engineer
PWD, Bridge Construction Zone, Bhopal

G-22675/24 "स्वभाव स्वच्छता, संस्कार स्वच्छता"

File No. ADMIN-20/12/2024-ADMIN-ABVIMS
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

ABVIMS & DR. RML HOSPITAL Invite Expression of Interest (EOI) from all experienced Central PSUs for WIFI solution implementation for college campus associated with RML hospital with cyber security. The last date for submission of proposal to the office of Registrar is **14.02.2025 by 5.00 PM**.

The details of Scope of Works is available on Dr. RML website (<https://rmlh.nic.in>) Interested Participants may please refer to Dr. RML Hospital website for further details.

CBC 17147/11/0012/2425 DIRECTOR, ABVIMS



Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ; CIN: U85310UP2017SSGC102425

Tender Ref. No.: GEM/2025/8/5908153 Date: 05-02-2025

Tender Notice Invitation

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/ Importer/ Authorized Agent for supply of Dental X-Ray Machine, Dental Radiovisography (RVG) Unit with Accessories. The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

S.N.	Activity	Date & Time
1.	Tender Reference No.	GEM/2025/8/5908153
2.	Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document	05/02/2025
3.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	10/02/2025 at 3:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.
4.	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	15/02/2025 upto 16:00 PM.
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	15/02/2025 at 16:30 PM
6.	Date of Completion of Examination of Technical Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
8.	Date of Completion of Examination of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmscl.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates.
Managing Director, UPMSCL
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh



UJVNL Ltd.
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, GIS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone-0135-2763808 Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com.

RO No. 90 E-TENDER NOTICE Date: 05.02.2025

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Maneri Dam, Maneri, Uttarkashi invited online bid from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

1. Tender No.07/EE(E&M)/Maneri Dam/2024-25 Name of work: Annual Routine Maintenance (ARM) of Hydro-Mechanical and Electro-Mechanical equipment of Maneri Dam, Maneri Uttarkashi


Estimated cost: ₹31,09,551.00 (excluding taxes)

Date of availability of bid document on website: 06.02.2025 at 10:00 hrs.

Last date of submission of bid on website: 28.02.2025 at 16:00 hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>.
Executive Engineer (E&M)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"



POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Viduyt Bhawan" Near ISBT, Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675, Tel. Fax no. 0135-2642711

E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-4


"Clarifications-2 of the E-Tender for "Procurement of 125 MVAR Reactor, Online DGA, ODS, NIPPS along with its accessories at 400 KV Substation Kashipur" against Tender Specification No. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/SS-12/2024-25 has been uploaded on e-tender website and the last date of submission of the e-tender is extended upto 24.02.2025 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit the e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id No. 2024_PTCUL_77558_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website www.ptcul.org. All other terms and conditions shall remain same.
For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000
Ro No. 236/HQP/PTCUL DATED 06.02.25 Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)
"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"



Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813;
Website: www.pspcl.in, e-tendering portal: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
Contact No.: 96461-19383, 96461-11036

Tender Enquiry No. QQ-256/2024-25/PO-C Date: 06.02.2025

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor Multistorey Building, The Mall Road, Patiala, invites E-tender of 13,500 Km ACSR Weasel, Nominal Aluminium area 30 mm² bearing ISI/PQM Mark conforming, to IS:398 Part-II 1996 (with Latest amendments, if any and PSPCL specification QQ-256.
For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 11.02.2025 from 12.30 PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C79/25 41464



MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT
Maha Metro, Block No. A3, Food Grain Godown, District Court Pune, Nyaymurti Ranade Path, Shivaji Nagar, Pune - 411005
E-mail : tenders.pmrp@mahametro.org
Web : www.punemetrorail.org Tel : 020-26051074

Tender No. P1PD-41/2025 Date : 07.02.2025

Name of Work : Licensing of Retail Business Spaces having area less than 100 Sq Mtr at selected metro stations at Corridor-1 & Corridor-2 of Pune Metro Rail Project for a period of 09 Years.
Interested bidders may visit Pune Metro Rail website www.punemetrorail.org or download the Tender documents and obtain further details regarding the Tender from e-tender portal of Govt. of Maharashtra <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from 17:00 Hrs. on 07.02.2025 to 16:00 Hrs. of 07.03.2025
General Manager (TP & Procurement - PD)
Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited

Pune Metro : Lifeline of Changing City

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
TENDER REFERENCE NO. E.E. PWSSD NO. 1. AMRITSAR OF 17 OF 2024-25
DATED 05.02.2025

The department of : The Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Division No. 1, Amritsar invites Bid for Civil Work.

Closing date & Time : Closing date 20.02.2025 Time Upto 01.00 P.M. & Opening date 20.02.2025 Time Upto 03.00 P.M.

For detail login to : <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Note: Any Corrigendum(s)/Addendum to the tender shall be published on the above website only.

41425 Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn. No. 1, Amritsar



OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES ZONE, JAIPUR
Sinchai Bhavan, J.L.N. Marg, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur
Email: acejpr.wr@gmail.com

No. F(364)/ACE/JPR/Accts/2024-25/6126 Date: 23.01.2025

e-NIB No. - 14/2024-25

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, bids are invited from eligible bidders for the work of "Remaining work of Rehabilitation of Bundh baretha irrigation Medium irrigation project Bharatpur (RWSLIP)." Estimated value of work is Rs. 870.21 Lac.
Last date of submission of Bid is 20.02.2025. Detailed Bid & Bid document can be seen on & downloaded from official website (<http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> & <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>)
UBN No.: WRD2425WLB01570
NIB Code No.: WRD2425A0433
Additional Chief Engineer
WRD, Zone Jaipur
Diprc/1259/2025



कार्यालय अधिवासी अभियंता (सिविल लाईन जोन)
नगर निगम जयपुर हैरिदेज
(कार्पाइड सेल, जयपुर, जयपुर)

क्रमांक :- एफ.3(1) / अ.अ.सि.ला.जोन/24-25/450 दिनांक :- 06/02/2025

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 37 से 43/2024-25

केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के विभागों में पंजीकृत "ए", "ए" व अन्य उपयुक्त श्रेणी के ठेकेदारों एवं नगर निगम जयपुर के पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से विभिन्न विकास कार्यों की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्यों की अनुमानित लागत, टेण्डर बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तारीख, टेण्डर शर्तें आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण राज्य सरकार के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, www.sppp.raj.nic.in तथा नगर निगम जयपुर हैरिदेज की Web Site www.jaipurmcheritage.org पर देखी व Download की जा सकती है तथा निर्धारित अवधि तक ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। SPPP portal UBN No. JMC2425WSO801247 To JMC2425WSO801253
राज.संवाद/री/24/11304 अधिवासी अभियंता, सिविल लाईन जोन
नगर निगम जयपुर हैरिदेज



thsti BRIC-Translational Health Science and Technology Institute
(An Institute of the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council, Govt. of India)
NCR Biotech Science Cluster, 3rd Milestone, Faridabad – Gurugram Expressway, P.O. Box No. 04, Faridabad – 121001

Recruitment Notice Nos. THS-C/RN/01/2025 & THS-C/RN/02/2025

THSTI proposes to fill the following positions under its projects:
1. Consultant - Clinical Research Associate. 2. Sr. Program Manager (Regulatory Affairs)

For more details, please visit our website: www.thsti.res.in



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CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Cummins, Hazlewood injured; Stoinis retires

MELBOURNE: The pace duo of skipper Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood joined the injured list while all-rounder Marcus Stoinis shockingly called it quits from ODIs to vacate his place as Australia's Champions Trophy squad unravelling just days before the tournament.

The eight-team Champions Trophy begins on February 19 and Australia have until February 12 to make at least four changes to their provisional squad of 15 after Cummins and Hazlewood joined all-rounder Mitchell Marsh in the injured category.

Complicating matters was Stoinis, who declared on Thursday that he would no longer play the ODI format to "fully focus on the next chapter" of his career, which might mean free-lancing in T20 leagues. The 35-year-old, who has never played Tests, was picked in the provisional squad and will remain available for national duty in T20 Internationals.

Cummins has not recovered from the ankle niggle that plagued him towards the end of the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series against India, while Hazlewood is still recuperating from a calf strain.

Hazlewood's last competitive outing was against India in the drawn third Test in Brisbane.

The turmoil has hit the country's national selectors just days before the quadrennial showpiece gets underway from February 19. While India will play all their matches in Dubai owing to security concerns, Australia will be based in Pakistan, the original hosts of the event.

"Unfortunately Pat, Josh and Mitch are managing some ongoing injuries and haven't come up in time for the Champions Trophy," national selection panel chairman George Bailey said in Galle, where the team is playing the second Test against Sri Lanka right now.



Marcus Stoinis retired from ODI cricket citing the need to focus on playing T20Is.

REUTERS

CRICKET

Kohli misses 1st ODI vs Eng with sore knee

NAGPUR: A sore right knee forced Virat Kohli out of the first ODI against England here on Thursday but the extent of the problem was not immediately clear.

With the ongoing series, India entered the final phase of its Champions Trophy preparations and the side is already grappling with the lingering doubts around pace talisman Jasprit Bumrah's availability.

The Champions Trophy is due to start on February 19 in Pakistan with India playing all their matches in Dubai from February 20.

The management would hope that Kohli's knee injury is not too serious and he is good to go in the remaining two matches of the showdown against England. The second game is

in Cuttack on February 9, followed by the series-female in Ahmedabad on February 12.

"Unfortunately Kohli not playing, a right knee problem that happened last night," skipper Rohit Sharma said at the toss, surprising everyone.

The BCCI came up with a one-line statement, which added nothing more to what Rohit had revealed. "Virat Kohli was unavailable for selection for the 1st ODI due to a sore right knee, the Board update read.

It is understood that Kohli didn't bat for a long time due to apparent discomfort during Wednesday's nets. On Thursday before the match, his right knee was seen heavily strapped when he came out to do some shuttle sprints.

BADMINTON

BWF set to test new scoring system in April

NEW DELHI: With an aim to attract new audience to the sport and make the matches shorter, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) is set to trial a new 3x15 scoring system in selected competitions for at least six months, starting April this year.

The existing format offers 21-point best-of-three-game matches (3x21).

The BWF Council, the decision-making body of the world governing body, endorsed the 3x15 scoring system, which is already part of the Alternative Laws of Badminton, to replace the current scoring system during its meeting in Kuala Lumpur

in November.

International Challenge, International Series and Future Series competitions fall under Grade 3 tournaments.

Under the original scoring system, matches were decided in a best-of-three format—15 points for men's and all doubles fixtures, and 11 points for women, with only the person serving winning a point.

The BWF also introduced an 11x5 scoring system on an experimental basis in 2014. It was again proposed in 2021 but failed to gain the required votes during the 82nd BWF AGM.

LEAGUE CUP

Newcastle hammer Arsenal, aim to end 70-year drought

Agencies

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: Newcastle is back in the English League Cup final for another chance to end its 70-year wait for a major domestic trophy.

The Saudi-controlled northeast club beat Arsenal 2-0 in the second leg of the semifinals Wednesday to advance 4-0 on aggregate. Jacob Murphy and Anthony Gordon scored the goals at a boisterous St. James' Park.

Newcastle will play either Tottenham or Liverpool in the March 16 final at Wembley Stadium. Tottenham leads 1-0 after the first leg, with the return match at Anfield on Thursday.

For Newcastle, it marks another opportunity to capture a first piece of silverware since being bought by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund in 2021. Newcastle's last trophy was the now-defunct Inter-Cities Fairs Cup in 1969 and the most recent domestic title was the FA Cup in 1955.

Newcastle reached the 2023 League Cup final, but lost 2-0 to Manchester United.

"Play like that and we can dream big," Newcastle captain Bruno Guimaraes said after the Arsenal match. "It would be amazing in my first season as the captain to lift a trophy, it is my dream." Arsenal arrived buoyed by a 5-1 thrashing of Manchester City in the Premier League on Sunday and looking to overturn a 2-0 deficit from the first leg against Newcastle at Emirates Stadium last month.

Mikel Arteta's team failed to handle the lively atmosphere inside St. James', with its usually solid defense looking fragile and almost conceding after just four minutes when Alexander Isak was played through on goal and finished into the top corner. It was disallowed for offside following a video review and the decision was announced to fans inside the stadium by the referee via a wireless microphone — a practice being trialed in the English League Cup ahead of use in the Premier League.

After Martin Odegaard hit the post for Arsenal, Newcastle took the lead in the 19th when Isak struck a shot against the post and Murphy converted the rebound.

Arsenal's remote chances of a comeback were further hit when Gabriel Martinelli went off with a muscle injury before halftime, and Gordon virtually secured Newcastle's place in the title match by scoring the second after Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice was dispossessed outside his area by a sliding Fabian Schar.

The ball flew straight to Gordon,



Newcastle United's Anthony Gordon celebrates scoring their second goal against Arsenal on Thursday.

REUTERS

who swiveled and shot into the bottom corner past stranded goalkeeper David Raya.

Arsenal, a two-time League Cup winner, was looking to reach the final for the first time since 2018, when it lost 3-0 to Man City.

Newcastle fans taunted Arsenal's manager in the last few minutes, singing: "Mikel Arteta, it must be the ball." It was a reference to Arteta saying after the first leg that the ball used in the League Cup was "very different to a Premier League ball" after his team missed several chances.

And Gordon appeared to deliver a

post-match dig at Arsenal, whose players and fans had delighted in goading Man City striker Erling Haaland on Sunday for his "stay humble" comment in the previous match between the teams.

"It is important for us to stay humble now," Gordon said ahead of the final. "It will be a big occasion but it's so far away."

Neymar returns for Santos

SANTOS: Neymar took powerful shots from the edge of the box and ran above his own expectations in 52 minutes on the pitch for Santos on

Wednesday in his first game for the Brazilian club since his return last week.

Then he took the opportunity to hit back at his former Al-Hilal coach, Jorge Jesus, who had cast doubts over Neymar's form to play.

The 33-year-old striker wasn't able to cap his night at Vila Belmiro Stadium with a win on his birthday — Santos drew 1-1 draw with Botafogo Ribeiro Preto.

Saudi club Al-Hilal terminated Neymar's contract by mutual consent last week after he played only seven matches since September 2023.

NATIONAL GAMES

Niraj shines bright, edges past Swapnil and Tomar for gold

Press Trust of India

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

DEHRADUN: Indian Navy's Niraj Kumar stunned Paris Olympics bronze medallist Swapnil Kusale and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar to win gold in the men's 50m rifle 3-positions at the National Games here on Thursday. Representing Services, the 25-year-old Niraj, who is no stranger to winning medals in top competitions, shot a remarkable score of 464.1 to secure top spot.

Madhya Pradesh's Tomar secured silver with a score of 462.4 while Maharashtra's Swapnil, who made history as the first Indian shooter to win an Olympic medal in this event with his bronze at Paris last year, settled for third place (447.7).

Niraj has undergone training at the Elite Shooting Academy at the Padukone Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence (CSE) in Yelahanka, Bangalore.

Meanwhile, in the 10-metre air pistol mixed team event, Haryana's Suruchi Singh and Parmod defeated Rajasthan's Anjali Shekhawat and Umesh Choudhary 17-7 to clinch the gold medal. The bronze went to the Maharashtra combine of Rahi Sarnobat and Pranav Arvind Patil after the pair crushed Uttarakhand's Abhinav Deshwal and Yashasvi Joshi 17-3. These two events marked the end of the shooting competitions at the ongoing Games. In the mixed event qualification, 19 teams fought for slots in the medal rounds.

In the 3P final, Niraj, who has 1 World Championship, 1 World Cup and 2 Asian Championship medals under his belt, maintained his lead



Indian rifle shooter Niraj Kumar.

HT PHOTO

through the competition to pip his more fancied opponents.

Niraj has beaten the likes of Swapnil and Aishwary in the selection trials for the Paris Olympics too.

Commonwealth Games lawn bowls golden women sparkle

India's historic gold winning team members of 2022 Commonwealth Games — Lovely Choubey and Rupa Turkey — shone on lawn bowls field while Balraj Panwar strengthened his

status as a top rower as star performers from minor sports grabbed the spotlight at the National Games here on Wednesday.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands cyclist David Beckham Elkatochoongo, whose middle name saved him from being denied entry in the United Kingdom for the 2022 CWG, claimed his second gold of the Games, winning the men's time trial 1km event to add to his top podium finish in sprint on Tuesday.

OZ BOWLERS RULE AS SRI LANKA POST 229/9 ON OPENING DAY OF 2ND TEST

Agence-France Presse

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

GALLE: Australia were firmly in the driving seat despite a spirited Sri Lankan fightback to reach 229/9 at stumps on day one of the second Test in Galle on Thursday.

Mitchell Starc and Nathan Lyon took three wickets apiece.

Sri Lanka, who won the toss and opted to bat, had looked to be in control at 93/1 — putting behind them the loss of the first Test by an innings and 242 runs last week.

But Dimuth Karunaratne — in his 100th and final Test — was slow to bring his bat down, dragging a ball from Lyon on to his stumps for 36 and handing Australia a crucial breakthrough.

The hosts soon nosedived to 127/5 during a chaotic hour that left Sri Lanka reeling.

The only remaining recognized batter, Kusal Mendis, found a willing ally in off-spinner Ramesh Mendis.

Recalled to the side for this crucial clash, Ramesh played the perfect supporting act, adding a vital 65-run stand for the seventh wicket with his namesake.

The Australians threw everything at them, but the duo held firm, negotiating the sharp turn and extra bounce with aplomb.

While Ramesh was rock-solid in defence, Kusal took a more aggressive route.

Sri Lanka made three changes to the side that slumped to their heaviest Test defeat in the series opener, bringing in opener Pathum Nissanka, fast bowler Lahiru Kumara and Ramesh Mendis.

FAREWELL



Former Real Madrid defender Marcelo (R) announced his retirement from professional football on Thursday after a trophy-laden career.

AP