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General public is hereby informed that Ravendra Kumar S/o Late Shri. T.R. Saini R/o 10/601 Amarapali Grand, Greater Noida-201310 have disowned our son Vikramaditya Saini and his wife Sapana Gupta with their two minor sons from our movable and immovable property. We are not responsible for their actions. In future for their social economic and unlawful activities they themselves will be fully responsible.

TENDERS

NOTICE: INVITING TENDER

Station ASC Gas Agency, 226 Coy ASC (Sup) Type 'G' invites bids for temporary hiring of multi-tasking persons for various work at Station ASC Gas Agency for the period 01 Oct 2023 to 30 Sep 2024. Tender forms are available at Station ASC Gas Agency, Delhi Cantt-10, from 30 Aug 2023 to 05 Sep 2023 from 1000hrs to 1700hrs for @Rs. 1000/- (non-refundable). The tender bids will be opened at 1200hrs on 06 Sep 2023.

Contact No  
7505922686, 7895708903

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE DEATH

Dr. Annie Sudarsanam nee Verghese  
Retired Professor, Clinical Pathology  
CMC, Vellore - 1957 Batch  
Passed away peacefully on  
26/08/2023 at Katpadi  
Funeral: Wednesday, 30th August,  
2pm at St John's Church, Vellore  
Thambu 9486660653  
Rani 9486660654

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JND-NDE

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED  
Credit Recovery and Management Department  
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail Id : [crmd@cityunionbank.in](mailto:crmd@cityunionbank.in), Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

### POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., having its Administrative Office at No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001 and one of the Branch Offices at C-9/115, Sector 8, Rohini, New Delhi, Delhi, New Delhi-Rohini Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 07-06-2023 calling upon the borrowers No.1) M/s. Balaji Enterprises, 22/19/4, Samaypur, Gali No.8, Delhi - 110042. No.2) Mr. Pardeep Kumar Jain, S/o. Raj Kumar Jain, No.140/28, Gali, Garhi, Ghasita, Gopal Nagar, Bhrampant, Near Shiva Hospital and School, Sonapat, Haryana - 131001. No.3) Mrs. Shikha Jain, S/o. Ram Chandar Jain, No.140/28, Gali, Garhi, Ghasita, Gopal Nagar, Bhrampant, Near Shiva Hospital and School, Sonapat, Haryana - 131001. No.4) Mr. Raj Kumar Jain, S/o. Ram Chandar Jain, No.140/28, Gali, Garhi, Ghasita, Gopal Nagar, Bhrampant, Near Shiva Hospital and School, Sonapat, Haryana - 131001 to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.31,02,837/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakh Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Seven only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 30-05-2023 with monthly rests. The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 24th day of August 2023. The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs. 32,11,236/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Eleven Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty Six only) and interest thereon from 24-08-2023 till the repayment of entire dues. The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. **Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Mr. Pardeep Kumar Jain, S/o. Raj Kumar Jain & Mr. Raj Kumar Jain, S/o. Ram Chandar Jain)** All that piece of land or Ground and being one Residential Free hold entire property bearing House No.140/28, MustilKilla No.156(2-10), 158(10-1), Area Measuring 150 sq. Yards (approx.) Colony known as Garhi Bhrampant, Garhi Ghaseta, Sonapat, Haryana and bounded as under as per (Sale Deed Dated 22-10-2012) Situated in the Revenue Estate of Village, Garhi Bhrampant, Gali, Garhi, Ghaseta, Gopal Nagar, Sonapat, Haryana - 131001, Area Municipal Committee Sonapat, Abadi Garhi Ghaseta Sonapat Haryana and bounded as under : North : House of Master Ustain Jain, East : House of Shri Pratap, West : House of Shri Rattan Lal, South : Gali Place : Delhi. Date : 24-08-2023 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : [www.cityunionbank.com](http://www.cityunionbank.com)

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### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at Near Youdhvir Singh Park, Kaccha Bag, Chandni Chowk, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 72A Dated 25.08.2023 has been lodged in P.S. Kotwali, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under: **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 24-25 Years **Height:** 5'5" **Feet, Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Grey Color T-Shirt and Blue Color Jeans Pant. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned. **S.H.O P.S. Kotwali, Delhi Ph: 9968515921**

DP/9659/N/2023

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### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

#### OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRISONS

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Website :- [www.jkprisons.org](http://www.jkprisons.org), email:- [jk-prison@gmail.com](mailto:jk-prison@gmail.com)  
Ph/ Fax : Srinagar (May-Oct) :- 0194-2457969- 2457811 Jammu (Nov-Apr) :- 0191-2561004 - 2561008

#### e-TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF HARDCOKE / CHARCOAL/REJECTION WOOD FOR ALL JAILS OF J&K (U/T)

#### E-Nit No. 06 of 2023 Dated:- 25.08.2023

- For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tender(s) through online mode are invited eligible vendors/firms for supply of Hardcoke, Charcoal and Rejection woods.
- Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specifications of items, quantities, set of terms and conditions of supplies, and other relevant details can be seen/downloaded from the [website www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and [www.jkprisons.in](http://www.jkprisons.in)

Schedule of Tender:-

a. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25-08-2023
b. Period of downloading of bidding documents	25-08-2023 from 1800 Hrs to 08-09-2023 upto 1400 Hrs.
c. Bid Submission Start Date and Time	28-08-2023 from 1800 Hrs.
d. Bid Submission End Date and Time	08-09-2023 upto 1600 Hrs.
e. Date and Time of opening of Technical Bids in online mode	11-09-2023 1200 Hrs in the office of Director General of Prison J&K

**3. Tender Fee (Cost of tender documents)**  
An amount of ₹ 1500/- towards the cost of the tender fee has to be deposited by the bidder in the following bank account:-  
**Name of the Account Holder : FA/CAO-Prison Department, J&K**  
**Account Number : 0110010100000289**  
**Name of the Bank : J&K Bank**  
**Branch : J&K Bank Civil Sectt. Jammu**  
**IFSC : JAKA0MOVING**

Scanned copy of the receipt towards deposit of amount of tender fee has to be necessarily uploaded along with the bid documents.

- The bidder has to submit Earnest Money of ₹ 3.20 lacs (Rupees Three lacs Twenty thousand only) in the form of CDR/FDR issued by a scheduled Bank, drawn and pledged in favour of FA/CAO Prison department and payable at Jammu. The bidder has to upload the scanned copy of the CDR/FDR alongwith other documents during the submission of the bid within the above-mentioned date and time of bid submission.
- The department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
- The tender shall be in two bid cover system (Technical Bid and Financial Bid).

No. Accnts/N/4760 Dated 25.08.2023 **Sd/- Financial Advisor/CAO Prisons Department J&K, Jammu**

DIPK-7835/23 Aug 26 2023

### NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

#### E-Tender Notice No. 06-TMC-BCM-OS-2023-24 Dated 25.08.2023

On behalf of the President of India, CE/TMC, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following E-Tender: **Open Tender No./due on:** 06-TMC-BCM-OS-2023-24 due on 03.10.2023. **Name of work:** Providing service of Deep screening of all types of main line track on BG routes of North Eastern Railway as per scope of service using service provider's own BCMs & allied machines along with his own spares, consumables and staff etc. for operation and maintenance of incidental site work. No transfer of property in goods between service provider and Railways shall be part of the scope of service. **Description of work:** Schedule-A (As per attached tender document), Qty. Required: As per attached Schedule in tender document, **Place of work:** To work in NER. **Work Completion Period:** 180 months, **Estimated Tender Value (Rs.):** ₹260,10,32,046.08, **Earnest Money (Rs.):** ₹1,00,00,000.00. **Note:** 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tender is available in website on <http://ireps.gov.in> up to 15.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, bidders are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. Earnest Money should be deposited through online. 6. Tenderers quoting financial conditions deviating from tender condition stipulated in tender document are required to quantify its implications in financial term duly enclosing the calculation sheet supporting with authentic document, so that the impact of such financial condition on the offer may be worked out to decide inter-seposition of offers. In case tenderer quotes such financial condition without quantifying its financial implications, such tenders/offers shall be summarily rejected, for which Railway Administration shall not entertain any correspondence. 7. Tenderers are requested to read complete tender document carefully. 8. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. **1. Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC-9794840218** **2. SSE(TMC)/HQ-9794840293** **Astt. Executive Engineer/TMC/III CP/ROW-285** **Gorakhpur**  
About a passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

### HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

#### "NOTICE INVITING TENDER"

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division, Pooch Distt. Kinnaur invites item rate tender on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh from the eligible contractors for the following works through offline process.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	Time limit in months
1.	R/R Damages to FIS Gangtoka in GP Chango Sub-Tehsil Hangrang (HP) (SH- C/O Wire Crate, C/O Pattra Cutting L/J HDPE pipe 225 mm OD and Removal of Slips at various RDs)	397623	8000	250	6
2.	A/R & M/O various WSS under Jal Shakti Sub-Division Yangthang Sub-Tehsil Hangrang Distt. Kinnaur (HP) (SH- Energization for 3 nos. of Handpump under Jal Shakti Section Chango )	175170	3500	250	1
3.	C/O WSS Kanam Nallah to tap new source for rungra village in GP Spillover Tehsil Pooch Distt. Kinnaur (HP) (SH- C/O Storage Tank of Capacity 10000 Ltr. Laying, Jointing GI Pipe of 25 mm Dia (M) from RD 0/2050 to 1450.00)	339743	6800	250	6
4.	A/R & M/O to FIS Khamas in GP Lippa Tehsil Moorang Distt. Kinnaur (HP) (SH- Removal of slips, C/O Dry stone lining in the channel, Laying and jointing of HDPE 63 mm OD)	135658	2800	250	3
5.	A/R & M/O FIS Thangi in GP Thangi Tehsil Moorang Distt. Kinnaur (HP) (SH- C/O Dry stone Lining, Removal of slips)	182527	3700	250	1
6.	A/R & M/O WSS Pooch Colony in GP Pooch Tehsil Pooch Distt. Kinnaur (HP) (SH-Dismantalling and relaying of GI Pipe and L and jointing of G.I. pipe including earth work etc) Job No. 2	375283	7600	250	6
7.	A/R & M/O WSS Pooch Colony in GP Pooch Tehsil Pooch Distt. Kinnaur (HP) (SH-Dismantalling and relaying of GI Pipe and L and jointing of G.I. Pipe including earth work etc) Job No. 1	235174	4800	250	6
8.	R/R Damages to FIS Johang in GP Chango Sub-Tehsil Hangrang Distt. Kinnaur (HP) (SH- C/O Wire Crates at various RD.s)	157386	3200	250	1
9.	R/R Damages to FIS Holiyati in GP Giabong Tehsil Pooch Distt. Kinnaur (HP) (SH- C/O Wire Crates at various RD.s)	348124	7000	250	2
10.	R/R Damages to FIS Holiyati in GP Giabong Tehsil Pooch Distt. Kinnaur (HP) (SH- Removal of slips)	250651	5100	250	1
11.	R/R Damages to FIS Kochal Burtum Basti and Pathang in GP Sunnam Tehsil Pooch Distt. Kinnaur (HP) (SH- C/O wire crates at various RD.s)	393199	7900	250	1

Last date of sale of tender form 04-09-2023 till 05.00 PM. Last date of submission of tenders 05-09-2023 till 3.00 PM and shall be opened on same day at 3.30 PM. Tender document and other detailed conditions can be received from the divisional office. **Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Pooch Distt. Kinnaur (HP)**

HP / 2350/23-24 **HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

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S & C and Audit Department  
Corporate Headquarters, M. A. Road  
Srinagar, Kashmir

## NOTIFICATION

Due to the limited response received, online applications process from the Retired Officers of J&K Bank & Retired Officers of Other PSU Banks for engagement as Credit Auditors for the period 01/10/2023 to 30/09/2024 for the Branches/LCUs of the bank at various states / UT's across the country, is hereby reopened for a further period of seven (07) days from August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Eligibility Criteria:-**

- Having retired honorably, either superannuated or through VRS (not having been awarded any punishment (major or minor), not charge sheeted & punished for serious lapses/offences in his/her active service). In this regard, a certificate in the prescribed Annexure from the Human Resource Department of Head Office of their respective employer banks should be furnished by the retired officers of other PSU Banks.
- Officer retired as Scale III or above and having minimum experience of 15 years as an Officer in the bank with satisfactory track record including 3 years of experience in dealing with high value credit, project finance, consortium lending, foreign exchange portfolio at Branches or at controlling office/s or as Credit Auditor.
- Must not be above the age of 65 years as on 01.09.2023.
- Must be medically fit to carry the assignment of the Credit Audit (a certificate from a medical practitioner (minimum MBBS) to this effect must be submitted with the application). Must be able to undertake travel even to distant Branches/LCUs/places for audit/inspection/security verification, in case of need.
- Having adequate computer knowledge and should be able to handle computers independently as the inspection report has to be punched online.
- Must be well versed and familiar with Finacle Core Banking Solution (CBS).

Application format is available on Bank's website [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com). Applications have to be submitted online within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notification, i.e by or before 03.09.2023.

Hard Copies of downloaded application form along with duly filled annexures should reach the office of Deputy General Manager, S, C and Audit Division, J&K Bank Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001 by or before 05.09.2023.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any application without assigning any reason thereof.

No.S&C/RAUDIT/CHQ/23-Dated : 28.08.2023 **Sd/- Deputy General Manager S, C and Audit, CHQ**

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L65110JK19385GCO0048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : [info@jkbank.com](mailto:info@jkbank.com) ; W : [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com)

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## Manipur govt. plans to supply essentials to tribal district

Commodities to be transported to Churachandpur through Assam and Mizoram, with the help of Army and other forces, as route from Nagaland blocked by Meitei groups; medical supplies to the hill district to be ensured through aerial route

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Manipur government will start transporting essential commodities to the hill district of Churachandpur from Monday, in coordination with the Army and other Central security forces. A State government statement said medical supplies would also be taken to the district, with the Health Department undertaking aerial supply using the Border Security Force, Assam Rifles and Manipur Police.

Supplies to the district, which is dominated by the tribal Kuki-Zo community, have been disrupted as critical highways have been blocked by women-led Meitei groups. Trans-



Up in flames: Three houses in Imphal were torched on Sunday. PTI

porters in Imphal have refused to ply to the area, citing the risk to their personal safety.

In retaliation, on August 21, a Kuki body re-imposed its blockade on the Dimapur-Imphal National Highway-2 in Kangpokpi district, a route through which essentials are sup-

plied to the Meitei-dominated valley areas. However, an alternative route exists to supply the valley.

Now, the State government is starting to develop alternative supply routes for the tribal areas as well. "Alternative supply chain-cum-transportation of essential commodities to

Churachandpur district has been taken up through Silchar (Assam) and Aizwal (Mizoram) as the supply chain from Imphal-Dimapur (Nagaland) is broken," the government statement said.

It added that issues faced during transportation include the unwillingness of transportation operators to operate between Imphal and Churachandpur, and other law and order issues at the inter-district boundary.

The State government said that the security issues are being addressed by the State Police along with the Assam Rifles, Central Armed Police Forces, and district trade and commerce departments.

Regular review meet-

ings on the price and availability of commodities are being held by the district commissioner. Retail sale of rice was also undertaken from the stock held by the Food Corporation of India, including 4,823.50 quintals of rice sold under its open market scheme. Price reporting centres have also been established and stringent action is being taken against those manipulating market prices, the State government said.

### Protest after fire

On Sunday, protest erupted in Imphal East district after a fire that began at a Kuki house spread to a few Meitei homes too. A police official told *The Hindu* that it was not an accidental fire and appeared to be a "mischief".

## Shah urges police to adopt soft stance on tribal, student unrest

Vijaita Singh  
NEW DELHI

Listing tribal unrest and student protests among the key policing challenges that could emerge in the near future, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is learnt to have told over 750 police officials at a conference last week to adopt a different and more "conciliatory" approach to such issues.

Mr. Shah chaired the National Security Strategy Conference, organised by the Intelligence Bureau (IB), on August 24 and 25. Top police officials from across the country attended the meeting held in hybrid mode.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that Mr. Shah pointed out that policing was not the only solution for issues such as tribal unrest.

"The Minister stated that tribal people comprise around 9% of the population, and while handling their issues, the police should be conciliatory. A broader perspective is required and their issues should be prioritised, especially in areas where it is not bordering on insurgency," the official said.

At the conference, Mr. Shah also remarked that student protests should be dealt with differently. "He spoke about the protests that emanated after the Agnipath scheme was announced, and the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) earlier this year when thousands hit the streets against change of pattern in examination," another government official said.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 10

### IN BRIEF

Nuh on edge over call for yatra; pray at temples: CM Lal

### GURUGRAM

Amid tensions in Nuh over the call for the *Jalabhishek Yatra* by the Sarv Hindu Samaj and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad on Monday, Haryana CM Manohar Lal urged people to offer prayers at nearby Shiva temples as the administration has not given permission for the procession. » Page 2

### Eight killed in blast at Bengal fireworks unit

### KOLKATA

At least eight persons were killed in a blast at an illegal firecracker manufacturing unit at Mochpol in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on Sunday. Two of the dead were identified, while six bodies yet to be identified have been kept at the Barasat Medical College and Hospital. » Page 4

EDUCATION PLUS » PAGE 5

## Neeraj Chopra crowned World champion

Agence France-Presse  
BUDAPEST

Neeraj Chopra added a World title to his Olympic gold, recording a best throw of 88.17m on Sunday. The 25-year-old stamped his mark on the

final early on with his winning throw coming in the second round.

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem claimed silver (87.82m) ahead of Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch (86.67m).

In the men's 4x400m

relay, India finished fifth with a timing of 2:59.92s. USA claimed the gold with 2:57.31 ahead of France (2:58.45) and Great Britain (2:58.71).

FULL REPORT  
» PAGE 15



Neeraj Chopra claimed the World title on Sunday. REUTERS

## Dalit youth's murder in M.P. triggers political row

The Hindu Bureau  
RAIPUR

A Dalit youth was beaten to death with sticks and batons, and his mother was allegedly stripped and assaulted, by a group of men in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district this past week.

The accused were putting pressure on the victims' family to withdraw a four-year-old police sexual harassment case filed by the sister of the murdered youth, the family said.

The murder and sexual assault, which took place in a district with a significant Dalit population, have sparked a backlash from Opposition parties.

### 'Lab of atrocities'

The Congress accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party of making the State "a laboratory of atrocities on Dalits", and shared images posted on social media allegedly showing the accused posing with a senior Minister of the BJP government in the State.

The woman who was assaulted said that she had seen a group of men, led by prime accused Vikram Singh, 28, attacking her son on August 24.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 10

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# Nuh on edge over call for procession; offer prayers at nearby temples: CM

VHP leader Surendra Jain insists the proposed yatra will be held as per schedule; won't allow devotees from outside, says Nuh SP; Internet suspended, schools and banks to remain shut on Monday; don't be misled by fake social media posts: police

Ashok Kumar  
GURUGRAM

Amid tensions in Nuh over the call for *Jalabhishek Yatra* by Sarv Hindu Samaj and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Monday, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal urged people to offer prayers at Shiva temples in their neighbourhood as the administration had not given permission for the procession.

"The procession is not allowed. Keeping in view the faith of devotees, since it is the last Monday of Shrawan month, people should offer prayers wherever they are," Mr. Lal said on Sunday, speaking on the sidelines of a programme to promote non-motorised transport in Panchkula.

He added that maintaining law and order is the government's responsibility.

## Past violence

Communal violence was reported from Nuh and parts of south Haryana after the VHP held a procession in the district on July 31.



Haryana DGP Shatrujeet Kapur on Saturday said the Nuh administration had denied permission for the religious procession in view of the law and order situation in the district. PTI

Over the following days, six people died, several were left injured, and a large number of families fled the State.

VHP joint general-secretary Surendra Jain told *The Hindu* that the proposed procession would be held as per schedule. However, he added, the organisers were open to "discussing its size and form".

Mr. Jain did not comment on the expected size of the gathering or share

details of where it would start and culminate.

Haryana DGP Shatrujeet Kapur had on Saturday reiterated that the Nuh administration had denied permission for the procession in view of the G-20 Summit and the law and order situation in the district.

On Sunday, Nuh Superintendent of Police Narendra Bijarniya said locals would be allowed to visit temples and offer prayers,

but devotees from outside the district would not be permitted.

## Maintaining vigil

The district administration has also appealed to the people to avoid unnecessary movement.

At a press conference in Delhi on Saturday, VHP leaders had said that only Hindus from Nuh would be part of the procession.

However, former Gurugram Bar Association pre-

sident Kulbhushan Bhardwaj, a prominent local Hindu leader, claimed that people from different parts of the State would reach Nalhar temple in vehicles and then march to Singar village, where the procession would culminate.

## Prohibitory orders

As a preventive measure, Internet services have been suspended in Nuh from Saturday noon to August 28 midnight and prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC) imposed to prevent the assembly of five or more people.

The administration has also ordered schools and banks to remain shut for the day.

The police in the neighbouring districts of Faridabad, Gurugram, and Palwal have stepped up security and appealed to people not to get misled by the messages on social media platforms asking them to turn up for the religious procession with fake claims that the administration had granted permission for the event.

# Migrant workers forced to flee back home, Gurugram high-rises feel the pinch

Mehul Malpani  
Ramita D.M.  
GURUGRAM

When migrant labourers fled Haryana in the aftermath of communal clashes in Nuh and nearby areas, they also left a gaping hole in the lives of the residents of Gurugram's high-rises.

In the absence of workers like Moskul, Alam, Rokana, and numerous others who live on the fringes of the city, their employers are struggling to find enough people to replace the "cheap" workforce.

Neehar Ranjan, residents' welfare association (RWA) president of Astaire Gardens, told *The Hindu* that a majority of their housekeeping executives were migrant workers from slum clusters. "We usually have a housekeeping staff of 28 people. For more than 20 days now, barely five to six of them are coming to work," he said.

A day after violence broke out in Nuh district during a Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) rally on July 31, bike-borne men raided a slum cluster in Palra village of Gurugram's Sector 70, assaulting and threatening the dwellers,



Deserted settlements in Palra village of Gurugram's Sector 70. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

asking them "to go back to where they came from".

## 700 migrant families

In the next two days, nearly 700 families, predominantly from West Bengal, grabbed whatever little they could and went back to their native places. The mass departure has hit the city's rich and middle-class households where it hurts the most - managing daily chores.

Anupama Trigunayak, RWA president of GPL Eden Heights in Sector 70, said working couples in her complex faced problems after house helps stopped coming.

"Many of them have small children or elderly parents and rely on house helps to take care of them," she said, adding that people had to pay more to hire

new ones.

Another RWA member of a gated community said their housekeeping agency had to bring non-Muslim workers from Delhi to fill in.

Back in Palra, the slum cluster looks deserted. A handful of those who chose to stay back fear a repeat of violence after the VHP announced its decision to resume its procession. "Those who were looking to return have also deferred their plans," said Mr. Moskul, a car cleaner.

Roksana, a single mother of two who works as a house help, returned to Malda on August 2. "We don't plan to go back until things return to normal," she said over the phone.

## Not returning to work

Sitting inside his one-room shanty, Mr. Alam, a native of Bihar's Kishanganj who works as a personal driver, stayed back but hasn't been going to work. Even though his employer has been calling him back, he plans to return only if this month passes off peacefully. "I can't forget the madness in the eyes of those men knocking at my door and asking us to leave immediately," he said.

## IN BRIEF



## G-20 Summit: AAP-BJP spar over credit for city's makeover

The ruling AAP and the BJP on Sunday engaged in a war of words over the credit for Delhi's beautification ahead of the G-20 Leaders' Summit due next month. After some AAP leaders shared on X (formerly Twitter) pictures and a video of spruced up parts of the city, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said, "It is shameful to see that CM Arvind Kejriwal and his Ministers are shamelessly trying to steal credit for Delhi's makeover." Hitting back, an AAP spokesperson said, "The only thing the BJP cares about is playing dirty politics."

## BJP alleges irregularities in hiring of school principals

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva on Sunday alleged irregularities in the recruitment of 334 government school principals in the city and urged L-G V.K. Saxena to order a verification of their documents. The BJP leader claimed that several candidates were selected on the basis of "forged documents". In response, an AAP spokesperson said the BJP has problems with the government's "inspirational transformation of government schools" over the past eight years. "The BJP does not want the children of the poor to get quality education," the spokesperson said.

## Pro-Khalistan slogans appear at five metro stations in city

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Pro-Khalistan slogans were found written on the walls of at least five Delhi Metro stations on Sunday, just days before the G-20 Leaders' Summit is scheduled to take place in the city.

The police said some people wrote "Khalistan referendum zindabad" and "Delhi banega Khalistan" on the walls of the metro stations. A senior officer said the slogans were found at Shivaji Park, Madipur, Paschim Vihar, Udyog Nagar, and Maharaja Surajmal Stadium metro stations.

Meanwhile, a purported video by the banned outfit 'Sikhs for Justice' surfaced on social media. In the video, the outfit's leader, Gurpatwant Singh Panun, can be heard saying, "G-20 nations, when you will be meeting in Delhi on September 10, we will be organising a Khalistan referendum in Canada."

An officer said, "We are checking the CCTV footage of the metro stations and surrounding areas and are working on multiple leads to pin down the suspects."

# Children at the receiving end as fear keeps them away from schools

Samridhi Tewari  
Garvita Shah  
NUH

It was 1.30 p.m. in Nuh's Kherla village. On a humid day, Hindi teacher Saad Miyan was explaining to Class III students how to write two-letter words.

His class was attended by only seven students, who wondered why their friends were not coming to the school.

According to the school authorities, around 1,600 students study there. However, after a communal clash on July 31 in the village, only 100-200 children now come to the school daily.

## Drop in attendance

While many lives have been hit, it is the women and children who are bearing the brunt of the violence. Many schools around violence-hit areas have seen a drop in attendance as most Muslim families fear that their children would be picked up by the police.

Kherla school principal Rehmuiddin said most families have left for their native places and those who stayed back are afraid of



Saad Miyan, a teacher at a government school in Kherla village of Nuh district. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

search operations by the police. He added that his schoolteachers are planning on how to approach a certain section of the village and bring back the children to the school.

"Most families are uneducated here. They dream of sending their children to cities like Delhi and Gurugram, but who has the money? The only thing that can save Mewat's Nuh and neighbouring areas is education," Mr. Rehmuiddin said.

Most families are left with only women members now, he said, adding that the men have either left the area or are in police custody. "The presence of paramilitary forces has scared children."

bear this much violence? Let the people of Nuh live in peace. Our children and women have been locked inside homes for weeks now. If the situation deteriorates, who will bear the responsibility?" Ms. Zaina said.

In Nalhar, a village close to Kherla, the fear in the air is palpable. Nazia, 15, who took up science to be able to enrol for a BSC programme, had to miss her half-yearly exams due to her parents' fear.

"I am too scared to go out. I can either be safe or take exams. There is no other option. When the temple in Nalhar was attacked, I was inside my house with my two younger brothers. I hid them and locked the doors. I know what terror is. I was looking forward to taking my exams, but I don't know what to do now," she rned.

"All the men have left Nalhar. Just the women are left. The school is empty. I keep telling myself that all children will come back, but I don't know when," said a worker at Nalhar Government Primary School.

(\*Names changed to protect identity)

## HC: AI can't be basis for adjudication of legal issues

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

Artificial intelligence (AI) can substitute neither human intelligence nor the humane element in the adjudicatory process, the Delhi High Court has held, saying ChatGPT - a large language model-based chatbot - cannot be the basis of adjudication of legal or factual issues in a court of law.

The court's observations came while dealing with a lawsuit by luxury brand Christian Louboutin against a partnership company involved in the manufacture and sale of shoes allegedly in violation of its trademark.

The counsel for the plaintiff submitted that "Red Sole Shoe" was its registered trademark in the country and placed before the High Court responses by ChatGPT with respect to its "reputation".

Justice Prathiba M. Singh stated that the accuracy and reliability of AI-generated data are yet to be established and, at best, such a tool could be utilised for a preliminary understanding or research.

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General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at km Pole No. 7/25G to 7/27G GZB to NDLS UP Rly Line Near Maharajpur Flyover Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi, on dated 26.08.2023. In this regard DD No. 05-AU/174 Cr.Pc. Dated 26.08.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. Dead body has been preserved for Identification in G.T.B. Hospital Mortuary for 72 Hours. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, S/O: Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: 55-60 years Height: 5'2" Feet, Face: Round, Build: Medium, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: White Colour Kurta Pajama & Purple White Pattedar Underware.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

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DELHI		
MONDAY, AUG. 28	RISE 05:57	SET 18:48
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TUESDAY, AUG. 29	RISE 05:58	SET 18:47
	RISE 17:53	SET 03:31
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 30	RISE 05:58	SET 18:46
	RISE 18:36	SET 04:44

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	36	27
Safdarjang	36	27
Palam	36	27

**Delhi Palam Today**  
36°C A hot afternoon with moderate winds and partly cloudy sky. Night will be comfortable.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
37°C Light to moderate winds would prevail with partly cloudy sky, day would turn hot. Night will be comfortable.

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# PIL stokes debate on inmates' right to conjugal visits

Soibam Rocky Singh  
NEW DELHI

Do prison inmates in the city have a fundamental right to conjugal visits with spouses? The advocate, on whose PIL plea the High Court has given the Delhi government six weeks to share its views, certainly thinks so. As does a former prisoner and an expert on prison reforms.

Several courts across the country seem to be in favour of allowing inmates a private moment with their partners. However, prison authorities in Delhi believes that "the right to procreation is desirable,

## In 2018, the Madras High Court remarked that conjugal visits of a prisoner was also the right of the prison inmate

however, not practicable". Advocate and social activist Amit Sahni, who moved the public interest litigation in the High Court earlier this month, said various researches have shown that conjugal visits generate positivity among prisoners.

A former businessman, recently released from Ti-

har jail after serving 19 years behind bars in a murder case, backed Mr. Sahni's effort. "A man commits a crime. Say he gets 5, 10, 15 years in jail. Now, why should his family also be subjected to the same punishment?" the former convict said.

**'Will de-stress inmates'**  
Advocate Ajay Verma, who has worked on human rights, crime, and prison reforms, supports the initiative.

"It will de-stress the inmates. There will be fewer fights in the prison. So, according to me, this would be a very positive develop-

ment," he said.

On September 15 last year, the Ludhiana Central Jail introduced the 'Parivar Mulakat [Family Visit]' programme. The initiative allows inmates to meet their loved ones within the prison premises. In July this year, the Madras High Court requested the State government to consider allowing prisoners to have conjugal relationships.

In 2018, the Madras High Court had remarked that "conjugal visits of the spouse of the prisoners is also the right of the prisoner". In 2014, the Punjab and Haryana High Court allowed a couple lodged in

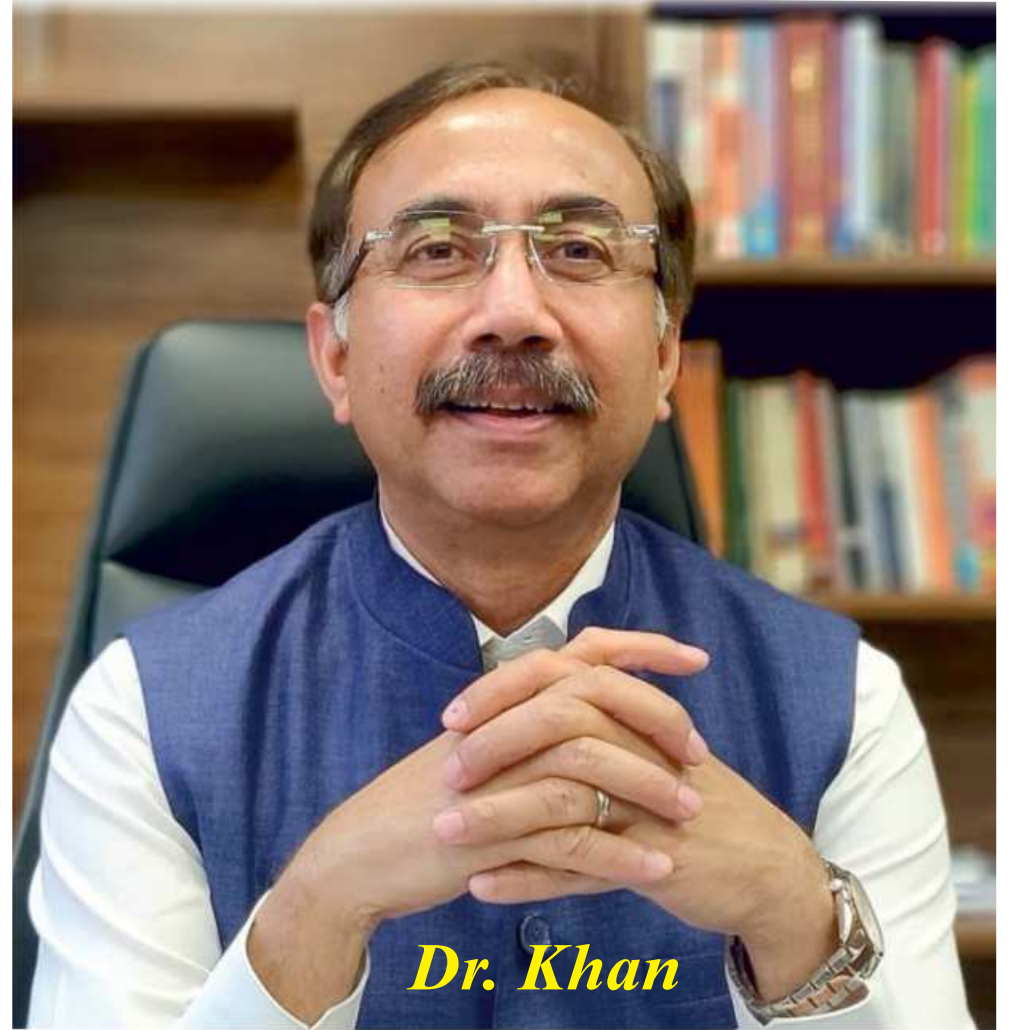
jail to engage sexually within the prison premises to have a child.

In July 2019, the then Director-General (Prisons) of Delhi told the High Court, "The right to procreation is desirable, however, not practicable in the present prison scenario," citing the "limited infrastructure" in city prisons.

The official had said that the "opportunity to preserve family ties and marital stability is ensured through regular releases on parole/ furlough/ interim bails, etc." The official had also pointed out that 1,200 visitations are allowed daily in Tihar jail.

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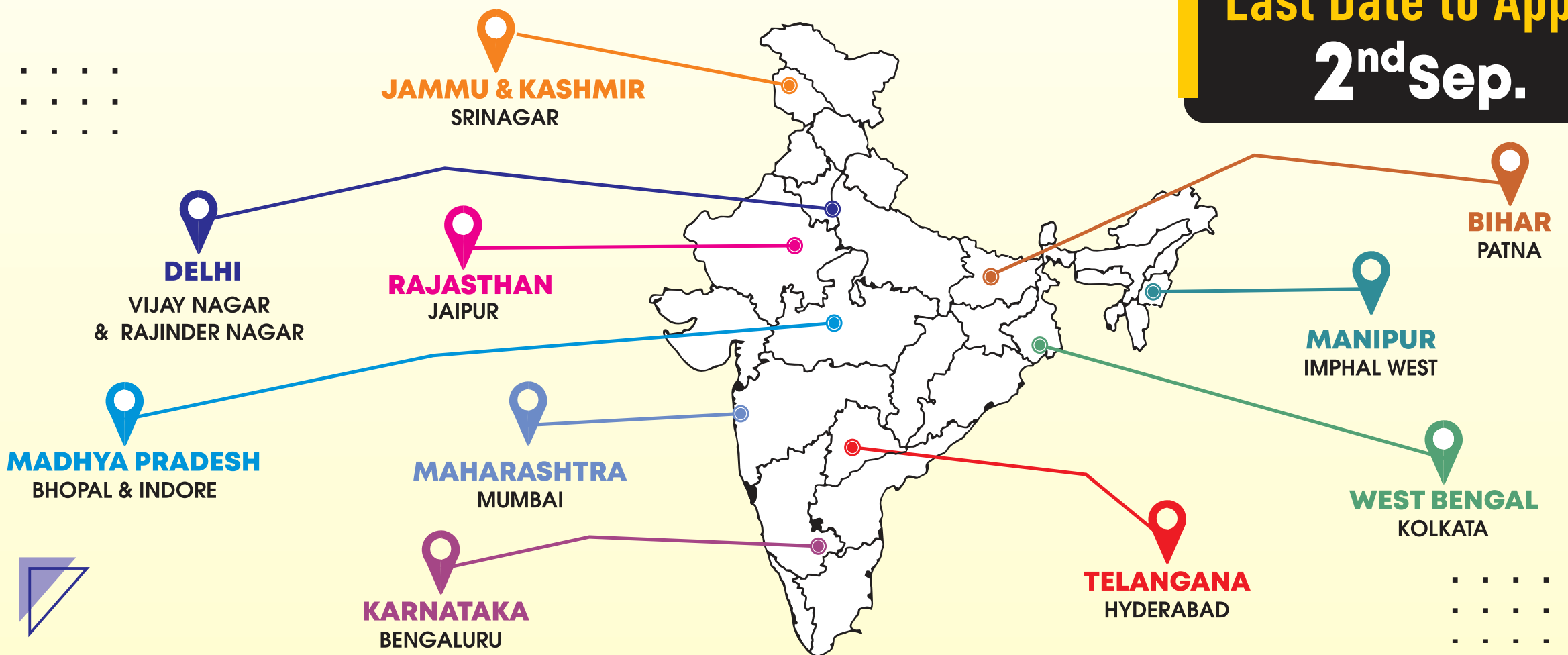
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## IN BRIEF



## U.P. Congress keen to field Priyanka from Varanasi: Rai

The Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee is keen to field senior leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from Varanasi and will soon send a proposal in this regard to the top leadership, said newly appointed party's State chief Ajay Rai on Sunday. "Priyanka Vadra can contest from any seat she wants and we will make her win the election with all our might, but we wish that she contests from Varanasi," he added. Varanasi is the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Modi was elected from the seat for the second consecutive time in 2019. **PTI**

## Three dead, 2 hurt after fire breaks out in Mumbai hotel

At least three persons died and two others were injured in a fire that broke out on Sunday afternoon in a hotel in suburban Santacruz in Mumbai, officials said. The Mumbai civic body had recently issued a notice to Galaxy Hotel, where the blaze erupted, for failure to adhere to fire safety norms, and a case was filed in court. The hotel had also allegedly made some structural changes. "Three persons, identified as Rupal Kanji, 25, Kishan, 28, and Kantilal Gordhan Vara, 48, were declared brought dead by hospital authorities. Alfa Vakhariya, 19, and Manjula Vakhariya, 49, are injured and under treatment," a fire brigade officer said. **PTI**

## 'Governor's warning of President's rule unacceptable'

Press Trust of India  
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring on Sunday termed the Governor's warning of recommending President's Rule in the State "wrong and unacceptable", and suggested that he and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann should sit together to find a solution.

The Congress leader also said that if Governor Banwarilal Purohit had any issue with Mr. Mann, he should use some other constitutional powers and seek a reply from the Chief Secretary.

Mr. Purohit, in a letter to Chief Minister Mann on Friday, warned the State government that he could recommend President's Rule in the State and also launch criminal proceedings if his letters were not answered.

## New textbooks in Kerala cover State's history and growth

The Hindu Bureau  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The additional textbooks for higher secondary that were recently unveiled by the Kerala government not only include content removed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) from the curriculum but also touch on the State's economic development, social movements, historical events, and contemporary landscape.

The six additional textbooks in four subjects – history, political science, sociology, and economics – have been brought out by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) following the NCERT's deletion of topics. The removal of content related to Partition and Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, Gujarat riots, and the Mughal kings and their courts had led to an outcry from various quarters.

An expert committee that was set up recommended that new textbooks be published for four subjects for which NCERT textbooks are used in the State.

The sociology textbook for Class 12 has content on actor P.K. Rosy in the context of caste system, social reformer Ayyankali's demand for education for Dalits, movements to enter place of worship, Channar revolt for women's right to cover their chest, and the Kallumala agitation.

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan releasing the additional textbooks for higher secondary students in Thiruvananthapuram. S. MAHINSHA



S. MAHINSHA

State. The sociology textbook for Class 12 has content on actor P.K. Rosy in the context of caste system, social reformer Ayyankali's demand for education for Dalits, movements to enter place of worship, Channar revolt for women's right to cover their chest, and the Kallumala agitation.

## Madhya Pradesh CM announces slew of benefits for women as 'rakhi gift'

The Hindu Bureau  
RAIPUR

With the Assembly election in Madhya Pradesh drawing near, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday announced a slew of sops for women, including raising from October the monthly cash benefit provided under the Ladli Behna Yojana from ₹1,000 to ₹1,250.

At an event in Bhopal, attended by a large number of women, Mr. Chouhan termed the latest announcements a gift on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, which will be celebrated on August 30. He said he was transferring as 'shagun' (auspicious gift) an additional ₹250 to each of the 1.25 crore beneficiaries of the scheme.

The BJP government has transferred three instalments of ₹1,000 each under the scheme since it was started on June 10. Mr.



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Chouhan said the total amount will be gradually increased to ₹3,000.

As per State government data, ₹3,628.85 crore has been given as aid under the scheme to women in the 23-60 age group who are not income tax payers and with an annual family income of less than ₹2.5 lakh.

Additional sops The Chief Minister also said the beneficiaries will not have to pay electricity bills at the recently increased tariffs. "In September, the hiked bills will be

zero, and after that arrangements will be made so that poor women have to pay just ₹100 as electricity bill every month," he said.

Mr. Chouhan said domestic gas cylinders will be provided to women at ₹450 to mark the Hindu month of 'Sawan', and efforts will be made to continue supply at the subsidised rate in future as well.

Other announcements included reserving 35% of posts in police and other government jobs, and 50% of teaching posts for women; paying the education fee of beneficiaries; enabling women to secure loans with the government paying the interest; and reserving land for women in industrial areas to promote entrepreneurship.

Referring to the women of the State as "sisters", Mr. Chouhan said he aimed to make them *lakhpati*s (earning a minimum of ₹1 lakh a year). He also said li-

quor shops would not be opened in areas where more than half of the population of women opposed such establishments.

'Resorting to gimmicks' Criticising the announcement of sops ahead of the poll, State Congress chief Kamal Nath posted on X (formerly Twitter) that the "BJP government is changing its colours every day not to provide relief to the public but to save its sinking ship". Even after ruling for 18 years, the BJP is playing tricks and resorting to gimmicks, which proves that it can do no good for the citizens, Mr. Nath said.

He also posted on X the party's poll promises such as ₹1,500 aid for women per month, gas cylinder at ₹500 every month, free power of up to 100 units, restoration of Old Pension Scheme, 27% quota for Other Backward Classes, and a caste-based survey.

The Hindu Bureau  
TIRUVARUR

Kicking off his campaign for the Lok Sabha election next year, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin on Sunday lambasted the BJP government at the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for calling the DMK corrupt.

Speaking at the wedding of the daughter of Nagapattinam MP M. Selvaraj of the CPI at Pavithramanickam in Tiruvarur district, Mr. Stalin said the Prime Minister had no moral right to speak about corruption as the Comptroller and Auditor General's report had exposed the "corrupt deeds" of the BJP government at the Centre.

'Bogus claims' The CAG report had brought to light corruption

to the tune of several crores of rupees in various schemes and activities, in-



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. FILE PHOTO

cluding the Bharatmala, Dwarka Expressway, Ayodhya development, HAL aircraft design projects, collection of tolls at highway toll plazas and Ayushman Bharat, he alleged.

Insurance payments had been disbursed in the names of deceased patients through bogus claims that they were being treated under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Irregularities had been detected in the collection of toll at five toll plazas, including the one at Paranur

in Tamil Nadu. Corruption to the tune of several crores of rupees had been unearthed in other schemes, too, he claimed.

The Central Vigilance Commission had said in a report that the maximum number of corruption cases among the Ministries of the Union government had been filed against officials of the Home Ministry, Mr. Stalin said.

"These are the people who claim that they will root out corruption. To cover up their misdeeds,

they are making false allegations against the DMK and misusing agencies such as the CBI, the Income Tax Department and the Enforcement Directorate to threaten us," he said.

Mr. Stalin said he was launching the election campaign from Tiruvarur, as desired by CPI State secretary R. Mutharasan.

'State rescued'

Claiming that the State had been rescued by the alliance led by the DMK, he said the Opposition parties' next objective was to save democracy and the nation by dethroning the "fascist and autocratic" BJP government at the Centre.

Mr. Stalin said important decisions would be taken at the next meeting of the alliance to be held in Mumbai, which he would attend. He affirmed that the alliance with the CPI would continue for the Parliamentary election.

## BJP will rout BRS and usher in change in Telangana, says Shah



Poll bugle: Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a public meeting in Khammam, Telangana on Sunday. **PTI**

The Hindu Bureau  
KHAMMAM

Dubbing the Congress, the Bharat Rashtri Samithi (BRS) and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin (AIMIM) "family-led 4G (four generations), 2G and 3G" parties, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that the BJP will come to power in Telangana by trouncing the BRS in the upcoming Assembly election.

The 'lotus' (BJP's symbol) will bloom and usher in change in the State, bringing an end to the BRS' misrule, Mr. Shah said at a public meeting 'Rythu Gosa - BJP Barosa' in Khammam on Sunday evening.

He sounded the party's poll bugle in Khammam,

traditionally a Left stronghold. The constituency is now held by the BRS.

Mr. Shah accused the K. Chandrasekhar Rao-led BRS regime of sailing with the AIMIM for selfish political interests. "The steering of the car (BRS party symbol) is in the hands of AIMIM," he said.

Paying tributes to those who died fighting "the Razakar reign of terror under the autocratic Nizam rule" in erstwhile Hyderabad during the Liberation Struggle, he said the BRS regime shattered the ideals of those fighters.

He gave out the statistics of the Union government's allocations to Telangana and said the BRS government had ignored the plight of farmers.

## Eight killed in blast at illegal fireworks unit in West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau  
KOLKATA

At least eight persons were killed in an explosion at an illegal firecracker manufacturing unit in the Mochpol area in the Duttapukur Police Station limits in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on Sunday.

While two of the deceased were identified as Keramat Ali and his son Roushan Ali, six bodies yet to be identified have been kept at the Barasat Medical College and Hospital in the district.

The two-storey house where the firecrackers were allegedly manufactured came crashing down in the impact of the blast.

Several houses in the vicinity also suffered damage.

People alleged that they had complained to the police about the illegal firecracker manufacturing unit, but they did not act.

They said they heard



Under ruins: Rescue operations after a blast at a firecracker unit in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on Sunday. **PTI**

the sound of a loud explosion at 8.30 a.m. Arifa Bibi, a resident of the area, said that she was thrown a few feet away and several articles in her house fell in the impact of the explosion.

Opposition parties in the State demanded an investigation by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the explosion.

State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar wrote to Union Home Minister Amit

Shah, urging that the NIA should probe the incident.

Only three months ago, over 12 people were killed at an explosion in an illegal firecracker manufacturing unit at Egra in Purba Medinipur district of the State.

State Minister and local MLA Rathin Ghosh said that most of those who died in the explosion had come from Murshidabad to work at the firecracker manufacturing unit.

## Rajasthan govt. presses poll button with phones for women

Subhanna K. Nair  
ALWAR

Rasooli Bibi could be anywhere between 70 and 80 years old; she cannot recall her age. "You can guess by counting the wrinkles on my face," she says. As she steps out of a government distribution camp with a newly issued smartphone box in her hand, a neighbour teasingly asks what she plans to do with the device, given her failing eyesight. "You keep quiet," she says, flashing a toothless smile and strutting out, her clouded eyes sparkling with joy.

Ms. Bibi is among the seven lakh women (as on August 24) who have received smartphones in election-bound Rajasthan under the Indira Gandhi Smartphone Scheme, which was launched by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on August



A new world: Women who received mobile phones under the scheme in Alwar of Rajasthan on Saturday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

10. In the scheme's first phase, the State's Congress government plans to distribute 40 lakh smartphones to three categories of beneficiaries: those who receive pensions for widows, girl students, and women heads of families who have completed 100 days of work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

Ms. Bibi's phone has a new SIM card, which comes loaded with free un-

limited calls for nine months and 2 GB of data. On paper, the smartphones are available in nine models that the beneficiaries can select from, but in reality, the choice is limited by stock available at the distribution camp.

For each woman, the phone holds a different value. For some, it is the first smartphone in the family which often translates into better access to education material available online for their children. For other

ers, it is the second or even third phone in the family, which means that these women now have sole ownership of a phone which they do not have to share with their husbands, brothers or children.

On a muggy August morning, the government school in Ramgarh – which is doubling up as one of the scheme's 456 distribution camps – is a virtual war zone. The women line up, their bodies squished together, unwilling to concede even an inch of space. The queue snakes through three dimly lit rooms, where the women must register themselves, verify their documents, and finally get their phones. Guddi belongs to the Meena community, which falls under the Scheduled Tribe category in Rajasthan. She was married to a farmer who died by

suicide in 2020 after successive onion crops failed.

Ms. Guddi and her four children now live with her late husband's family. Every time she has to make a call, she has to borrow her brother-in-law's phone. "That will change today, I will get my own phone. I heard they are providing Internet too, which means my children will be able to attend online classes, if it ever switches back to it," she says.

Aspirational device At the R.R. College just 25 km away, in a crumbling old building that was once the palace of Alwar's king and still retains its beauty, the distribution camp is better managed. Instead of queuing up, the women are seated at classroom desks till their names are called out for each part of the process.

दिल्ली सरकार  
आप की सरकार



# Student Advisory Board: CREATING LEADERS OF TOMORROW

An initiative of Delhi Government schools to inculcate leadership skills among children

Monday, 28th August, 2023 | Thyagraj Stadium, Delhi



## Meeting with newly elected office bearers of Student Advisory Boards- A session on leadership with Chief Minister

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- Give exposure of democratic process to students- contesting Board elections or voting a candidate
- Involve students in decision making
- Enable students to manage and execute various activities at school level

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**Arvind Kejriwal**  
Chief Minister, Delhi

### Guest of Honour:

**Atishi**  
Education Minister, Delhi



Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi

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T.G. Sitharam

## The road ahead

India's vision for technical education by 2047 has the potential to position the country as a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

As we approach the dawn of a new era, it becomes increasingly imperative to realise the importance of technical education in shaping a better tomorrow.

In the context of India, a nation of diversity and complexity, it is vital that we harness its full potential in nation-building. The foundation for this vision has been laid through the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020.

India has a rich history of scientific and technological innovation. Through technical education, the country can continue to produce a steady stream of innovators and entrepreneurs who can drive technological progress and advance its standing in the global knowledge economy.

The Indian Government, cognisant of the importance of technical education, has implemented a plethora of initiatives. The establishment of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) stands out as one of the notable efforts, given their reputation for providing world-class technical education and attracting

**Through technical education, the country can continue to produce a steady stream of innovators and entrepreneurs who can drive technological progress...**

students from around the world.

### Setting goals

The vision for technical education in India by 2047 is to develop a skilled workforce that is globally competitive and can contribute to the growth and development of the country. It aims to provide access to quality education to stu-

dents, regardless of their background, and to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. The vision should focus on developing the technical and soft skills of students and enabling them to apply their knowledge in the real world.

The plan for technical education in India focuses on enhancing the infras-

structure and facilities of technical institutions and promoting industry-academia collaborations to provide practical training to students. It also aims to develop the curriculum and course content in line with industry requirements and promote research and development in emerging areas of technology. With this, India can become a

hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development.

### Knowledge hub

One of the primary goals of technical education is to produce skilled professionals who can contribute to the development of various sectors of the economy, including manufacturing, infrastructure, and

services. As India seeks to become a manufacturing hub, the importance of technical education cannot be overstated. In order to achieve this vision, India needs a workforce with the necessary technical skills and knowledge.

Moreover, technical education also plays a vital role in positioning India as an education capital of the world. With the rise of digital technology, online education, and global connectivity, India has the opportunity to become a leading provider of technical education to students from all over the world. The quality of technical education in India has improved significantly in recent years, with many institutions offering world-class programmes and facilities. In addition to positioning India as an education capital, technical education also has the potential to establish India as a knowledge capital of the world.

However, the realisation of this vision is not without its challenges. It requires concerted efforts and multi-sectoral partnerships to overcome obstacles.

The need to build a culture of research and innovation to address the challenges of technical education and skill development and to cater to the needs of differently-abled students are some of the issues that need to be addressed.

The author is Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Alstom India Scholarship Programme

Alstom India aims to provide financial support to students across India to pursue higher education and prevent dropouts.

**Eligibility:** Students studying in any year of ITI/ diploma, graduation of any course for FY 2023-24 who have secured at least 60% marks in their previous academic year/semester. Annual family income must be less than or equal to ₹6,00,000 from all sources. Preference will be given to students residing in locations such as Chennai and Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Kolkata (West Bengal), Madhepura (Bihar), Sri City (Andhra Pradesh), or Vadodara (Gujarat). Students pursuing graduation in STEM courses (any year) at any of the Alstom India-specified institutions are also eligible.

**Application:** Online **Reward:** Up to ₹ 75,000 (one-time)

**Deadline:** September 15 [www.b4s.in/edge/AISDG4](http://www.b4s.in/edge/AISDG4)

### Aspire Scholarship Programme

A CSR initiative of SWAYAM Charitable Trust, it aims to provide financial support to

underprivileged students.

**Eligibility:** Students joining the first-year of B.Tech. courses at any of the specified institutions. Annual family income should not exceed ₹6 lakh from all sources. **Application:** Online **Reward:** Scholarship based on the actual fee structure to cover academic expenses, hostel fees, food, and related expenses. **Deadline:** September 10 [www.b4s.in/edge/ASPII](http://www.b4s.in/edge/ASPII)

### Kotak Kanya Scholarship

Kotak Education Foundation aims to help meritorious girl students from underprivileged sections of society.

**Eligibility:** Meritorious girl students who have secured admission to first-year graduation programmes in professional courses such as Engineering, MBBS, Architecture, Design, integrated LLB, and so on. from NAAC/NIRF accredited institutes and have scored more than 85% marks in their Class 12 board exams. Annual family income must be ₹ 6,00,000 or less from all sources. **Application:** Online **Reward:** ₹1.5 lakh per year. **Deadline:** September 30 [www.b4s.in/edge/KKGS2](http://www.b4s.in/edge/KKGS2)

Courtesy: buddy4study.com



## Talking about talking

### Modi and Xi need to have substantive conversations on ties

India and China have once again come away from their talks with starkly different views of their ties. The only talking point from last week's brief conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit revolved around not what was said between them — which remains largely a mystery as is the way of "informal" conversations — but how it was said. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) released no statement on the talks, although Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra told reporters on August 24 that both had "underlined that the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas and observing and respecting the LAC are essential for the normalisation of the India-China relationship". He added that they had decided to "direct their relevant officials to intensify efforts at expeditious disengagement and de-escalation". A Chinese Foreign Ministry statement made no such mention, saying that Mr. Xi had said both sides "should bear in mind the overall interests" of ties and "handle properly" the border issue. The Chinese statement also said they had spoken at India's request, prompting "official sources" in New Delhi to tell reporters that it was China that had requested a more structured bilateral meeting, which India had turned down.

The exchange in South Africa was only the second known interaction between the leaders since the start of the LAC crisis in 2020. It took the MEA as long as eight months to acknowledge they had discussed the border in a conversation initially described as "pleasanties" exchanged at the G-20 in Bali in November 2022. India had, at the G-20 as well, reportedly made clear it was not willing for a more structured sit down exchange, although as videos showed, it was Mr. Modi who finally initiated the conversation with Mr. Xi. If the Modi government is concerned that speaking formally with Mr. Xi would expose it to Opposition criticism over China or dilute its messaging on "abnormal" ties, the argument that a dialogue is some sort of concession or a victory for Beijing is not a serious one. What matters more is what is said in the dialogue. In fact, a structured dialogue at the upcoming G-20 in New Delhi, which Mr. Xi is expected to attend, would give the Prime Minister the opportunity to firmly underline India's stand, in the clearest terms and at the highest level, that relations are predicated on peace and the future of the relationship hinges on China restoring the status quo and India's patrolling rights along the borders. The only ostensible reason for India's reluctance appears to be the government's unfortunate prioritisation of political optics over public interest in its dealing with China, which has also led to continuing opacity over what is currently unfolding along the border.

## An even chance

### Alcaraz will have a tough time defending his US Open title

The last men's singles player to defend the US Open title was Roger Federer in 2008. Even Novak Djokovic, who is among the greatest hard-court players, has found it tough. The reasons may be many — a surface that gives everyone an even chance, gruelling late-night matches and end-of-season fatigue to name a few. Carlos Alcaraz will look to buck this very trend when the 2023 edition gets underway at Flushing Meadows on Monday. The 20-year-old Spaniard won his maiden Grand Slam crown in New York last year and backed that up with the stupendous triumph at Wimbledon over Djokovic. In a short career, the World No.1 has shown the mettle and focus required to be serially successful, defending titles at Barcelona and Madrid this year. But to do that at a Major is a herculean task. He has to also contend with Djokovic, who at 36 still looks sprightly. At the recent Cincinnati Masters, the Serb outlasted Alcaraz over three pulsating sets in a final that lasted nearly four hours. The 23-time Major winner may well find added motivation if he so desires to course-correct at the US Open, a tournament where he has lost a record six finals, been defaulted once (2020) and barred from competing for refusing to take the COVID-19 vaccine (2022).

Among women, reigning champion Iga Swiatek is the main drawcard, despite a not-so-encouraging build-up. The Polish World No.1 may have lost in the semifinals in both Montreal and Cincinnati, but her form in 2022 was worse — just two match wins in the two lead-up events — and that did not stop her from securing the top prize. However, the rise of Coco Gauff adds a new dimension. The 19-year-old American has won 11 of her 12 singles matches since Wimbledon, and claimed two of her biggest trophies — Washington WTA 500 and Cincinnati WTA 1000. There was also the morale-boosting victory in Cincinnati over Swiatek, to whom Gauff had lost all seven of her previous matches and all 14 sets. The women's roster is further embellished by the presence of Aryna Sabalenka, winner of the 2023 Australian Open and a semifinalist at French Open and Wimbledon, Elena Rybakina, Wimbledon champion in 2022 and runner-up in Melbourne, Marketa Vondrousova, titlist at Wimbledon, and Ons Jabour, a three-time Major finalist. Jessica Pegula, the World No.3 from the United States, is in the mix too, following the high in Montreal. But unlike the men, three women's singles players have defended their titles this millennium — Venus Williams, Serena Williams and Kim Clijsters. A fourth is well within the realm of possibility.

# Himalayan blunders that are ravaging the Himalayas

Wonder-struck by the beauty and the magnificence of the Himalaya, an ancient Sanskrit poet wrote, "In a thousand ages of the gods, I could not tell you of the glories of the Himalaya." The snow-covered peaks, though increasingly diminishing, may still awaken the poet in us, but the barrenness of the hills below tell us the real story — that of steady environmental depredation. Today, the repeated tragedies of bridges, roads and buildings being swept by raging rivers in the hill States of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, epitomise a flawed developmental paradigm institutionalised in an eco-fragile region. Blocked roads after a landslide at Chamoli and sinking in Joshimath in Uttarakhand, road caving in Chamba in Himachal, accidents on the Char Dham routes, and deaths on the all-weather road are reports that have become everyday news from "Devbhoomi" (land of the gods).

### Road project, bypassing the rules

In 2016, the Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna, a massive infrastructure project of 900 kilometre of road widening to double-laning with a paved shoulder (DLPS) design of 12m was implemented in the Garhwal region and a short stretch of Kumaon in Uttarakhand. The project has claimed lakhs of trees and acres of forest land, many human and animal lives, and also the fertile topsoil of the fragile Himalaya. The tons of muck generated have choked water sources. By law, a project of more than 100 km needs environmental clearance. But ambitious projects for tourism and plans that are the result of election agendas are time bound. All laws of land are bypassed. In this case, this massive project was broken up into 53 small projects, each less than 100 km long, thus by-passing environmental impact assessment (EIA) requirements.

The dense forests around Chamba, Agrakhil Maletha, Shivpuri, Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Agstumuni, Karnaprayag and Kund (all Uttarakhand) and other such lush green sites are vanishing. Amid the rapacious nature of the Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna, only one pristine patch, i.e., the Bhagirathi Eco Sensitive Zone (BESZ), remains.

BESZ has the only natural free flow that is left of the Ganga river and was declared a protected site in December 2012 under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. This stretch of approximately 100 km could not be touched by the Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna project without an approved zonal master plan (ZMP) and a detailed EIA. To facilitate the Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna, the ZMP was given hasty approval, negating the directions of even the Supreme Court of India. The mandatory and detailed EIA was not done. And, finally, the BESZ monitoring committee's approval was overseen by most of the State officials on the committee without any discussion or suggestions being



**Mallika Bhanot**

is a member of Ganga Ahvaan, a citizen forum working towards conserving the Ganga and the Himalayas. She is also a member of Bhagirathi Eco Sensitive Zone (BESZ) monitoring committee



**C.P. Rajendran**

is an Adjunct Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, and a Director of the Consortium of Sustainable Development, Connecticut. He is the author of a forthcoming book, 'The Rumbling Earth: The Story of Indian Earthquakes'

India's Himalayan region is being destroyed by greed outstripping need along with actions by manipulative political, bureaucratic and real estate lobbies

made. Thus, thousands of deodar trees and kilometres of pristine mountain slopes face grave danger due to the same devastating DLPS road width.

### Unanswered questions, violations

By widening hill roads to DLPS alignment, the Ministry of Road Transport is only contradicting its own notification which says: "However, challenges have come to the fore in adhering to these standards [i.e., DLPS] in the context of national highways and roads in hilly and mountainous terrains. These challenges arise on account of [a] destabilization of hill slopes and progressive damaging effects on road alignments and structures". It goes on to recommend: "The carriageway width shall be of intermediate lane configurations, i.e. of 5.5 m width (18 ft), with two-lane structures (23 ft)." The Supreme Court itself took cognisance of this contradiction in civil appeal 10930/2018 when a Bench headed by Justice R. Nariman reprimanded the Ministry and directed implementation of its own notification "prospectively and retrospectively" in September 2020. But the government produced the reason of "national security". Eventually, a Bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud in December 2021 permitted the government to do whatever it desired. No questions were asked.

A review is called for as there are many unanswered questions. Why did the Defence Ministry which wanted a two-lane seven metre wide road in the first place, change its requirement to one of DLPS road-width standard? Why is double lane road-width sufficient in the border areas while a so-called feeder road which is 80 km away from the border in the BESZ region being widened to DLPS standard? How is a vulnerable road-width design that leads to unstable mountain slopes suitable for a strategic road? Why did the Road Transport Ministry suggest a double laned road-width for BESZ but change its stance two months later? Why is a BESZ road widening project being allowed without a mandatory EIA? Why was the Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna project implemented with DLPS road-width when its own circular suggested otherwise? When the Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna was announced, only the core reason of "faster" movement of vehicular traffic was stated. Why and when was this project changed to one of strategic importance?

Before the monsoons, the Uttarakhand government increased the carrying capacity of all the Char Dhams while the carrying capacity for the Gangotri shrine (i.e., BESZ) was increased to 9,000 passenger carrying units per day even though the BESZ notification calls for a "regulation of vehicular traffic". While experts have repeatedly pointed out that the Chardham shrines of Uttarakhand are already overburdened, their carrying capacities have been increased ignoring all scientific rationale to

blindly boost the tourism sector and perhaps to justify the excessively road widening that the government is pursuing in the most vulnerable section of Himalaya. However, after the recent warning signals by mother nature, the State governments of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh propose a reassessment of carrying capacity. The Supreme Court too is setting a committee for the same, but the larger question is whether the recommendations will be implemented or not.

BESZ has witnessed several disasters in the past. For such sensitive regions, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change has pointed out to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change that "The Committee also believes that a one size fits all approach to environment clearance should not be followed, especially for the ecologically sensitive areas of the country such as in Joshimath, Mussoorie and Dhanaulti, which require a more meticulous approach with the only aim of furthering the environmental interests rather than economic interest."

### Saving the Gangotri, need for regulation

One of the most challenging issues for the Ganga's rejuvenation is conservation of the Gangotri glacier, which is also the fastest receding glacier. With an increase in vehicular movement and episodes of forest fires, black carbon deposits (carbon plus soot) are rising on the glacier, escalating its melting. Another Standing Committee report of March 2023 on water resources says, "Black carbon absorbs more light and emits infra-red radiation that increases the temperature. Therefore, an increase in black carbon in the high Himalaya contributes to the faster melting of glaciers." Imagine the heating rod-like effect of a 12m wide tarred road in the vicinity of this glacier.

Greed outstripping need along with manipulative political, bureaucratic and real estate lobbies is destroying the Himalayan forests and rivers and lives of local inhabitants. In the persistent debate of environment versus development of the hills, there is a very simple solution to all the chronic and acute problems that the hills face — regulation. In BESZ, the upgradation of roads to an intermediate road width, that will have minimal environmental impact, is the only possible and sustainable solution. If reducing a few metres of road width helps ensure the conservation of the only pristine stretch of the Ganga and protection of the Himalaya, then we must make sincere efforts to amend the plan. We live in times of the critical and unpredictable impact of climate change events which call for prevention and conservation. Most importantly, no development can be sustained if it ends up destroying the main lifeline for millions of people and future generations.

# India's Rohingya refugee children are not criminals

A five-month-old infant born to a Rohingya refugee died in a detention or holding centre in Jammu in July. A viral video shows the police tear gassing a small congested area in the holding centre. Refugee women and children are also seen in the same space. As the explosion occurs, one can hear the shrieks of women and see children running in panic. The Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua, admitted that tear gas shells were used in an enclosed space which is not ideal but denied that the infant's death was caused by tear gas. What is important to note is that these people are not prisoners or criminals who are kept in jail-like conditions. The Rohingya of Myanmar are among the most persecuted people in the world.

### Six years since they fled

August 25 marked six years since the Myanmar military launched a campaign of mass atrocities against the Rohingya in Rakhine State. These genocidal attacks, which began in August 2017, caused more than 7,70,000 Rohingya to flee. At least 20,000 of them are in India. In this particular holding centre in Jammu, which was a prison before, more than 250 Rohingya refugees including women and children have been confined there since March 2021. Most of them have UNHCR cards that validate their identity as 'a refugee seeking safety'.

There are many troubling questions that arise from the Jammu incident. Why are refugees being treated as criminals? Why are they living in a prison-like facility? Why has their movement been restricted? Most troubling is why children are being holed up as prisoners in detention centres. These are children of an extremely vulnerable population that continues to fear ethnic cleansing. Globally, we have a shared responsibility to protect them, help them survive



**Privali Sur**

is the Founder and the Executive Director of The Azadi Project, an organisation that works for women from marginalised and refugee communities. She was a former news anchor for CNN-IBN in India, and has consulted as a social development expert for the World Bank in Washington DC

They are not in conflict with the law and have only sought safety after fleeing with their guardians; to treat them otherwise is a case of injustice

and thrive. Not imprison them, tear gas them and leave them to die.

### Detention under the Foreigners Act

What lets the Indian authorities act in an unaccountable and undeterred way is the fact that India does not have a domestic law or consistent policy on refugees and asylum seekers. It is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. Refugees are seen as illegal immigrants and lumped with other foreigners under the Foreigners Act, 1946. The Act provides for unchecked executive powers against foreigners and contains no exceptions for vulnerable populations such as asylum seekers and refugees.

This has meant that despite UNHCR recognition, registered refugees in India are at risk of administrative detention under the Foreigners Act such as Section 3(2)(e), criminal imprisonment (Sections 14, 14.A., B., C.), and deportation (Section 3(2)(c)). Thus, hundreds of Rohingya refugees have been arbitrarily detained, many languishing indefinitely in India's jails and detention centres. Many of them are children who do not even know of a world outside of the four walls of these places.

Article 6 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) states that every child has an inherent right to life, survival and development. India ratified the CRC in December 1992; hence, holding children in detention facilities, denying them the freedom to access education or any other liberty is an absolute violation of this. We do not have to look as far as the UN conventions. The right to life and personal liberty is enshrined in the Constitution of India and is for all persons, whether citizens or foreigners.

Almost 500 Rohingya refugees are detained in various detention centres and jails across India.

Many of them are children. In New Delhi, the Sarai Rohilla centre in New Delhi has four to five children who are below the age of five, with most in detention since infancy. They view the outside world, a dusty lane in front of the centre, through the iron rods of a window. They are not permitted to play or be outdoors because of their identity of being a Rohingya refugee.

While some children are living in the detention centres and jails with their parents, others have been separated and sent to juvenile justice homes under the Juvenile Justice Act. India's Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 is for children who are in conflict with the law. The Rohingya refugee children are not in conflict with the law. They seek safety after fleeing for their lives. To treat them as anything else is a grave injustice.

### Follow guidelines

To ensure that no other Rohingya refugee child dies in a detention centre in India and that refugee children are treated in a manner that upholds their right to life and development; it is imperative that all Rohingya children and their primary caregivers are released immediately from detention. For all the other Rohingya, the authorities should follow the Government of India's internal guidelines (2011) on the detention and treatment of refugees, which states that they should be released from detention within six months subject to collection of biometric details, with conditions of local surety, good behaviour and reporting to the police every month. In the meantime, the National Human Rights Commission, India should work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to appoint an ombudsman whose sole responsibility should be to investigate refugee detention centres in India.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Coach fire in Madurai

The tragic accident that befell a group of tourists from Uttar Pradesh (August 27) raises questions. It is illegal for passengers to have flammable items. It doubtless was a flagrant violation of the rule by the travel agency overseeing their trip. But even more egregious is the absence of surprise checks by the

railway staff. It is common knowledge that such large groups maintain an onboard makeshift kitchen in their coach before its attachment to another scheduled train. The railways need to be cognisant of the hardships passengers face on chartered trips. **Kamal Laddha**, Bengaluru

### Hatred in the classroom

The incident, where a teacher in Uttar Pradesh made her students hit their classmate is one that should make the nation hang its head in shame (Page 1, "U.P. teacher booked as she asks students to hit Muslim classmate", August 27). It is a reflection of the inevitable consequences of spreading

communal hatred for political gains. Things have come to such a pass that a teacher — a guardian who is entrusted with shaping young minds — now perpetuates hatred and discrimination. Swift and deterrent action must be taken against this teacher to send out a strong message. **Kurian Mathew**, Kochi

### Moon-landing spot

Given the hard and smart work put in by our scientists to ensure a milestone in space exploration — the Indian "moon-landing" — it would have been prudent to have left the task of naming the specific "moon-landing spot" to our talented scientists. A scientifically developed nomenclature might help

carry out further research with ease. Are our politicians listening? **A. Venkatasubramanian**, Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu



Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.



# The importance of states in space missions

On August 23, with Chandrayaan-3's lander module making a soft landing on the moon, India became only the fourth country after the erstwhile Soviet Union, the U.S., and China to accomplish this achievement. It is a testament to the remarkable ingenuity of Indian scientists that this feat was carried out at a relatively low cost.

Three of these four countries have been late industrialisers; with only one "developed" nation, the U.S., among them. This throws up interesting questions: what factors allow for resource-constrained economies to pull off ambitious programmes? What lessons do they hold for our ability to combat challenges? Do such programmes represent a diversion of resources and attention from the pressing needs of development?

## Important factors

By some estimates, the USSR was 50%-60% the size of the U.S. economy in the 1960s, when it landed the first spacecraft, Luna 9, on the moon. According to World Bank data, when measured in purchasing power parity terms, China's per capita income was around 22% that of the U.S. in 2013 at the time of its moon landing. In contrast, India's per capita income in 2022 was only 10.9% that of the U.S. Clearly, a relative shortfall in resources does not always pose a constraint in achieving ambitious scientific outcomes.

One clue could perhaps lie in human resources. China, India, and the U.S. are the world's most populous nations, and have been since the 1970s; Russia ranked in the top four in the 1970s. China, Russia, and India laid a lot of importance on science and technology in their post-war/post-colonial development trajectory. Their current successes are the results of those initial investments. China, for instance, filed the most patents in the world in 2019. The large numbers of potential scientists and engineers in these countries provide a clue to the successes of



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is Associate Professor, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University

these nations in space exploration despite not being as rich as the developed world.

However, the successes of the UAE's space programme downplay the importance of population. The UAE is richer in per capita terms than the U.S., but with a population of roughly nine million in 2023. In 2020, with the help of Japan, the UAE launched the Hope probe that entered Martian orbit in 2021, making it the fifth country after Russia, the U.S., China, and India to achieve this feat. This is a remarkable achievement considering that the UAE Space Agency was only inaugurated in 2014.

Perhaps the most important factor is the role of the state. In 2022, the head of the Emirates Mars Mission, Omran Sharif, stressed the importance of the "triple helix model", where the government, the private sector, and academics worked together, and not in silos, to achieve objectives. An active and capable state, as opposed to an intrusive and domineering one, can help establish frameworks and procedures that overcome financial constraints and enable the harnessing of important resources like skilled workers. Though the private space industry is growing, it is still only governments that have enabled spacecrafts to land on the moon.

A question often raised is whether developing economies, with problems such as poverty, can afford the diversion of valuable resources to such ambitious programmes. One problem with such objections is that it is only directed at developing economies, as though developed nations have no internal problems to speak of. In the documentary *Summer of Soul*, African-American participants at a music festival in 1969, held at Harlem, New York, expressed their opposition to Neil Armstrong's historic moon landing. They cited civic infrastructure and racism as issues requiring urgent action, and said that the space programme

diverted resources and attention. Yet the Apollo missions are considered triumphs on the part of humanity.

The question of whether resources directed to space programmes are a diversion from pressing development needs, however, is a valid one. As an answer, one can uphold the importance of these programmes in material and scientific terms. The knowledge gleaned from these missions will contribute to human progress, and ISRO's demonstration of its ability to launch satellites at relatively low costs can attract business and revenue from private players.

## A true partnership

More importantly, it forces us to re-evaluate the role of the state. The multiple crises besetting the world indicate the inability of the private sector to tackle them unaided. The dichotomy between state and markets, where the state is simply a referee, is no longer valid. What is required is a true partnership between the two, with active intervention of the state in order to provide the space for ingenuity to flourish. The success of governments in landing spacecrafts on the moon indicates that states can be powerful and competent actors. In her book *Mission Economy*, the economist Mariana Mazzucatto studies the role of the U.S. government and NASA in coordinating the activities of different actors and organisations, private and public, in order to achieve the Apollo moon landings. Much of her work examines how the state can foster innovation and success in modern-day economies.

No doubt, social problems such as climate change and hunger are very different when compared to well-defined objectives such as landing on the moon. But our successes in space show us the road map for navigating concerns on earth. An inclusive and secular state, committed to building the capacity required to ensure genuine human development, is the need of the hour.

The success of governments in landing spacecrafts on the moon indicates that states can be powerful and competent actors

# An undersea tunnel is a national asset

Construction of an undersea tunnel between Fort Kochi and Vypeen is feasible

## STATE OF PLAY

**Jose Paul**

The Kerala government has undertaken the ambitious project of constructing a coastal highway from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasargode over a distance of about 623 km at a cost of ₹6,500 crore. The proposed highway will pass through nine coastal districts.

When the proposed highway reaches Kochi, it has to pass through a deep shipping channel of Kochi Port. On the southern side of the port's approach channel from the Arabian Sea is Fort Kochi, which represents the prosperous face of the Kochi metropolis, while the 27 km-long Vypeen Island, which is north of Fort Kochi, with an average width of 2 km, represents an underdeveloped, densely populated and less prosperous rural landscape. The challenge is to bridge the gap between Fort Kochi and Vypeen. Is it possible to construct an undersea tunnel connecting the two?

Undersea tunnels are amazing displays of civil, structural and marine engineering. The Channel Tunnel across the English Channel connecting Folkestone in Kent in the U.K. with Coquelles in France is about 50.5 km long. The tunnel is 75 metres below the seabed. Trains run through it at a speed of 160 km per hour. The Eurasia Tunnel in Turkey is a 5.4 km-long, double-deck tunnel below the sea bed which links the European side of the country with the Asian side. Japan's Seikan Tunnel is 53.9 km long. In India, reports suggest that the Central government has sanctioned ₹7,000 crore for the construction of an underwater road-cum-rail tunnel across the Brahmaputra river over a distance of 9.8



km. Therefore, the construction of an undersea tunnel between Fort Kochi and Vypeen is a feasible proposition.

Although the width of the shipping channel between Fort Kochi and Vypeen is just 260 m, heavy trucks and container trailers would need a comfortable gradient to ensure a smooth passage through the tunnel. The approach road to the tunnel will need about 800 m on either side as the tunnel under the shipping channel will be built about 35 m below the seabed. Consequently, the total length of the tunnel would be about 2.6 km.

Modern tunnels have dedicated corridors for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians for the smooth flow of traffic. Similar arrangements could be planned for the proposed tunnel which could turn out to be an engineering marvel. The proposed tunnel could start from Puthuvyppeen and emerge at Fort Kochi beach, which will minimise land acquisition requirements. Informal discussions with experts on tunnel construction suggest that total costs may go up to ₹1,500 crore.

When it is completed, the undersea tunnel will become the first tunnel under a deep shipping channel in India, and will serve as an important link for seamless transportation along the proposed coastal highway. It will reduce traffic

congestion, provide an effective alternative to the national transportation network, and help transport men and material across Kerala through the shortest route, thus saving time, energy, and fuel. An undersea tunnel could also be a tourist attraction. The government can earn revenue immediately after commissioning by way of toll charges. Users of the tunnel should pay enhanced toll charges for a faster, safer and well-organised transport system.

As the proposed undersea tunnel has to pass through the territory of the Cochin Port Authority, the Central government will be the appropriate agency to meet the cost as the tunnel will eventually become an integral part of the coastal highway network. The life span of an undersea tunnel will be about 100 years or more. The government should view the construction of this tunnel as a social overhead capital to be collectively availed of by the urban and rural population. The tunnel should be seen as a national asset and an effective alternative mode of transportation in city limits. The overriding concern of the government should not be the commercial viability of this project but public safety and enhancement of the public transport system and the quality of life in Kochi. It is important to note that a report released by the Asian Development Bank suggests that Kochi is the fastest growing and the most progressive among the emerging urban conglomerations in India.

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# India's health research is not aligned with its disease burden

It is channeling significant research efforts into diseases that have a lesser immediate impact domestically but pose a considerable global threat

## DATA POINT

**Moumita Koley & Ismael Rafols**

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the significance of tailoring health research to the specific needs of individual countries. But India's investment in healthcare research is limited, with a misalignment between funded research areas and health challenges.

Disease burden, a composite metric of mortality and morbidity, represented through Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) by the World Health Organization, is a measure of a population's health. A recent collaborative study by the IISc in Bangalore and the Leiden University in The Netherlands shows a mismatch between India's health-related research publications and DALYs.

**Chart 1** shows India's relative disease burden — a disease's share in total DALYs between 2000 and 2019 — against the disease's share in health research publications in the same period. Only diseases with a relatively high burden in India are plotted. Misalignments can be observed in Chart 1 with some diseases cornering a high share of health research publications, disproportionate to their burden. For instance, the share of Diabetes Mellitus in total DALYs was 3.1%, but its share in publications was 7.5%. On the other hand, the share of Neonatal conditions in the DALY was 12.3%, but its share in publications was only 1.3%.

**Chart 2A** plots the relative disease burden against research efforts for neonatal conditions across regions. While the research share remains the same across regions, the burden is much higher in India and low-income countries.

**Chart 2B** shows that cardiovascular diseases were under-researched across all economic groups. For instance, while they formed over 20% of DALYs in high-

income countries and around 22% in upper-middle-income nations, their share in total health research publications stood at just 10%. India dedicated merely 5% of its research to cardiovascular diseases, though such diseases formed 16% of its disease burden.

**Figure 2C** shows that despite their limited impact globally and in India, cancer (all types) received substantial research attention due to their pronounced effects on high-income countries. While all cancers contributed to less than 5% of India's burden, they accounted for nearly 22% of its research publications.

Tuberculosis (TB) serves as an example of a disease with a good match in terms of its considerable research focus relative to its burden. With a 7% disease burden, India dedicates 5% of its publications to TB. The rising threat of multi-drug-resistant TB even intensifies India's commitment. (**Figure 2D**)

**Figure 2E** shows that India is channeling significant research efforts into diseases that have a lesser immediate impact domestically but pose a considerable global threat. For instance, despite having relatively low DALYs of malaria (about 0.5%) and HIV/AIDS (about 1%), the share of both in India's research stands at about 2.5%.

Predominantly, research focuses are shaped by the health needs of high-income countries due to their significant market demand that also drives private investments. Subsequently, prestigious scientific journals, all based in the global north, publish predominantly research on topics important to the global north. This consequently directs the flow of health funding in the global south away from its own needs.

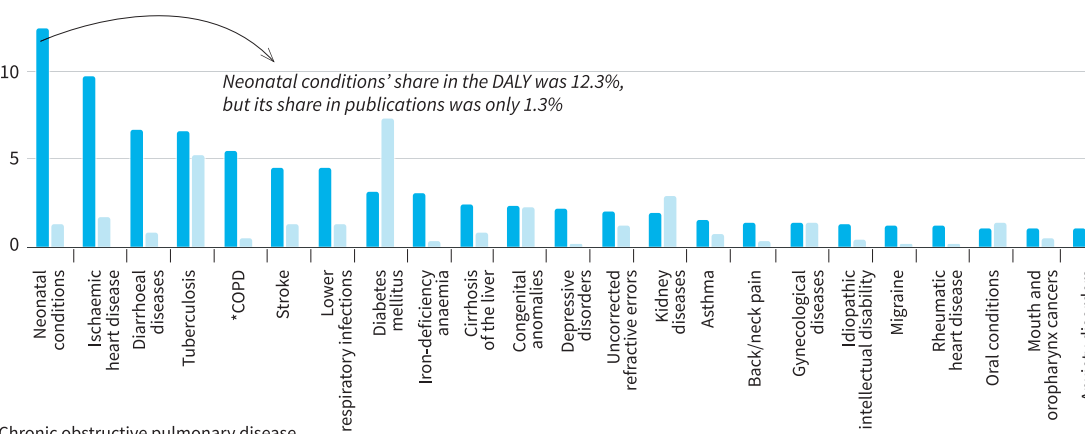
*Moumita Koley is an STI Policy Researcher, DST-CPR, IISc, and Consultant, International Science Council; Ismael Rafols is a senior researcher at CWTS, University of Leiden, and UNESCO Chair on Diversity and Inclusion in Global Science*

## Mismatch

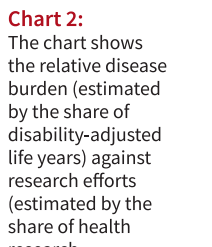
The data for the charts were sourced from the World Health Organization's 2000-2019 'Global Health Estimates' on DALYs and the paper titled, "Priorities of health research in India: evidence of misalignment between research outputs and disease burden"



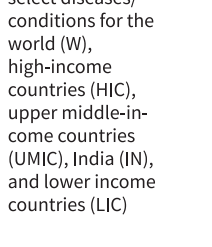
**Chart 1:** India's relative disease burden — a disease's share in total DALYs between 2000 and 2019 — against the disease's share in health research publications on the diseases with the highest burden



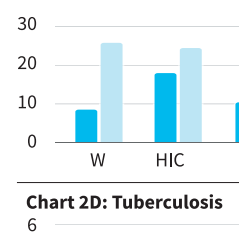
**Chart 2A: Neonatal conditions**



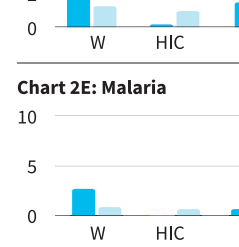
**Chart 2B: Cardiovascular diseases**



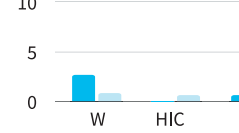
**Chart 2C: Cancer diseases**



**Chart 2D: Tuberculosis**



**Chart 2E: Malaria**



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

**The Hindu**

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 28, 1973

## Exchange regulation Bill to cover foreign banks

New Delhi, Aug. 27: The Finance Minister, Mr. Y.B. Chavan, said in the Lok Sabha to-day that the Foreign Exchange Regulation Bill would be "applicable to the foreign banks also, not in the same way as other foreign companies but so far as foreign exchange operations are concerned." Replying to the debate on the Foreign Exchange Regulation Bill, which was later passed by the House, Mr. Chavan said that nationalised banks were doing only 30 per cent of the foreign exchange business. He said evasion of income-tax by foreign companies was taken care of by the Reserve Bank of India and the Department of Income-tax. The Bill aims at consolidating the law regulating certain payments, dealings in foreign exchange and securities, transactions indirectly affecting foreign exchange and the import and export of currency and bullion for the conservation of the foreign exchange resources and the proper utilisation thereof in the interests of the economic development of the country. The House accepted seven official amendments in Clause 28 of the Bill restricting permission of any trade mark to be used by any person or company for any direct or indirect consideration, without the permission of the Reserve Bank. All other Opposition and Congress amendments were either withdrawn or rejected by the House.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 28, 1923

## In Spain

London, Aug. 25: Details are now available concerning the mutiny of Spanish troops at Malaga owing to their objection to being sent to fight in Morocco. The mutiny broke out just after the arrival of a thousand soldiers of various regiments on their way to Melilla. Two hundred soldiers from Barcelona refused to embark. After shooting an officer dead and wounding a number of loyal soldiers, the mutineers marched round the town shouting "Down with war". The garrison at Malaga assisted by the Civil Guard and loyal soldiers of the expeditionary force managed to suppress the revolt. Republicans, Socialists and Syndicalists are carrying on a violent campaign in Spain against war.

# Text & Context

THE HINDU

**NEWS IN NUMBERS**

**The minimum export price imposed on Basmati exports**

**1,200** In \$ per tonne. Basmati rice exports below minimum price is not allowed so as to restrict "illegal" shipment of non-Basmati rice in the garb of premium Basmati. PTI

**Farmer suicides in Maharashtra's Chandrapur**

**73** A total of 54,514.65 hectares of crops belonging to over 64,000 farmers in the district were damaged due to the flood in June-July this year. From 2001 to 2023, 1,148 farmers have ended their lives in the district. PTI

**The land (in hectares) scorched by wildfires in Greece**

**77,000** With their hot, dry summers, southern European countries are prone to wildfires. EU has blamed climate change for their increasing frequency. AP

**The reduction in FDI inflows during April-June 2023**

**34** in percentage. FDI inflows stood at \$16.59 billion during April-June 2022-23, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade data show. FDI dipped from countries including the U.S. and UAE. PTI

**Damages sought by Iran court from U.S. for planning a coup**

**330** In \$ million. The damages were ordered for "planning a coup" against the newly established Islamic republic in 1980, the judiciary said. AFP  
COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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## The state of scholarships for minorities

What is the status of the various educational empowerment schemes for religious minorities? Why did the government scrap some of these programmes? How will it widen the gap between minorities and the rest of the population?

Sumeda

**EXPLAINER**

**The story so far:**

In the past few years, the Centre has discontinued two key educational schemes for religious minorities, narrowed the scope of another and gradually cut down on the expenditure incurred on multiple programmes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

**Why are there scholarships for religious minorities?**

India is home to over 30 crore (20%) people from religious minority communities. These include six religions notified under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. Among them, Muslims make up the largest religious minority but face challenges in various sectors. Their participation in salaried jobs is low and many are engaged in the informal sector, characterised by low wages, weak social security and poor working conditions.

The Justice Rajinder Sachar Committee was constituted by the UPA government to look into the social, economic and educational standing of Muslims in India. In a comprehensive 400-page report tabled in Parliament in 2006, the Sachar Committee concluded that the Muslim minority was neglected in almost all dimensions of development. "By and large, Muslims rank somewhat above SC/ST but below Hindu OBCs [Other Backward Classes], Other Minorities and Hindu General [mostly upper castes] in almost all indicators considered," the report stated.

Around the same time, the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government accepted the long-pending demand for a Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2006. The new Ministry was to "ensure a more focused approach" on issues affecting the notified minorities, especially "educational empowerment, economic empowerment, infrastructure development and special needs."

**What are the welfare schemes?**

Over the past 20 years, the Central government has implemented roughly 10 schemes to provide educational empowerment to religious minorities.

The Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme was one of the first central sector programmes implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The scholarship was initially awarded to minority students from class 1 to 10 and ranged between ₹1,000 and ₹10,700 for each selected candidate. The scheme has now been discontinued for classes 1 to 8, only covering class 9 and 10 in its revised form. The Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme was for students of class 11 and above (till Ph.D). It aimed to give minority students access to quality higher education, with a scholarship ranging between ₹2,300 and ₹15,000. The funds for this scheme increased from ₹515 crore to ₹1,065 crore this fiscal year.

The Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme targeted professional and technical courses at undergraduate and post-graduate levels. Eligible candidates in any of the 85 institutes listed under the scheme are reimbursed full course fees, while those in other institutions are reimbursed course fees worth ₹20,000 per annum. The scholarship scheme saw a major reduction in funds in 2023-24. It was allotted ₹44 crore this year, while last year's allotment was ₹365 crore.

Another central sector scheme was the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF). The scheme provided financial



**Cut in funds:** The Muslim Students Federation National Committee holding a nationwide protest against the revoking of MANF in 2022. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

assistance for five years to research scholars pursuing M.Phil and Ph.D. from institutions recognised by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Under the scheme, junior research fellows received a grant of ₹31,000 for the first two years while senior research fellows got ₹35,000 per month for the remaining tenure. The MANF benefited over 6,700 candidates between 2014-15 and 2021-22, with ₹738.85 crore paid before it was cancelled in 2022.

The Padho Pardesh scheme was launched to provide better opportunities for higher education abroad, providing an interest subsidy on education loans for overseas studies to students belonging to economically weaker sections of minority communities. However, this scheme was discontinued from 2022-23. The scheme benefited 20,365 beneficiaries since its inception in 2006.

The Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship was for meritorious girls to pursue higher secondary education and was provided by the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF). The scholarship has had zero allocation this year. The Naya Savera was a separate programme launched to provide free coaching to minority students for entrance to technical and professional courses and competitive examinations. In the Union Budget 2023-24, the scheme was allotted ₹30 crore but the Centre has since discontinued the scheme stating that the New Education Policy 2020 does not support coaching programmes. Official records show that 1.19 lakh students benefited under the scheme.

The Scheme for Providing Education to Madrasas and Minorities (SPEMM), a centrally sponsored umbrella programme, has a sub-scheme, the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas (SPQEM), under which recognised madrasas receive financial assistance to introduce 'modern' subjects such as science, mathematics, social studies, Hindi and English in their curriculum. The scheme was allocated ₹10 crore for the financial year 2023-24 – more than 90% less than the allocation in 2022-23, which was ₹160 crore.

**How much has the budget reduced?**

An analysis of the latest Ministry of Minority Affairs data shows that beneficiaries of the first six central educational schemes mentioned above

dropped by around 7% in three years, between 2019 and 2022. While a total of 67.3 lakh minority students were awarded scholarships in 2019-20, only 62.6 lakh benefited in 2021-22. The MANF and the Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship took the biggest hit during this period; MANF beneficiaries dropped from 2,580 in 2019-20 to 2,061 in 2021-22, while girls benefiting under the scholarship saw a dip of 44% in three years.

The expenditure on the six schemes also declined by 12.5%. Approximately, ₹2,186 crore was spent in 2021-22, while the expenditure was ₹2,498 crore in 2019-20. The drop in minority students getting educational aid is reflected in the recent allocation of funds for the Ministry's schemes. The Budget allocation for the Ministry of Minority Affairs this fiscal reduced by 38% as compared to the year 2022-23 when it was allocated ₹5,020.5 crore (revised to ₹2,612.6 crore). The Ministry was allocated ₹3,097 crore in the Union Budget 2023-24, of which ₹1,689 crore was earmarked for central sector educational empowerment schemes. More than ₹2,500 crore were allocated for such schemes in 2022-23, but there was a massive underutilisation of funds even after the estimate was revised to ₹1,584 crore. For the pre-matric scholarship, which has benefited the maximum number of minority students, the Ministry spent ₹43.95 crore out of the revised estimate of ₹556 crore. Similarly, ₹29 crore was the actual expenditure on post-matric scholarship when the budget estimate was ₹515 crore. In 2021-22, while ₹1,350 crore was utilised for pre-matric scholarships, the government spent ₹400 crore on the post-matric scheme.

The merit-cum-means scholarship for professional and technical courses, one of the few schemes that saw a rise in the number of beneficiaries between 2019 and 2021, also faced funding cuts this year. In comparison to the budget estimate of ₹365 crore and the actual expenditure of ₹34.9 crore in 2022-23, the scheme was given ₹44 crore this year. Grants-in-aid to the MAEF dropped from ₹90 crore in 2021-22 to ₹1 lakh in 2022-23.

A 2022 report by the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) highlighted a "declining trend" in the share of the overall budget expenditure towards minorities. The CBGA found that the allocation of funds for the year 2022-23 was not in line with proportional

representation of minorities. It also concluded that utilisation of the budget under the scholarship schemes appeared to take place in the last quarter of each financial year, which meant that beneficiaries were receiving their scholarships only towards the end of the academic year.

**Why is educational aid necessary?**

As pointed out by the Niti Aayog in its Strategy Document-2018, affirmative action is the need of the hour to improve the socio-economic status of religious minorities, particularly Muslims, who continue to lag behind the rest of the population in several areas. There is a significant disparity in education accessibility between Muslims and the general population, with Muslim representation in total enrolment declining as one moves to higher levels of education. Experts worry that scrapping scholarships and limiting the scope of others such as the pre-matric scholarship and the Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship will adversely affect the community and impact their enrolment rate, which is already worrisome.

The highest proportion of out-of-school children in the country belong to Muslim communities (4.43%), followed by Hindus (2.73%), Christians (1.52%) and others (1.26%), according to the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan data.

The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2020-2021, conducted by the Ministry of Education, revealed that Muslim students were significantly behind other communities in terms of higher education enrolment. While overall enrolment recorded a 7.5% increase, the enrolment of Muslim students dropped from 5.5% (21 lakh) in 2019-20 to 4.6% (19.21 lakh) in the academic year 2020-21. Of the total 4.13 crore college students, less than 20 lakh Muslims are enrolled in higher education institutes, the report showed.

**What is the way forward?**

Niti Aayog has suggested enhancing pre-matric, post-matric and merit-cum-means scholarships as well as the MANF and national overseas scholarships, recommending a 15% annual increase from 2019-20. It also recommended increasing the number of scholarships for girls from minority communities by 10% every year.

**THE GIST**

The Sachar Committee was constituted by the UPA government to look into the social, economic and educational standing of Muslims in India. In a comprehensive 400-page report tabled in Parliament in 2006, the Sachar Committee concluded that the Muslim minority was neglected in almost all dimensions of development.

An analysis of the latest Ministry of Minority Affairs data shows that beneficiaries of six central educational schemes such as the pre and post-matric scholarship, the Maulana Azad National Fellowship etc dropped by around 7% in three years, between 2019 and 2022.

The Niti Aayog in its Strategy Document-2018, points out that affirmative action is the need of the hour to improve the socio-economic status of religious minorities, particularly Muslims.

## CACHE



REUTERS

# Why is Apple’s change of heart on ‘Right to Repair’ movement a big policy shift?

The Cupertino-based company has endorsed a legislation which would allow users to repair their phones at third-party shops as it says that the Bill in its current form would benefit users and protect their privacy and security

### John Xavier

**I**n August 24, Apple made a surprise U-turn. The company that was against the ‘right to repair’ movement just a few years ago became its newest convert. At one point, Apple lobbyists reportedly told Nebraska state lawmakers that giving users unauthorised repair access would make the State a “mecca” for hackers. Now, the iPhone maker is backing a crucial piece of legislation that will hand consumers and third-party firms the right to fix damaged electronic products.

In a letter to Senator Susan Eggman, sponsor of California’s ‘right to repair’ bill, Apple endorsed the proposed legislation in its current form as it sees the law would benefit users and protect their privacy and security. Apple’s support “will calm a lot of worry from those who are concerned about industry compliance,” Hayley Tsukayama, Associate Director, Legislative Activism at Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) said.

“I certainly think it helps the Bill, and I hope that it will make this Bill more attractive to other States,” she added.

### A shift in worldview

In an ideal world, if you buy a product, you should be able to do anything you want with it. But that idea of ownership began to change at the start of this millennium as U.S. lawmakers enacted the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, or DMCA, in the late 90s to stem intellectual property theft. This was a time when people were largely communicating with each other through land-line phones. Mobile handsets were just taking off and dial up connections were enabling entry into the world wide web.

No one could have predicted the

coming of a Internet-powered smartphone era just a decade later. Powerful hardware, backed by efficiently and intricately designed software ushered in the mobile telephone era that made handsets smart, speakers talk, and computers thin. The innovations were not limited to communication-related electronic gadgets. They were impacting several sectors. Today, almost all manufactured electronic products have a microchip that is backed by well-designed software. Proprietary software has become all the rage as a growing number of devices are dependent on nimble software to perform tasks. And corporations selling these devices make it hard for consumers to repair them if they fail to work.

In the U.S., large tech firms have made it illegal for consumers and third-party repairers to fix devices that are powered by software codes. These firms took refuge under DMCA to ensure products they sold are only repaired by service centres under their control. The DMCA, which was enacted just two years before the beginning of this millennium, offered protection to Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) under Section 1201 of the Act by barring third-party repairers from breaking software protection codes.

**Copyright Office intervenes**  
But recently, the U.S. Copyright Office has allowed users to fix devices, including automobiles. In 2021, the office added new exemptions to the Section by allowing broad protection to consumer devices that rely on software codes.

Apart from this, several other States in the U.S. have enacted ‘right to repair’ laws that allow consumers to repair their devices to some degree. For example, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, and a dozen other U.S. States have passed

right to repair laws in different variations. Additionally, 40 different States are said to be working on legislations that will let consumers repair their own products.

California is looking to enact its right to repair law after a disappointing loss last year. The SB 244 bill, combined with the Song-Beverly Act, provides specific guidelines on how long OEMs must provide parts and repair support. The Bill also covers a wide range of consumer products that can be repaired without taking it to a company-authorised service centre. It enables the State to bring civil action suits against manufacturers that violate the law with a fine of upto \$5,000 per day. Gaming consoles and alarm systems are not covered under the bill due to security concerns.

To assuage concerns from companies over the use of intellectual property, this legislation does not require OEMs to share trade secrets or distribute a product’s source code.

### Apple’s remorse

The Cupertino-based company’s change of heart is significant as, in the past, it had been pulled up by antitrust regulators for breaking consumer laws.

In 2018, Australia’s antitrust regulator fined the company \$9 million (AUD) in a ‘bricking’ case for using a software update to lock hundreds of iPhones and iPads, and then refusing to unlock them as the devices were serviced by third-party firms. The company later sought to compensate users affected by the “error 53” by releasing a software patch to unlock the devices.

But a growing chorus of ‘right to repair’ activists has been making large tech firms like Apple play by rules. Two years ago, the smartphone maker launched a self-service repair programme that allowed users to purchase parts and rent

tools to fix their gadgets. Now, the SB 244 legislation could add more weight to the right to repair movement.

“The California bill is stronger than what passed in New York,” Tsukayama of EFF said. “It does differ from what passed in Minnesota in a few ways - namely California’s bill includes devices sold to, for example, schools. It also builds on California’s existing warranty law.”

### A lesson for Tesla

While the ‘right to repair’ movement continues to gain momentum, it is yet to have an impact on automobile makers, particularly Tesla, which is facing legal cases in California. The world’s biggest electric vehicle maker has been sued for illegally restraining competition in car maintenance and repair, making owners spend a lot of money on fixing their cars. The two lawsuits, filed in a federal court in San Francisco in March, allege that the EV maker designed cars and repair policies in a way that will discourage owners from using third-party shops that are not under Tesla’s control. Such policies result in excessive wait times, which could have been minimised if the owner had the option of taking their vehicles to a local repair shop, the lawsuit alleged. While it is unclear which way these lawsuits will go, in the absence of a federal law on the right to repair that covers all consumer products, corporations will continue wield undue influence over buyers, even after selling the product.

Big tech firm’s endorsement for such legislations can help lawmakers “balance the goals of consumer advocates and companies” in making the legislative process straightforward. “Having everyone on board with a single solution is a great way to smooth passage of laws,” Ms. Tsukayama said



## KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

# Her brother is terminally online

The next few days are crucial for the company. It could make or break them financially

### S. Upendran

“Don’t forget about the party tonight. Please be there by 8 o’clock.”

“Is your new best friend, Shravasti, coming?”

“She is coming. Her brother, however, isn’t. Said he had a few things to do.”

“I’m not at all surprised. The guy seldom steps out of the house. He’s someone who is terminally online.”

“Terminally online? Does it mean someone who works on the computer a lot?”

“The person is someone who spends a lot of time on the internet.”

“In other words, instead of talking to the people around him, he carries on conversations with total strangers.”

“I guess you could say that! Most of his conversations take place online. He has very little face to face interaction.”

“I have a twenty-year-old niece who is terminally online.”

“Every family has one, I suppose! The expression is mostly used in informal contexts to show disapproval.”

“Shravasti tells me that her brother hasn’t set a foot in their garden in nearly six months.”

“That’s understandable. People who are terminally online seldom step out of their room. By the way, it’s ‘set foot’, and not ‘set a foot’. You cannot...”

“What?”

“You said, ‘set a foot in their garden’. The brother hasn’t set foot in their garden. Do you know what the expression ‘set foot in’ means?”

“When you set foot in a place, you enter it.”

“Very good! I haven’t set foot in a theatre since 2019.”

“Really? That’s a long time.”

“After paying the bill, Naresh informed the waiter that he’d never set foot in the restaurant again.”

“Naresh! What’s he up to these days? Has he finally come to his senses and taken up a full-time job?”

“No, he hasn’t! He finds a full-time job boring. He’s keeping himself busy with his inventions.”

“He’s lucky that his parents are willing to support him.”

“They’ve told him that they’ll finance his crazy projects till the end of the year. After that, he’s on his own.”

“It’s about time they did it. So, the next few months can either make or break Naresh.”

“Make or break? What are you talking about?”

“The expression ‘make or break’ is mostly used in informal contexts. When you say that something can either make or break you, what you’re suggesting is that it is something that can result in either great success or abject failure.”

“I see. The proposal that Sheba is putting forward tomorrow is very important. It’ll make or break her career.”

“That’s a good example.”  
upendrankye@gmail.com

## THE DAILY QUIZ

60 years ago, on this day, Dr Martin Luther King made his famous “I have a dream” speech. Here’s a quiz on speeches that have stood the test of time

Please send in your answers to  
dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

### Srinivasan Ramani

#### QUESTION 1

Which speech by a world renowned statesman began with the words, “Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny...” and what was the occasion?

#### QUESTION 2

“I do not fear prison, as I do not fear the fury of the miserable tyrant who took the lives of 70 of my comrades. Condemn me. It does not matter. History will absolve me”. These are the last lines of a speech by which revolutionary leader, made in 1953?

#### QUESTION 3

“I am here, therefore, to invite and submit cheerfully to the highest penalty that can be inflicted upon me for what

in law is deliberate crime, and what appears to me to be the highest duty of a citizen.” What were the charges against Mahatma Gandhi when he made this speech and in which year was it made?

#### QUESTION 4

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal”. Whose speech begins with these words and what was the occasion?

#### QUESTION 5

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself” — these are words that mark the highlights of a leader’s speech dedicated to a plan to tackle the Great Depression. Who made this speech and in which year?



#### Visual question:

Name this person who made a speech representing India before the UN Security Council defending India’s rights to Kashmir and in the process setting a record. What was the record?

**Questions and Answers to the previous day’s daily quiz:** 1. Burton directed some of the episodes of this popular Netflix show. **Ans: Wednesday**

2. Tim Burton’s movies have this unique style. **Ans: Burtonesque**

3. The number of times Burton and Johnny Deep worked together. **Ans: Eight**

4. Burton is the author and illustrator of this poetry book. **Ans: The Melancholy Death of Oyster Boy & Other Stories**

5. The film which is not Burton’s: **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Alice in Wonderland, Alice Through the Looking Glass, Dumbo.**

**Ans: Alice Through the Looking Glass**

6. Burton began his career as an animator for this studio. **Ans: Walt Disney Studio**  
Visual: Identify the movie and the voice-actors. **Ans: The Corpse Bride; Johnny Deep and Helena Bonham Carter**  
**Early Birds:** K. N. Viswanathan| Reva Desai| Varghese Joseph

## Word of the day

### Eschew:

avoid and stay away from deliberately; stay clear of

**Synonym:** shun

**Usage:** He asked them to eschew violence.

**Pronunciation:** bit.ly/eschewpro

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /ɛsˈtʃuː/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) with the subject ‘Text & Context’

## From Page One

## ‘Adopt soft stance on tribal, student unrest’

Another official said that the Minister had asked the police to be cautious, as the matters and cases related to tribal people could be misused by “vested interests” to create trouble in parts of the country.

In July, Mr. Shah assured a delegation from Nagaland, led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, that tribal areas would be exempted from the purview of a Uniform Civil Code.

In 2019, most parts of northeastern India were exempted from the yet-to-be-implemented Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram or Tripura which are included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and the entire States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur are exempt from the provisions of the CAA, a law that fast-tracks citizenship to undocumented migrants belonging to six non-Muslim communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

## Police input on criminal codes

A Ministry statement about the conference, issued on August 25, said that Mr. Shah had urged the top police officers of the country that they should be ready to implement the new criminal laws at the grassroots once they are passed by Parliament.

A third official said that the Home Minister sought suggestions from the members present at the conference regarding the three new criminal codes. “He said that the Bills that have been introduced in Parliament are not final and any constructive suggestions could be accommodated. He said since the police officers have vast experience in the field, they could help in improvising the codes,” the official said.

## Dalit youth's murder in M.P. triggers political row

When she tried to help her son, she herself was attacked and the group of men tried to disrobe her, she said.

Her son was subsequently rushed to the Bundelkhand Medical College in Sagar district, where the doctors declared him dead on arrival.

The Congress reacted sharply to the incident. “A Dalit youth was beaten to death in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh. The goons did not even spare his mother,” Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge posted on X (formerly Twitter). “The Prime Minister, who is pretending to build Sant Ravidas temple in Sagar, does not even break his silence on Dalit and tribal oppression and injustice happening continuously in Madhya Pradesh. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh tries to hide his crime by washing the feet of the underprivileged only in front of the camera... But the BJP has made M.P. a laboratory of Dalit atrocities,” the post said.

Dalits in M.P. faced a “terrible scenario”, BSP chief Mayawati had said in a post on X on Saturday.

## Well-wishers of Cong., Left parties lead talks for alliance in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau  
HYDERABAD

After Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao refused to acknowledge the Left parties' interest for a poll alliance and announced the first list of candidates for the upcoming Assembly election, well-wishers of the Congress and Left parties are trying to create space for both the groups to come to an understanding.

## No official stand

Some political activists from both the Congress and the Left parties – CPI and CPI (M) – discussed the possibilities of an alliance though officially leaders of both these groups have remained silent so far.

The initial talks only stressed the need for an alliance to defeat Mr. Rao and apparently was taken at the initiative of AICC in-charge for Telangana Manikrao Thakare.

## Munugode bypoll

The Left parties are angry with Mr. Rao for ‘cheating’ and ‘neglecting’ them after ‘using’ them in the Munugode bypoll to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party.

“They believed that KCR would give them respectable seats in the Assembly elections while taking their

help in Munugode,” a senior Congress leader in favour of an alliance said.

CPI State secretary Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao confirmed to the media that some back-channel talks were on but there was no discussion officially between the parties so far.

He said CPI and CPI (M) have already decided to work together and they will wait for something concrete to emerge from the Congress' side on seat sharing.

Mr. Manikrao Thakare, when contacted said, “Whenever there is a message from the Left parties – CPI and CPI (M) – discussed the possibilities of an alliance though officially leaders of both these groups have remained silent so far.

The talks would, however, not be a smooth affair as the Left parties would seek at least 10 seats in Khammam and Nalgonda where they have a good presence. But Congress itself is strong in these two districts with top leaders like Bhatti Vikramarka, Utam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy in total control of those two districts. Moreover, the aspirants are many in these districts. Accommodating them would be a tough task.

## IAF holds study to identify transport fleet requirement

The Air Force has sought information from manufacturers on an aircraft with load-carrying capacity between 18 tonnes and 30 tonnes; the study may take six months to finish, says source; so far, the force has received RFI from three companies

Dinakar Peri  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF), which is looking to procure medium transport aircraft (MTA), is carrying out a comprehensive study to identify the current and future payload-carrying requirements of the force.

It has already issued a Request For Information (RFI) to global manufacturers for an aircraft with load-carrying capacity between 18 tonnes and 30 tonnes.

The 2020 stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh has changed the nature of airlift and support for the Army required in high-altitude areas, two officials independently stated.

## Talks with vendors

“There is a need to identify the current payload-carrying capacity. IAF is also in discussions with vendors. The study is ongoing and should take about six months to be completed,” an official source said.

This comes as several of the legacy transport fleets are in need of replacement. The exact requirements of the MTA would be



The first C-295 transport aircraft manufactured for the Indian Air Force at the Airbus facility in Seville, Spain. It is scheduled to be delivered in September. DINAKAR PERI

finalised based on the outcome of the study, the source stated.

The RFI for a MTA was issued in December 2022 and the deadline to respond was extended till March 31, 2023. There are three responses to the RFI, officials confirmed.

These include Airbus A-400M, Lockheed Martin C-130, and Embraer C-390. Among them, the A-400M has a maximum carrying capacity of 37 tonnes, the C-130 close to 20 tonnes, and the C-390 up to 26 tonnes.

The MTA could become a potential replacement for

a part of the much-smaller AN-32s in service and could also replace the larger IL-76, which is also being looked into.

For instance, from the experiences of the stand-off, the Army is looking to procure a light tank weighing up to 25 tonnes for deployment in the mountains especially in eastern Ladakh. So, the IAF needs a sizeable number of aircraft to airlift them and the MTA with the requisite load capacity can cater to that, several officials noted.

There is a huge gap in carrying capacities at the moment with the current air-

craft which needs to be adjusted, one of the officials said.

An earlier project to jointly co-develop and produce an MTA of 20 tonnes with Russia to replace the AN-32s was scrapped a few years ago after initial design discussions, as reported by *The Hindu* earlier.

The transport fleet of the IAF currently consists of over 100 AN-32s, Avros, IL-76 heavy transporters, IL-78 mid-air refuelling tankers from Russia, as well as 12 C-130J Super Hercules and 11 C-17 Globemaster strategic airlift aircraft from the U.S. Of these, the

IL-76 has a capacity to lift 45-50 tonnes and the C-17 up to 70 tonnes.

In September 2021, the Defence Ministry signed a ₹21,935-crore contract with Airbus and Space S.A., Spain, for procurement of 56 C-295MW transport aircraft to replace the Avro aircraft in service which is being executed in partnership with Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. and a Final Assembly Line is being set up in Vadodara, Gujarat, as part of the deal. The first C-295 aircraft is scheduled to be delivered to the IAF in September.

The C-295 has a capacity of nine tonnes and can carry up to 71 troops or 50 paratroopers. Part of the AN-32 fleet could be replaced with C-295s which are of a similar category, officials stated.

While the RFI did not specify the number of MTA required, vendors have been asked to provide “Rough Order of Magnitude [ROM] cost of aircraft and associated equipment” for a batch of 40, 60, and 80 aircraft.

Officials said the number required is being assessed and the study will specify it.

## Call to defer Manipur Assembly session

The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI

Two tribal organisations in the ethnic conflict-hit Manipur have slammed the convening of the fourth Assembly session on August 29, stating that the prevailing situation was not conducive for the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs to attend.

The 10 MLAs, including seven from the BJP, had earlier said it would not be safe for them to attend the session in Imphal Valley, the Meitei-dominated seat of power in Manipur.

The two organisations – the Committee on Tribal Unity and the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum – primarily represent the Kuki-Zo communities.

Seeking postponement of the session, they said the move to convene the Assembly session amid “absolute anarchy” in the State instead of controlling the violence was absolutely unacceptable. “If the government is really concerned about bringing back normalcy, it should own moral responsibility and resign,” they said.

Congress Legislature Party leader and three-time Chief Minister Okram Ibobi said a one-day session would not be able to address the burning issues that the State is facing.

## ‘Rail coach that caught fire in Madurai was inspected twice for safety aspects’

S. Vijay Kumar  
CHENNAI

The railway coach that went up in flames in Madurai on Saturday, leaving nine passengers dead and a few others injured, was inspected twice for safety requirements and cleared for operation in the past 10 days.

Sources in Southern Railway said the sleeper class coach booked online through the IRCTC by a travel agency, which organised the tour, was inspected to ascertain safety parameters and proper functioning of amenities at Izzatnagar (North Eastern Railway) on August 16 and Mysuru on August 21.

After each inspection, officials of the Mechanical Department issued the brake power certificate valid for five days.

“The coach was due for renewal of BPC at Madurai on Sunday. In the earlier two inspections, had the coach maintenance staff noticed LPG cylinders,



A tourist being taken to the Madurai airport after treatment on Sunday. G. MOORTHY

they would have removed them. It is possible that the agent removed the cylinders from the coach before sending them to the pit line for inspection and certification,” a senior railway official said.

The early morning fire occurred on one side of the coach parked in the Madurai station yard. A suspected cylinder blast took place when a cook or passenger aboard attempted to make coffee. “The food grains, vegetables, vessels, etc. found in the coach re-

veal that the travel agent had engaged cooks to provide food for the passengers,” the official who did not want to be quoted said.

The coach was carrying 63 persons, including the travel agent. “A majority of the passengers got down from the train when it arrived in Madurai. There were about 20 still in the coach either sleeping or preparing to start the day when the fire occurred. Since exits of one end was locked and there was fire too, passengers rushed to-

wards the other exit and a few managed to escape.”

## Booked from Lucknow

The private party coach was booked from Lucknow on August 17 and was scheduled to proceed to Chennai by Train No. 16824 Ananthapuri Express on Sunday. Enquiries made with railway officials revealed that the agent had given an undertaking that he would not carry any inflammable materials in the coach.

A few Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs) to whom *The Hindu* spoke on Sunday said they had no mandate to check a Full Tariff Coach or private tourist coach booked through IRCTC. “These coaches are attached as last vehicle and we don’t even come to know that they are part of the train. The loco pilot, train manager and station masters of the originating and destination stations are given advanced intimation about such movements,” a senior TTE said.

## Registrations open for BusinessLine Cerebration Quiz

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

Registrations for the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of The Hindu BusinessLine Cerebration Corporate Quiz, 2023, a prestigious corporate quiz championship presented by JK Tyre Ranger Series, are now open.

Corporate executives, business professionals, MBA aspirants, and students from India’s B-Schools can participate.

Registration for the quiz will remain open till September 8. Participants will be asked to answer 20 questions to qualify for the regional round, and the top six contestants from each city will compete in the virtual regional finals from September 9 to October 22. On October 29, winners of the regional finals from six cities will battle it out for the coveted title at an in-person event in Mumbai. Winners will take home prize money worth



up to ₹1.5 lakh. The first prize is ₹75,000, second prize ₹50,000, and third prize ₹25,000.

To participate in the preliminaries, scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/BLQuiz2023](http://bit.ly/BLQuiz2023).

The Cerebration Corporate Quiz 2023 is sponsored by title partner JK Tyre Ranger Series, in association with BSE, and associate partners SBI, Groupon Cosmetics, and Parker Pens. The TV partner is News X.



## Indian English poet Jayanta Mahapatra passes away in Cuttack

Satyasundar Barik  
BHUBANESWAR

Jayanta Mahapatra, one of India’s best known English poets, passed away at a hospital in Cuttack on Sunday. He was 95.

The legendary poet left an imprint in Indian English poetry with his writings spanning over 50 years. Expressing grief, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said the poet was a genius writer in both English and Odia literature.

Mahapatra, a physics teacher, fell in love with English poetry in his late 30s. After publishing his first collection *Swayamvara and Other Poems* in 1971,



Jayanta Mahapatra

he never looked back. His work *Close the Sky Ten by Ten* catapulted him to the top league of writers.

He was given the Sahitya Akademi Award for his poem *Relationship* in 1981. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2015. He, however, offered to return the honour in protest against the rising intolerance in the country.

## SC to hear plea on minimum distance needed between liquor shops, schools

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has decided to examine a plea by a Puducherry-based liquor outlet to clear the haze on the minimum distance that liquor vends need to maintain from religious or educational institutions in municipal areas.

A three-judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud issued notice on a petition filed by Alankar Wines of Puducherry, represented by advocates P.B. Suresh and Vipin Nair, which said the issue was “vexed”. Liquor outlets face the brunt of the uncertainty. The Attorney-General of India has agreed to appear for the



In 2018, the court left it to the States to determine the location of liquor vends in their municipal jurisdictions. N. RAJESH

Puducherry government in the case.

The Bench scheduled the case for hearing after four weeks.

In December 2016, in the case of *Tamil Nadu Vs K. Balu*, the apex court had prohibited liquor outlets

within 500 m of a national or State highway or of a service lane along the highway. In March 2017, the court brought down the distance from 500 to 220 metres in local body areas with a population of 20,000 people or less.

In February 2018, the court left it to the discretion of the State government concerned to determine the location of liquor vends in their municipal jurisdictions.

The plea said that the allegation against the petitioner establishment is that it has violated the Puducherry Excise Rules, which prohibit liquor outlets within 50 metres of religious or educational institutions in municipal areas and 100 metres in other areas. Alankar Wines argued that it is not located in a prohibited zone. In fact, the government’s own liquor beverage unit had been operating at the same location between 2017 and 2022.

# Don't treat countries merely as a market, PM tells global industry

Modi says businesses must focus on improving the purchasing power of people, underlining that a self-centric approach will harm everyone; PM moots International Consumer Care Day; pitches India as a solution to supply chain woes

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI



**Action plan:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the B20 Summit India 2023 in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI/PB

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday cautioned global businesses against treating countries only as a market, and urged them to move beyond their focus on bottomlines as a balance between the interests of producers and consumers was vital to sustain a profitable market.

Pointing to the "irreversible disruptions in the global supply chain" after the pandemic, he questioned the efficiency of such supply chains that failed to work when the world required it the most and presented India as a trustworthy solution to such disruptions that the world is dealing with today.

Addressing the closing session of the B20 Summit India, Mr. Modi mooted a

reboot of the traditional "brand and sales" approach to business. He said that businesses must focus on improving the purchasing power of people, underlining that a "self-centric" approach would harm everyone.

"As a business, we also have to focus on creating an ecosystem that will benefit us in the long term. Now, due to the policies implemented by India in the past few years, 13.5

crore people have come out of poverty in just five years. These people are the new consumers. This neo middle class is also giving momentum to India's growth," Mr. Modi noted.

Treating other countries only as a market will not work and even harm producing countries sooner or later, he warned, stressing that the way forward was to make "everyone equal partners in this progress".

Businesses, he said,

should be more consumer-centric, whether the consumer was an individual or a country that is using global goods and services, and suggested an annual "International Consumer Care Day" that can enhance trust between producers and buyers.

While March 15 is designated as World Consumer Rights Day, he said: "When we talk about consumer rights, should not we also be mindful of consumer care as it will automatically take care of many consumer rights issues? We should definitely think about a system for 'International Consumer Care Day'. Every year, can global businesses come together to pledge themselves for the good of the consumers and their markets?"

Termining the uneven availability of critical material and rare earth metals

as a similar challenge, Mr. Modi said: "If those who have them do not look at them as global responsibility then it will promote a new model of colonialism."

Linking the future of global growth to the future of business, he said that industry can transform potential into prosperity, obstacles into opportunities and aspirations into achievements. "Whether they are small or big, global or local, business can ensure progress for everyone," he averred.

The proliferation of cryptocurrencies and the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) posed fresh issues that could pose "potential disruptions in different sectors" and needed an integrated approach with a global framework so that all stakeholders' concerns are duly addressed, he said.

# Government imposes restrictions on export of Basmati rice

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Sunday halted the export of Basmati rice valued at less than \$1,200 a tonne to restrict possible "illegal" shipment of plain white rice by wrongly classifying it as Basmati rice.

The export of non-Basmati white rice was prohibited on July 20, citing the rise in domestic prices.

The Union Commerce Ministry said it had directed the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEEDA), the agency responsible for regulation of export of Basmati rice, that contracts for Basmati exports with a value of \$1,200 and above should be registered for issue of registration-cum-allocation certificate (RCAC).

It also asked the APEEDA that contracts with a value below \$1,200 a tonne may be kept in abeyance and

evaluated by a committee to be set up by the APEEDA Chairman for understanding the variation in prices and use of this route for export of non-Basmati white rice. "It has been noted that there has been large variation in the contract price of Basmati being exported with lowest contract price being \$359 per MT in backdrop of average export price of \$1214 per MT during August," the Ministry said.

The Ministry directed the committee to submit its report within one month, and said a decision on lower price exports of Basmati can be taken based on the report. The Ministry also directed the APEEDA to hold consultations with traders to sensitise them to the matter and work with them to discourage any use of the window for export of non-Basmati white rice.

In September 2022, the Centre banned the export of broken rice.

# NLU-Delhi to meet House panel on new criminal codes

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The National Law University (NLU), Delhi has been invited to make a presentation before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the three new criminal codes, Vice-Chancellor G.S. Bajpai has said.

He was speaking at the 10th convocation of the NLU on Saturday.

"NLU, Delhi, through the Committee for Reforms in Criminal Law, spearheaded the ongoing criminal law reforms... It is heartening to note that several progressive provisions in the Bills recently introduced in Parliament were inspired by the committee recommendations. We have also been invited to make a presentation before the recently constituted parliamentary committee on the subject of amended laws," Professor Bajpai said.

# Kargil gears up for first elections after August 5, 2019

**Peerzada Ashiq**  
SRINAGAR

The upcoming hill council elections in Kargil are set to reflect the mood of the region post August 5, 2019. They are the first polls to be held since the Union government carved out Ladakh from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir and made it a Union Territory without an Assembly.

The elections to the 30-member Ladakh Hill Development Council-Kargil (LAHDC-K), which looks after local governance issues, are going to be a direct contest between the National Conference (NC)-Congress combine and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The polls to 26 seats are scheduled for September 10. The other four seats are

nominated.

The constituents of the People's Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of regional parties fighting for the restoration of the pre-August 5, 2019 position in J&K, have decided not to contest the polls together. They had contested the District Development Council polls in Jammu and Kashmir together in 2020.

"The PAGD was never an electoral alliance but a grouping for a larger cause... In Kargil, we have decided to ally with the Congress," National Conference (NC) leader Tanvir Sadiq said.

The NC and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) are the two main constituents of the PAGD. The PDP will not contest the election.

# BJP feeling threatened by INDIA's unity, says Nitish Kumar

**Amit Bhelari**  
PATNA

Ahead of the third meeting of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) in Mumbai, Janata Dal(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday said the BJP leaders were feeling threatened by the unity of

the Opposition.

"They (BJP) know very well that Opposition parties were earlier scattered and now all the political parties are united after my initiative. They are feeling threatened because they will have to face loss due to Opposition getting united. This is also the reason the BJP leaders keep attacking

me, but I really don't care what they say about me and I will keep working," Mr. Kumar told reporters after inspecting construction work in Patna.

The first two meetings of the INDIA bloc were held in Patna and Bengaluru. The third one is scheduled to be held on August 31 and September 1.

**The third meeting of the INDIA bloc of Opposition parties is scheduled to be held in Mumbai**

Mr. Kumar reiterated that he did not have any ambition for himself except uniting the Opposi-

tion. He said that a few more parties were likely to join the Mumbai meeting.

"I will be going to Mumbai for the third meeting and discussion will take place on several issues. Some more political parties would be joining the meeting. Finalisation of some issues would take place and I also want that

discussion should take place on who will contest from which seat," he said.

Last week, Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad said that everything had been finalised and the Mumbai meeting could probably be the final meeting of the alliance as little time was left for the Lok Sabha election.

**TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.** (A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)  
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Chennai - 600 008  
Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259 | Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in  
E-Mail: gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in | mgprdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai - 600008, for the supply of **Speciality Drugs** from the Licensed Manufacturers having three years Market Standing and holding Good Manufacturing Practice Certificate (as per revised Schedule-'M') issued by the Drug Control Authority, Direct Importers holding a valid Import License and experienced in the field for a minimum period of three years and Loan Licensees having valid Loan License are also eligible to participate in this tender.

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1.	Online Tender for the supply of Speciality Drugs to TNMSC Ltd., under rate contract system for one year from the date of acceptance	e-016(M/P)/SPL-DRUG/TNMSC/2023, Dated. 28.08.2023	28.08.2023 at 4.00 PM to 03.10.2023 upto 3.00 PM	11.09.2023 at 10.00 AM to 03.10.2023 upto 3.00 PM	03.10.2023 at 4.00 PM

The Prebid meeting is to be held on 04.09.2023 at 11.30 AM at the office of Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation Limited, No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600008.  
The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at <https://tenders.gov.in/>. The tender document can also be downloaded at [www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in/](http://www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in/) for reference purpose.  
Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)  
DIPR/4748/Tender/2023

**Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd**  
CIN: L65110TN1921PLC001908 Registered office: 57, V. E. Road, Thoothukudi - 628 002. Phone: 0461-2325136, 2321929 (E) Website: www.tmb.in | Email: shareholders@tmbank.in

**CORRIGENDUM FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23**

This corrigendum is being issued to the Annual Report 2022-23, which was sent / despatched to the shareholders on August 12, 2023 through email / post. The Annual report shall now be read with the following amendments:

- In Page No.37, first para, second line, which reads as, "The Gross Advances of the Bank increased from ₹33,748.17 crores as on 31.03.2022 to ₹37,582.53 crores as on 31.03.2023," shall be read as, "The Gross Advances of the Bank increased from ₹33,748.17 crores as on 31.03.2022 to ₹37,582.11 crores as on 31.03.2023."
- In page No.53, under S.No.51, Corporate Governance Report and Certificate, second para, third line, "M/s. Suri & Co, Practising Chartered Accountant" shall be read as "M/s. SPNP Associates, Practising Company Secretaries".
- In page No.67, the compliance status of S.No.5 of the table, shall be read as "NA" instead of "Yes".
- In page No.92, S.No. 5 of the table - Top ten employees in terms of remuneration drawn during the Financial Year 2022-23, the remuneration of Shri.S.Krishnan shall be read as "34.30" instead of "34.36" and the last column heading shall be read as "Number of Equity Shares held as on 31.03.2023" instead of "Percentage of Equity Shares held".
- The number of shares held by Directors (Page No.102) and shareholders holding more than 1% (Page No.140), was incorrect / incomplete and the same are rectified.
- In some places, the symbol "₹ in crores" or "₹ in Lakhs" etc., is now included or removed as applicable

This corrigendum shall form an integral part of the Annual Report 2022-23 and shall be available in the Bank's website [www.tmb.in](http://www.tmb.in), the website of National Securities Depository Limited ('NSDL') at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com) and the Stock Exchanges i.e., BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com), respectively

For Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited  
Sd/-  
Prakash Chandra Panda  
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer  
Thoothukudi  
August 27, 2023

# Dalit man beaten to death in Maharashtra over suspected theft

**Press Trust of India**  
JALNA/MUMBAI

A 25-year-old Dalit man was allegedly beaten to death on suspicion of stealing a two-wheeler in Jalna district of Maharashtra, following which four persons were arrested on Sunday, the police said.

The incident occurred on Saturday night in Jawaskhedha village, an officer said.

"Four persons caught hold of Siddharth Mandale on suspicion that he was stealing a two-wheeler. He was mercilessly beaten and was thrown into a quarry to die," the officer said.

A case has been registered under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code, including 302 (pun-

ishment for murder), and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the officer said.

**Four hung upside down**

In a separate incident, four Dalit men were allegedly hung upside down from a tree and beaten with sticks by six persons on Friday on suspicion of stealing a goat and some pigeons at a village in Ahmednagar district, the police said.

A video of the incident that took place in Haregaon village of Shirampur taluka surfaced on social media, following which the police on Saturday arrested one person in connection with the attack, while five others are absconding, an officer said.

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE  
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR  
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्सूर (जिला), आ.प्र. श्रीHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई-निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

सं.शार:सीएम्जी सिविल: अनुरक्षण: ई-जन निविदा / No:SHAR:CMGCIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-13/23-24 तिथि/ Date. 25.08.2023

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से "फेज-1" में स्थित 90 क्वार्टरों में पीयू आवरण द्वारा छत के रिसाव को तथा बाह्य दीवारों में सीलन रोकना" (टीसी-23-059, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 70.06 लाख), "पीसीएन कॉलोनी में "डी2" प्रकार के 54 क्वार्टरों को ध्वस्त करना" (टीसी-23-060, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 18.89 लाख), "पी3 एवं पी4 राइडर के एल्यूमिनियम विभाजक लगाना" (टीसी-23-061, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 5.47 लाख), "सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार में दो कक्षाओं का निर्माण करना" (टीसी-23-062, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 7.45 लाख) हेतु मद दर ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेजों को 11.09.2023 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। इच्छुक निविदाकार विस्तृत सूचना के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट [www.isro.gov.in](http://www.isro.gov.in) या [www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO](http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO) देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for "Arresting roof leakages by PU treatment & wall dampness in 90 Qtrs. PHC-1" (T/C-23-059, Est. cost ₹ 70.06 Lakhs); "Demolition of (54 Nos) D2 type Qtrs @ PCN" (T/C-23-060, Est. cost ₹ 18.89 Lakhs); "Providing Aluminium partition of P3 & P4 Radar" (T/C-23-061, Est. cost ₹ 5.47 Lakhs); "Construction of 2 rooms, SDSC SHAR" (T/C-23-062, Est. cost ₹ 7.45 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded up to 11.09.2023, 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit [www.isro.gov.in](http://www.isro.gov.in) or [www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO](http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO) for details.

हस्ताक्षरित: समूह प्रमाण, सीएम्जी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

**G20** **SMVDU** **www.smvdu.ac.in**

**Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University**  
Kakryal, Katra-182320 (UT of J&K)  
Approved by UGC u/s 2 (f) & 12 (B) as State University; Estd. through J&K State Legislature Act in 1999

**SPOT ROUND FOR ADMISSIONS FOR PG & INTEGRATED PROGRAMS (2023-24)**

SPOT Round for Admissions for the few left-over seats in following programs for the Academic Session 2023-24 shall be conducted for 5th Sept., 2023 (Tuesday). Candidates interested in seeking admission are required to report in person to the Office of Head of the concerned School, SMVDU University Campus on the specified date at 10:00 A.M. onwards and fill the Application Form (along with application fee of Rs. 1,500/-). Those who have already submitted their application forms along with the fee earlier for the AY 2023-24 need not to pay the application fee again) and appear for the selection process.

Postgraduate Programs	M.Sc. (Physics, Biotechnology, Mathematics)	M.Tech. (Computer Science & Eng, Electronics & Communication Eng, Mechanical Eng., Energy Systems)
(02 Years Full Time)	M.A. (English, Philosophy, Sanskrit in Vedic Studies)	MBA
Integrated Programs	B.Sc., M.Sc. Mathematics, Physics, Biotechnology	B.A., M.A. Mathematics, English, Philosophy
(05 Years Full Time)	BBA-MBA	

The candidates are required to bring all relevant documents in original along with one copy of self-attested documents. For Eligibility Criteria & Fee details payable at the time of Spot Round admission please refer detailed advertisement as available on the University website [www.smvdu.ac.in](http://www.smvdu.ac.in). In addition to above, the University also offers the following Under Graduate Programs. In case of seats remaining unfilled in Under Graduate Programs, the Spot round for said programs shall be conducted separately.

B.Tech. Computer Science & Eng. | Electronics & Communication Eng. Mechanical Eng. | Civil Eng. | Electrical Eng.

**Scholarships are available based on Academic Performance in each semester**

SMVDU/AA/23/550 Sd/-  
Date: 25-08-2023 Registrar

**IndianOil**  
Research & Development Centre, Faridabad  
IndianOil intends to procure commercial Reactor along with jacketed electrical heater, Electrical Feed Pre-Heater, Knife Gate Valve, Screw Conveyor and Scraper/Agitator. IndianOil invites EOI for identification of Vendor(s) for supply of these items through a tender subsequently. The interested vendors should respond within 30 days of publication of this notice. For further details kindly refer the TENDER ID: 2023\_IJCL\_724338\_1 in following given weblink (<https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>) Ref. No. RND/EOI/2301

**भारतीय समुद्री विश्वविद्यालय**  
**INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY**  
(A Central University, Govt. of India)  
HEADQUARTERS

Advt. No IMU-HQ/C/42/11/01/2023-8<sup>th</sup> Conv Date: 28-08-2023

**NOTIFICATION OF EIGHTH CONVOCATION**

It is hereby notified that the Eighth Convocation of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai will be held on 27.10.2023.

Students who have successfully completed Degree / Diploma programmes between 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 will be eligible for award of UG Degrees/PG Degrees/PG Diplomas at the convocation.

Candidates who have already paid the convocation fee and who wish to receive their Degree/Diploma in-person must register online through the link provided on IMU website ([www.imu.ac.in](http://www.imu.ac.in)). The link for 8<sup>th</sup> Convocation Portal will be made live on 28.8.2023. All eligible students are requested to register in the online registration portal for receiving degree/diploma in-person on or before 10.10.2023. Candidates registering after the last date and time (i.e. 10.10.2023 17.00 hrs) will be admitted to the Degree/Diploma only in-absentia and the certificates will be sent to them by speed post.

Candidates who have not paid the convocation fee must also register online and pay the prescribed convocation fee through online mode which is integrated with the online application. No other mode of payment is acceptable. Such candidates have to register and pay convocation fee to obtain their degree/diploma either in-person or in-absentia.

Those desirous of receiving their Degree/Diploma in-person must register online on or before 17.00 hours on 10.10.2023

Sd/-  
REGISTRAR

## INBRIEF



## Create industrial hubs for shielding MSMEs: Rahul

Creating industrial hubs and implementing a single GST rate are imperative measures to shield MSMEs which collectively possess the power to drive India's growth engine, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Sunday as he shared a video of his recent visit (in photo) to a chocolate firm in Udhagamandalam. "The entrepreneurial spirit of the couple behind this small business, Muralidhar Rao and Swati, is inspiring," Mr. Gandhi was quoted as saying in the statement issued by the Congress. "However, like countless other small and medium businesses across India, is grappling with the burden of the same adversary – the Gabbar Singh Tax," he said. PTI

## TSF calls 12-hour strike today to press language demand

The Twipra Students' Federation (TSF), an independent tribal student organisation, called for a 12-hour bandh on Monday to demand the implementation of Roman script for Kokborok, Tripura's second official language. The National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the students' wing of the Congress, has extended support to the call. Hamalu Jamatia, general secretary of the TSF, said they were compelled to announce the strike as the present and past governments of the State ignored the demand of the indigenous people. Kokborok is spoken by most of the tribal clans. The language got recognition as an official language, but the State government introduced the Bengali script.

## Women have handled key roles in space programme, says PM

Modi hails the the successful launch of the Chandrayaan-3 mission: 'When everyone's efforts converged, success was also achieved'; he says India has made G-20 a more inclusive space and the voice of Africa has reached the platform

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the launch of the Chandrayaan-3 mission in the 104th episode of his monthly radio broadcast, *Mann Ki Baat*, on Sunday, noting the involvement of women scientists and engineers in the country's space programme. The women "have handled many important responsibilities, from project director to project manager of different systems", Mr. Modi said.

"When everyone's efforts converged, success was also achieved," he said on the moon mission.

India is "fully prepared" for the G-20 Leaders' Summit to be held in New Delhi next month, Mr. Modi said. "India has made G-20 a more inclusive space. It was at India's invitation that the African Union was also able to participate, and that the voice of the people of Africa has reached this important platform."

Mr. Modi congratulated young athletes who bagged



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets women scientists of the ISRO team involved in Chandrayaan-3 mission in Bengaluru on Saturday. ANI

medals at the Chengdu 2021 FISU World University Games held in China – the games had been postponed to 2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and only concluded this month.

India won 26 gold medals, a record for the country.

Mr. Modi said that in all previous editions of the event since 1959, India only won 18 medals combined.

## Young heroes

Mr. Modi interacted with and congratulated Abhinaya Ashok Patil, 24, who

won a gold medal at the women's 10m air pistol competition with Yashaswini Singh Deswal and Manu Bhaker; Pragati, 19, who won a gold medal with Aman Saini in the compound mixed team archery event; Amlan Borghain, 25, who took bronze at the men's 200-metre event; and Priyanka, 27, who took bronze in the women's 20-kilometre walk event with Pooja Kumawat, Mansi Negi, and Nikita Lamba.

Hailing the success of the *Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan*, he said as many as

1.5 crore flags were purchased from 1.5 lakh post offices. "Last year till August 15, about 5 crore countrymen had posted a selfie with the Tricolour," Mr. Modi said. "This year, this number has also crossed 10 crore."

Mr. Modi spoke of the *Amrit Kalash* Yatra, in which "there will be a campaign to collect soil from every house in every village of the country" in September and "the holy soil of the country will be deposited in thousands of *Amrit Kalash* urns" in October.

He also lauded the progress in Sanskrit learning, noting that much knowledge of yoga, Ayurveda and philosophy had been preserved in the language.

Many universities were offering Sanskrit programmes, he said, with two Sanskrit deemed universities being upgraded to Central universities in 2020.

## Gems of Indian culture

The Prime Minister conveyed his wishes for Telugu Language Day on August 29. "Many priceless gems of Indian culture are hidden in the literature

and heritage of the Telugu language," Mr. Modi said.

"Many efforts are also being made to ensure that the whole country gets the benefit of this heritage of Telugu."

Mr. Modi highlighted the efforts of K. Dhanapal, a retired Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation bus driver who was transferred to Bengaluru Darshini, and took up an interest in studying ancient inscriptions with ties to the city; and speleologist Brian Dermot Kharpran Daly of Meghalaya, whose exploration of several caves earned him the Tenzing Norgay National Award for Adventure in 2004.

## Success in dairy sector

Mr. Modi invoked the success of the dairy sector in reducing costs by relying on the Railways' truck-on-track facility, which he said halved the 30-hour transport duration for Banas Dairy in Gujarat.

"Due to this, whereas the pollution caused by fuel has stopped, the cost of fuel is also saved," he said. "Drivers of trucks have also benefited a lot from this, their life has become easier."

## Chandrayaan has advanced the festive season: Modi

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

The successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the moon has rung in India's annual festive season earlier than usual, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday, crediting domestic industry for supporting the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) by supplying the components for the mission.

Speaking to business leaders at the B20 India summit, Mr. Modi said, "You have come here at a time when there is a celebratory mood in our whole country. India's long annual festival season, in a way, has been advanced. This festive season is such that our society as well as business celebrates it. This time, it has started from August 23 itself."

"While the ISRO has a very big role in the success, at the same time, India's industry has also given a big support. Chandrayaan's many components were made available by our private companies and micro, small and medium enterprises in a timely manner. This means this is a success of both science and industry and it is also important that this time, with India, the whole world is celebrating it," Mr. Modi said.

## ISRO releases graph of temperature variation of topsoil in lunar South Pole

**Press Trust of India**  
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday released a graph of the temperature variation on the lunar surface with an increase in depth measured by the ChaSTE payload aboard Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander module.



Soft touchdown: The Chandrayaan-3 lander, Vikram, landing on the lunar surface on Wednesday. ANI

reaching a depth of 10 cm beneath the surface.

"The probe is fitted with 10 individual temperature sensors. The presented graph illustrates the temperature variations of the lunar surface/near-surface at various depths, as recorded during the probe's penetration. This is the first such profile for the

The payload has a temperature probe equipped with a controlled penetration mechanism capable of

nar South Pole. Detailed observations are underway," it said.

The payload was developed by a team led by the Space Physics Laboratory (SPL) of the ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), in collaboration with the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad.

reaching a depth of 10 cm beneath the surface.

"The probe is fitted with 10 individual temperature sensors. The presented graph illustrates the temperature variations of the lunar surface/near-surface at various depths, as recorded during the probe's penetration. This is the first such profile for the

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## As Pragyan digs deep into moon, scientists at a VSSC lab turn their gaze to solar wind

**Tiki Rajwi**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Scientists at the Space Physics Laboratory of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) here are getting ready to unravel the secrets of the solar wind as the Aditya-L1 mission, meant to study the sun, lifts off in September.

The Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA) payload aboard Aditya-L1, one of seven scientific payloads aboard the challenging mission, was developed by the SPL to gain deeper insights into the phenomenon of solar wind, as the constant stream of charged particles from the sun is called.

S. Somanath, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), said on Saturday that the mission would lift off from Sriharikota in the first week of September.



Sun probe: The Aditya-L1 mission is getting ready for launch in September at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. ANI

The PAPA payload will study the composition of the solar wind, a senior ISRO official said.

"It will look at the energy of electrons and the energy and mass of protons and ions in it. The study will also cover the angular variations," the official said. For the lab, the Aditya-L1 mission is yet another big occasion, coming close on the heels of the Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission on which it had two important scientific payloads.

The ISRO describes Aditya-L1 as the "first space-based Indian mission to study the sun" from a halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the sun-earth system.

Weighing roughly 8 kg, the PAPA payload shares space on the Aditya-L1 spacecraft with six other payloads developed by sister ISRO units and other scientific establishments collaborating with the ISRO.

orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the sun-earth system.

Weighing roughly 8 kg, the PAPA payload shares space on the Aditya-L1 spacecraft with six other payloads developed by sister ISRO units and other scientific establishments collaborating with the ISRO.

According to the ISRO, the payloads are designed "to study the chromosphere, the photosphere and the outermost layers of the sun using electromagnetic and particle detectors".

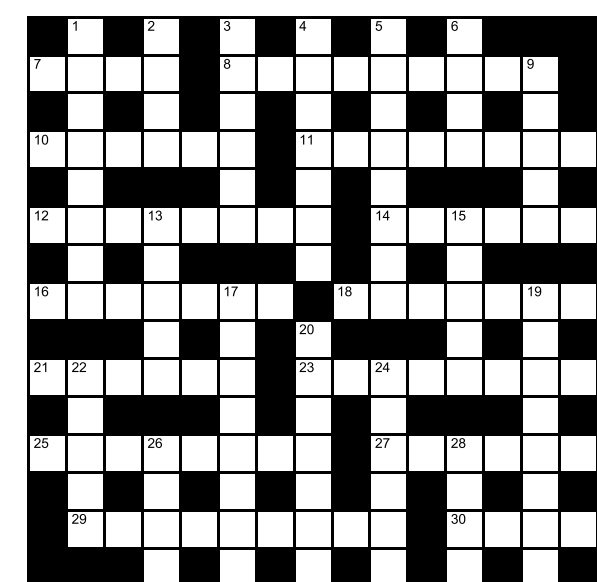
The ISRO will use an XL variant of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) to place the Aditya-L1 spacecraft in a low earth orbit. Mr. Somanath said here on Saturday that the spacecraft had been integrated with the launch vehicle at Sriharikota.

Once launched, it will take 125 days to travel to its destination at L1. Onboard the Chandrayaan-3 mission's Vikram lander which soft-landed on the moon on August 23, the SPL had two payloads: Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) and Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive Ionosphere and Atmosphere (RAMBHA).

Weighing roughly 8 kg, the PAPA payload shares space on the Aditya-L1 spacecraft with six other payloads developed by sister ISRO units and other scientific establishments collaborating with the ISRO.

## THE CROSSWORD+ 13955

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjpTn>



- Across**
- Individual ones in crater changed measurement standards (8)
  - Instructed force to get violent thug (6)
  - Decorated and loved around noon (7)
  - Engineers do a play, "Cargo" (7)
  - Certify at a sort of cricket match (6)
  - Identification badges Agent Sam may produce (4,4)
  - Doctor accompanying mother in pain gets old coins (8)
  - God turned up first, producing photographic device (6)
  - Continued survival of President's 10 in eastern church (9)
  - Somanath travels across country (4)

## Down

- Tied Theodore around that place (8)
- Lope awkwardly to get stick (4)
- Data collector snores badly (6)
- Corridor wall built and covered with dry grass (7)
- Intelligence agency flier beginning to toast aromatic Italian bread (8)
- Carry animal (4)
- Therefore, union territory gets head-start... A pole position (5)
- Ignore first digit in preceding number. It's wrong there (5)
- Dark member carries port (5)
- Roughly evaluate times tea is brewed (8)
- North African prepared grain ale (8)
- Six footer Anne rejected aerial (7)
- Worried sergeant, after losing nag, is abrupt (5)
- Ridiculed doctor consuming coke cocktail (6)
- Fibre from calico irks (4)
- Keep spectacles between consecutive letters and behave listlessly (4)

## SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

## Solution to previous puzzle

G	O	L	F	L	U	B	S	P	I	R	I	T	
E	O	A	N	R	O	R							
S	I	L	E	N	C	E	E	Q	U	A	B	L	E
T	L	D	A	A	N	O	E						
A	X	I	A	L	S	E	R	P	E	N	T	S	
T	E	E	Y	N	T	I							
I	N	S	U	L	T	T	E	N	T	A	C	L	E
V	T	K	R	A	M								
E	T	C	E	T	E	R	A	J	U	J	U	B	E
B	A	Z	O	K	A	I	S	T	A	L	E	S	
E	P	B	E	A	I	L	E	J					
P	U	T	D	O	W	N	L	O	N	G	A	G	O
I	E	E	T	E	G	R	N						
C	O	R	P	S	E	L	I	N	S	A	N	G	S

## Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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



## FAITH

## The advice of Mareecha

Those who tender saner advice though unpalatable are few. Fewer still are those who receive it. Navalpakkam Sri Vasudevachariar said in a discourse about the advice of Mareecha to Ravana. When it was suggested to Ravana to abduct Rama's wife Sita to take revenge on Rama for killing all the rakshasas, including Kara and Dhushana, the demon king approached Mareecha to help him in this regard. Mareecha cautioned Ravana not to make Rama his implacable enemy. He asked Ravana whether he had convened a meeting of the council of ministers, including Vibhishana, and elicited their opinion. Mareecha asked, "Who has given you this bad advice to take your race to danger and destruction? How could you ever think of it?"

He cautioned Ravana not to fall prey to Rama's arrows and appealed not to turn a deaf ear to his words.

In Ravana's court, except Vibhishana, all the members supported Ravana and showered lavish praise on him. Rama spared Mareecha when he came with Subhahu to disturb the yaga of Viswamitra because he was a yaksha and a pious personality in his previous birth.

Mareecha told Ravana that he was leading an ascetic life like a saint by controlling his senses and food habits. He earnestly pleaded for the good of Ravana. Had Ravana listened, he would not have plunged into perils.



To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code

# MONEYWISE

## ASKUS

Vidya Bala

I am working in a PSU bank, earning ₹1 lakh a month. I am currently investing ₹1,000 in HDFC MF Children's Education fund for each of my two daughters and ₹1,000 in Tata Retirement MF, ₹1,000 in PPF and ₹500 in Sukanya Samridhi Scheme in favour of my two daughters aged 12 and 11 respectively. I will need to save for my daughters' marriages after 15 years and for pursuing higher education in 6 to 7 years from now. Kindly suggest suitable investment instruments. I am paying housing loan repayment ₹22,000 for two houses. Currently, I am having three regular insurance policies of ₹3,400 each in my daughters' names.

JEEVAMATHAN

You have not stated how much more you can save. You have also not stated how much you have already saved and invested thus far for your children and retirement. Our guess is you will need to increase your investment especially if the education needs are coming up in the next 6-7 years. Continue the PPF and Sukanya Samridhi as part of the safe investments you have and try to increase equity investments through SIPs. Use simple index funds with underlying index as Nifty 50 or Nifty 500. I am not sure what policy you hold but it is likely that it is a money-back policy. Most of them are poor on returns and if you have crossed 4-5 years, see if you can divert it to mutual funds.

I am 27 years old, and earn about ₹70,000 a month. I wanted to start investing 25-30,000 a month through SIPs. I chose debt funds, index funds and direct equity stocks for this purpose. I want guidance on the following:

1. As the Nifty and Sensex are at all-time high, is it advisable to start SIP in Index funds or equity stocks or shall I wait for correction and then start SIPs?
2. Advise me on choosing debt funds for long-term investment (corporate bond funds, gilt funds, banking and PSU funds, dynamic funds etc.).
3. Guide me on how to allocate ₹25-30,000 between debt funds, index funds and stocks (I want equity stocks portion to be lower since I am a moderate risk taker)
4. In this all-time high market conditions, which sectors/industries are undervalued or have good chances to grow.

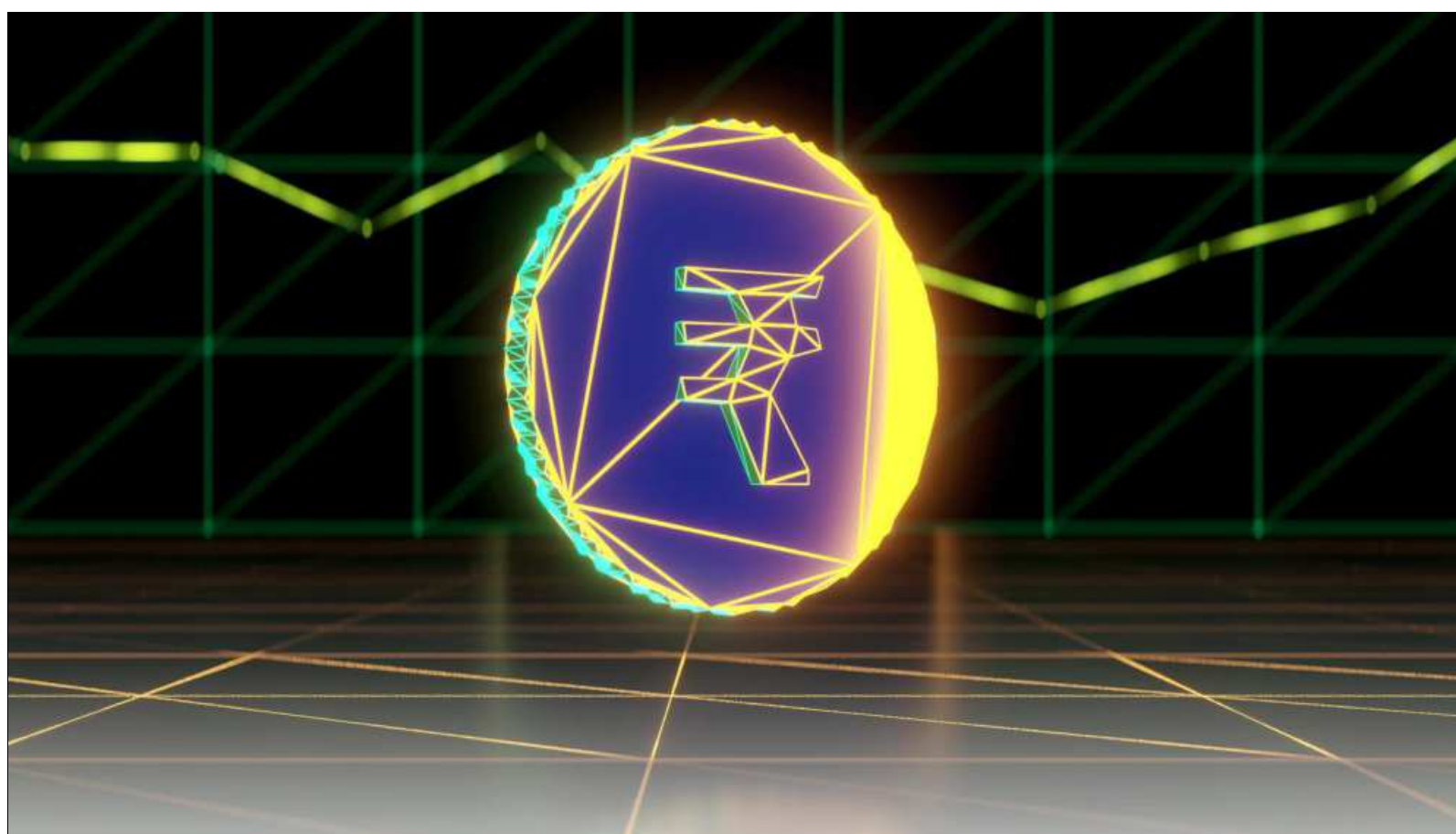
BRAHMA NAIDU

If you are new to investing, it is a good thing to start with SIPs in mutual funds. And once you have decided to take the SIP route, you should not be trying to time the market! SIPs are meant to be run over the ups and downs of the market. When markets fall, they will average on the downside and make good the higher averaging they did when the market rallied. So, instead of trying to time, just start your savings as early as possible. How much you should invest in equity and debt would depend on your time frame. If this entire amount of ₹25,000 to ₹30,000 is meant for long-term investing of say 5-7 years or more, then for your age, if you can take the risk, 60-70% in equity is a good proportion to have.

Consider higher exposure to large and multi-cap index funds with Nifty 50, Nifty 500 as underlying indices and not over 20% in mid-cap indices. Overseas passive fund is good, provided they are available for investment (given the RBI restrictions). With debt, have an equal allocation between shorter duration funds and corporate bond funds. Gilt funds will suit only if you can take low returns when interest rates rise. Else stick to corporate bonds even for longer duration.

Keep investing in mutual funds and meanwhile take time to invest in stocks. Investing in stocks is not the same as mutual fund investing. You need to figure which ones are undervalued and which sectors have caught the market fancy. Calls given by brokerages are meant to keep your portfolio on the churn. Keep that in mind and be prepared to do your own groundwork in stocks. (The writer is co-founder of PrimeInvestor.in)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the [moneywise@thehindu.co.in](mailto:moneywise@thehindu.co.in) ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.



## Understand the nuances of digital risk in investments

With ownership documents of investments such as stocks mostly in online format, owners, heirs, legal fraternity and technologists enjoy not only convenience but also face new set of challenges

### NEW RISK ON HORIZON

Gaurav Mashruwala

Digital Risk was not part of syllabus a few decades ago, while I was pursuing education as financial planner.

The reason to mention this at the beginning of the article is that as times change, newer risks will spring up. Also, few risks that were in existence or currently prevalent may simply become irrelevant.

Over the years more and more of our assets are being held in digital mediums. They are protected by username, password etc. Currently we are living in times where hacking digital accounts etc. is prevalent. This may not remain permanent or could even become obsolete.

Let us discuss this with an example. Many years ago, when I wrote my first cheque, my father had taught me the techniques to ensure cheque is not fudged. Those were the years when there were non MICR cheques. A cheque issued outside the city where an entity had its bank account would take 2/3 weeks to clear. The current generation will not be able to comprehend this.

However, they are encouraged to find out and read about those days and the system. This will help them in realising the evolution of banking and other financial systems and most



Over the years more and more of our assets are being held in digital mediums. They are protected by username, password etc.

importantly, accept the reality that nothing in life (Read: Investment Risk) is permanent.

To protect ourselves from digital risk, the Reserve Bank of India, keeps issuing warnings and also runs awareness campaign. Even SEBI runs campaigns on cyber risk and ways to protect ourselves.

Digital risk is all about a threat to our assets, by an unknown entity which acts like us, accesses our assets and even siphons them off. This takes place because as per the current technology, we are recognised by our user name and passwords. This was not the case earlier. Earlier, an investor had to visit the bank in person. Officers of the branch would know the account holder with his physical attributes. There was a real human element in it. Today, this element has literally vanished. The intention is not to appreciate or criticise any system.

Soon, we will be having our currencies in digital forms. There will be more evolved digital wallets. Our documents and other important legal proof of ownerships will be in digital forms e.g. documents of



Any entity who gets access to our username password will be able to play mischief with our digital assets by pretending to be us

ownership of a real estate. We already have almost of our banking assets' ownership in digital format e.g. fixed deposit receipts.

Capital-market assets like equity shares, bonds and debentures, bullion assets such as gold etc. are slowly converting into digital medium. Insurance policies are now turning digital. The list is endless.

Because human being and username and password are two separate entities, there is a situation of identity theft. Any entity who gets access to username and password will be able to play mischief with our digital assets, pretending it to be us.

**Towards biometrics** Slowly, we are moving towards biometric solutions to resolve the problem. However, all biometrics are captured and stored in digital medium. Can they be tampered with or hacked? Only time will tell.

Last week, while discussing the draft of one of client's Will, I brought a point with my team to be added. My contention was, who will get the username and password for digital assets? When I checked with

the legal fraternity, younger counsels could comprehend the problem. Very senior and elder counsels rejected my contention right away.

In fact, a similar situation may also arise with Power of Attorney. Let us say my assets are held in digital form on a cloud owned by an entity not domiciled in India. In that case even if a Will or Power of Attorney confers rights, will that entity accept the Will or Power of Attorney?

In case of assets I decide to bequeath to more than one individual, who will get access to username and password? If my assets are held in a format protected by biometrics, how do beneficiary/beneficiaries access the underlying assets, if they are more than one.

The current legal system is not geared up to deal with these situations. The legal fraternity and technologists will have to first accept the concerns. Only then, they will brainstorm to find solutions.

Coming back to our topic of discussions on risk, we need to accept the fact that no investment is risk free. The main reason we get returns on investment is because we take risk. Let us start by accepting this reality first and then, accept that newer risks will emerge and earlier risks may extinguish. Risk and returns are two sides of the same coin.

(The writer is a financial planner and the author of Yogic Wealth)

## Ready for digitisation?

### COVERNOTE

Dematerialised insurance policies can be made part of the demat-account holding our dematerialised shares and bonds as also other securities and investments as part of e-IA concept

K. Nitya Kalyani

We revisited the e-Insurance Account (eIA) concept wistfully in the previous instalment of Cover Note, hoping for a regulatory push for wider adoption.

The insurance regulator has been working on a portal called Bima Sugam, a platform for comparison shopping and purchase of insurance policies, which may now incorporate an eIA as well.

Without adding another service provider to manage, another option could be to make dematerialised insurance policies part of the demat account holding our dematerialised shares and bonds as also other securities and investments.

Mutual funds are already part of the demat account and, lately, the National Pension Scheme (NPS) can also be viewed through the same account. How much more easier can it get for the investor than to have access to all insurance policies as well on the same platform?

### On DigiLocker

Regarding digital versions of documents, especially of the insurance variety, DigiLocker is supposed to display documents, including insurance policies.

Vehicle-insurance policies issued anywhere in India are easily fetched into the account and form part of 'Issued Documents' of DigiLocker, which are on par with original documents as per IT Act, 2000 and Motor Vehicles Act, 1989.

Having my health policy handy in DigiLocker will help, I thought. This is not one of the 'Issued Documents', and, while DigiLocker promises it can fetch it, that promise is not reliably delivered in real life. The error message I get is my name in the policy is not spelt the way it is in Aadhaar.

This easily leads to a favourite rant about how various government agencies misspell names so that if one matches the other and get linked – as is constantly demanded – it's literally celebration time!

If you are from Southern India where initials are the norm rather than surnames, expect double the trouble quotient because initials are placed, well, initially.

Traditional ID cards and old bank accounts fell in line with our way of doing things while Aadhaar placed the initial at the end of the name!

So, new bank accounts now want the initial at the end of the name too. Aadhaar, PAN and GST documents don't match up. Passports place the expanded initial at the end of the name, in effect making it a surname, which is what it denoted at one point a couple of generations ago, I guess. All the while, we continue to sign our names with initial in the correct place!

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

### Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Flat Rs 76
State Bank of India	11.05-15.05	10,884-11,908	2,177-2,382	Up to 1.50% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.25-14.75	10,685-11,829	2,137-2,366	Up to 1% (Max Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	10.65-15.65	10,784-12,066	2,157-2,413	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	10.40-16.95	10,772-12,413	2,144-2,483	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49 onwards	10,994 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.40-15.50	10,971-12,027	2,194-2,405	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	11.15-12.75	10,909-11,313	2,182-2,263	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1% (Minimum Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	1% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Karnataka Bank	14.12	11,665	2,333	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min Rs 2,500 Max Rs 8,500)

Rates and Charges as on August 23

Source: Paisabazaar.com

### Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.75 - 10.50	10,319 - 10,747	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 9.60	10,319 - 10,525	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.65 - 12.20	10,294 - 11,173	Rs 1,500 - Rs 2,000
Canara Bank	8.80 - 11.95	10,331 - 11,110	Up to 0.25% (Rs 1,000 - Rs 5,000), 50% waiver on processing fee till 31 August 2023
UCO Bank	8.70 - 10.55	10,307 - 10,759	1% (Up to Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India#	8.65-9.70	10,294-10,550	Up to 0.25% (Rs 750 - Rs 7,500)
IDBI Bank	8.80 - 9.90	10,331-10,599	Rs 2,500
Indian Overseas Bank###	8.85*	10,343*	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	8.90*	10,355*	Rs 999 - Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.75*	10,319*	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.25 - 11.68	10,440 - 11,042	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	8.85*	10,343*	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
South Indian Bank	11.65 - 13.10	11,034 - 11,402	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
IDFC First Bank	9.00 - 13.50	10,379 - 11,505	Up to 3.5%
City Union Bank	14.25 - 14.75	11,699 - 11,829	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

#Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for SBI GREEN CAR (Electric Vehicle)

###0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 750 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers. \*Onwards

Rates and charges as on August 23

Source: Paisabazaar.com



## PYONGYANG

## North Korea lets citizens abroad return in easing of COVID isolation



North Korea has allowed citizens stranded abroad by its strict COVID-19 curbs to return home after three years of isolation, state media reported on Sunday. Analysts say the country has a crumbling health system — one of the worst in the world — and no COVID-19 vaccines, antiviral drugs or mass testing capacity. AFP

## PORT-AU-PRINCE

## At least 7 killed after Haiti gang opens fire on protest-rights group



At least seven people were killed in Haiti on Saturday, local rights group CARDH said, after a gang that controls a northern suburb of the capital Port-au-Prince opened fire with machine guns on a protest organised by a Christian church leader. Videos shared on X showed some 100 people marching in the suburb Canaan. REUTERS

## CANBERRA

## 3 U.S. Marines killed, 20 injured in an aircraft crash in Australia



A United States Marine Corps aircraft carrying troops crashed on a north Australian island on Sunday, killing three Marines and injuring 20 during a multi-nation training exercise, officials said. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said only Americans were injured in the crash which happened during Exercise Predators Run. AP

## KABUL

## Taliban to stop women from visiting Afghan national park



The Taliban will use security forces to stop women from visiting Band-e-Amir, one of Afghanistan's most popular national parks, according to information shared by a spokesperson for the Vice and Virtue Ministry. The Ministry alleged that women have not been observing the proper way to wear the hijab, a headscarf. AP

## Zimbabwe President hails high turnout after re-election

International observer missions list a number of concerns, including the banning of Opposition rallies, issues with the voter registration rolls, biased state media coverage and voter intimidation

Agence France-Presse  
HARARE

President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Sunday called Zimbabwe a "mature democracy" after winning a second term in office despite the Opposition rejecting the result of a vote that international observers said fell short of democratic standards.

Mr. Mnangagwa, 80, won 52.6% of the ballots against 44% for his main challenger, Nelson Chamisa, 45, according to official results announced late on Saturday by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC).

"We have demonstrated that we are a mature democracy," the President said, praising a high turnout.

"We take pride in the fact that we are an inde-



Jubilant speech: Emmerson Mnangagwa addressing a press conference at State House in Harare on Sunday. AP

pendent and sovereign nation," Mr. Mnangagwa said. Zimbabweans voted on Wednesday and Thursday for President and Parliament in polling marred by delays that sparked Opposition accusations of rigging and voter suppression.

Promise Mkwanzani, a spokesperson for Chamisa's Citizens Coalition for

charges of authoritarianism. Foreign monitors announced on Friday that the elections had failed to conform to regional and international standards.

Observer missions from the European Union, the Commonwealth and the 16-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC) listed a number of concerns, including the banning of Opposition rallies, issues with the voter registration rolls, biased state media coverage and voter intimidation.

That did not stop Mr. Mnangagwa from thanking "various election observation missions who have been witnessing our electoral processes without bias". Nicknamed "The Crocodile", Mr. Mnangagwa first came to power after a coup that deposed the late ruler Robert Mugabe in 2017.

Change (CCC), said the party did not sign the final tally, which he described as "false".

## Not meeting norms

The vote has been watched across southern Africa as a test of support for Mr. Mnangagwa's ZANU-PF party, whose 43-year rule has been accompanied by a moribund economy and

## Raised \$7.1 m after mug shot: Trump campaign

Associated Press  
NEW YORK

Former U.S. President Donald Trump's campaign says he has raised \$7.1 million since Thursday when he was booked at the Fulton County Jail in Georgia on charges that he illegally schemed to overturn the 2020 election in the state and became the first former President in the United States history to ever have

a mug shot taken.

Spokesperson Steven Cheung said that on Friday alone the campaign brought in \$4.18 million — its highest-grossing day to date.

The record haul underscores how Mr. Trump's legal woes have been a fundraising boon for his campaign, even as his political operation has spent tens of millions on his defence.

## On the draw



## Ameerah primed to come good in Y. Shanker Rao Memorial Deccan Fillies Championship Stakes

## RACING

HYDERABAD: The three-year-old filly Ameerah, who is in good shape, should win the Y. Shanker Rao Memorial Deccan Fillies Championship Stakes (Gr. 3), the main attraction of Monday's (Aug. 28) races.

**GOVERNOR'S CUP** (1,400m), rated 80 and above (Cat. I), 12.20 p.m.: 1. Summer Night (5) A. Imran Khan 63, 2. Watch My Stride (1) S. Saqlain 57, 3. Kingston (6) R.S. Jodha 55, 4. New Look (4) B. Nikhil 54.5, 5. Top Secret (8) D.S. Deora 54, 6. Mysterious Angel (7) P. Ajeeth Kumar 52, 7. Briar Ridge (2) Santosh Raj 51 and 8. City Of Bliss (3) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 50.

**1. MYSTERIOUS ANGEL, 2. BRIAR RIDGE, 3. WATCH MY STRIDE**

**2. GRAND PARADE PLATE (DIV. II)** (1,200m), Maiden 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.05: 1. Nucleus (7) Mohit Singh 60, 2. Saint Emilion (8) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 3. Indian Warrior (2) B. Nikhil 56.5, 4. Think Of God (9) Uday Kiran P 56.5, 5. Ampere's Touch (1) P. Sai Kumar 55.5, 6. Jack Daniel (3) R.S. Jodha 55.5, 7. See My Attitude (4) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 50.

54.5, 8. Janasu (5) P. Ajeeth Kumar 51.5 and 9. Silver Lining (6) S. Saqlain 51.5.

**1. SAINT EMILION, 2. SILVER LINING, 3. JACK DANIEL**

**3. RED RUM PLATE** (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only, 1.40: 1. Assured Success (5) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 56, 2. Blazing Gun (7) D.S. Deora 56, 3. Alcohol Free (1) A.M. Togralu 54.5, 4. Duck Hawk (1) Md. Ismail 54.5, 5. Magic Princess (10) G. Naresh 54.5, 6. Oskars Glory (9) Uday Kiran 54.5, 7. Realeza (9) Antony Raj S 54.5, 8. Sangreal (8) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 9. Santa Barbara (3) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 10. Setastar (2) Mohit Singh 54.5 and 11. The Platinum Queen (4) Kiran Naidu 54.5.

**1. ALCAHOL FREE, 2. ASSURED SUCCESS, 3. SANTA BARBARA**

**4. GRAND PARADE PLATE (DIV. I)** (1,200m), Maiden 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.15: 1. Exclusive Luck (8) Md. Ismail 60, 2. Classical Music (4) Shivansh 59.5, 3. Inderdhanush (5) B. Nikhil 56.5, 4. Pancho (7) S. Saqlain 56.5, 5. London Bell (6) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 56, 6. Bien Pensant (3) P. Ajeeth Kumar 55.5, 7. Touque Blanche (9) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 55, 8. Solar Princess (2) Surya Prakash 54.5 and 9. Nishaan (1) S.K. Paswan 52.

**1. LONDON BELL, 2. CLASSICAL MUSIC, 3. PANCHO**

**5. RANGARAJAN MEMORIAL CUP** (1,600m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.50: 1. Painted Apache (8) Antony Raj S 60, 2. Best Buddy (4) R.S. Jodha 57.5, 3. Nightmare (6) B.R. Kumar 56.5, 4. Juramento (3) S. Saqlain 55, 5. Only My Way (2) Afroz Khan 55, 6. Kings Best (5) Hindu Singh 54.5, 7. Enabling (7) Akshay Kumar 50.5 and 8. Vintage Brut (1) P. Sai Kumar 50.

**1. ENABLING, 2. JURAMENTO, 3. PAINTED APACHE**

**6. KAKATIYA CUP** (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.25: 1. Ambitious Star (10) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Char Ek Char (13) Surya Prakash 59, 3. Mr. Perfect (5) Mohit Singh 59, 4. Adhbut (8) Afroz Khan 58.5, 5. Alexina (7) P. Sai Kumar 57.5, 6. Golden Forza (11) Kiran Naidu 57.5, 7. Life's Living (9) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 8. Happy Go Lucky (3) Ashad Asbar 56, 9. Divine Connection (1) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 54.5, 10. Sound Echo (12) D.S. Deora 53, 11. Deccan Ranger (4) G. Naresh 52.5, 12. Musser (2) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 50.5 and 13. Track Blazer (6) S.K. Paswan 50.5.

**1. LIFE'S LIVING, 2. ALEXINA, 3. ADHBT**

**7. Y. SHANKER RAO MEMORIAL DECCAN FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES** (1,600m) (Terms) Fillies, 3-y-o only, 4.00: 1. Ameerah (5) Neeraj 56, 2. August (4) Antony Raj S 56, 3. Livermore (6) S. Saqlain 56, 4. N R I DOUBLEPOWER (3) B.R. Kumar 56, 5. Seminole Wind (1) Hindu Singh 56 and 6. West Brook (2) Akshay Kumar 56.

**1. AMEERAH, 2. N R I DOUBLEPOWER**

**8. KARIMNAGAR PLATE** (1,800m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.35: 1. Exclusive Spark (3) Md. Ismail 60, 2. Divine Destiny (1) Akshay Kumar 59.5, 3. Mandela (6) Ashad Asbar 59.5, 4. Sundance Kid (7) S. Saqlain 57.5, 5. Akash (4) Kiran Naidu 55, 6. My Way Or Highway (5) D.S. Deora 55, 7. Special Effort (2) P. Sai Kumar 54, 8. Voice Of A Dream (9) P. Ajeeth Kumar 53, 9. Special And Thong (-) and 10. Sweet Talk (8) Mohit Singh 52.5.

**1. DIVINE DESTINY, 2. SWEET TALK, 3. MANDELA**

Day's Best: MYSTERIOUS ANGEL Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8. Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8. Tanala: All races.

## Key Boris Johnson ally resigns, slams Sunak

Agence France-Presse  
LONDON

A key ally of former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson formally resigned on Saturday, delivering a blistering attack on his successor in her resignation letter.

Former Culture Minister Nadine Dorries announced her intention to resign 11 weeks ago but had remained as Member of Parliament while she investigated why she was not

given a seat in the Upper House of Parliament.

In her resignation letter, Ms. Dorries accused Prime Minister Rishi Sunak of abandoning "the fundamental principles of Conservatism" and said "history will not judge you kindly".

Ms. Dorries was unexpectedly not awarded a seat in the Upper Chamber of Parliament, the House of Lords, in Mr. Johnson's resignation honours list. He rewarded fellow Brexit die-

hards and even those implicated in the "Partygate" scandal that contributed to his downfall last year.

The omission prompted accusations from Mr. Johnson's camp of meddling from Mr. Sunak and Downing Street.

In her letter, which she released on social media, Ms. Dorries accused Mr. Sunak of leading attacks on her resulting in "the police having to visit my home and contact me on a number of occasions due to

threats to my person".

She also attacked his record in Government.

"Since you took office a year ago, the country is run by a zombie Parliament where nothing meaningful has happened," she wrote. "You have no mandate from the people and the Government is adrift."

Mr. Sunak's spokesperson told reporters earlier it was "entirely untrue" that the Prime Minister or officials removed names from Mr. Johnson's list.

## Sport

## Icicle takes the honours in first division of Fair Haven Plate

HYDERABAD: Trainer B. Mukesh Kumar's Icicle, ridden by A.M. Togralu, won the Fair Haven Plate (Div. I), the main event of Sunday's (Aug. 27) races. The winner is owned by Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar.

**1. DONCASTER PLATE (DIV. I):** PONTERRACT (Akshay Kumar) 1, Great Giver (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Morning Mist (Ajesh Narreddu) 3 and Colt Pistol (B.R. Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, 1-1/4 and 1-1/4. Im, 7.98s. ₹39 (w), 16, 14 and 11 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 60, SHW: 14 and 25, FP: 224, Q: 95, Tanala: 421. Favourite: Morning Mist. Owners: Mr. Ayyadevara Srinivas, Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur & Mr. Shashidhar Kamineni. Trainer: L.V.R. Prasad Raju.

**2. THREE WISHES PLATE: PRECIOUS GIFT** (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Ar Superior (B. Nikhil) 2, My Master (A. Imran Khan) 3 and Creative Art (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 4. 2-1/2, 3-1/2 and 3. Im, 8.75s. ₹45 (w), 12, 20 and 15 (p). SHP: 84, THP: 45, SHW: 19 and 30, FP: 321, Q: 140, Tanala: 933. Favourite: Blue Brigade. Owners: Mr. Teegala Vijender Reddy, Mr. Teegala Sumant & Mr. Ashok Ranpise. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

Imran Khan) 4. Shd, 3/4 and 7. Im, 8.14s. ₹14 (w), 13, 15 and 12 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 50, SHW: 10 and 25, FP: 44, Q: 38, Tanala: 252. Favourite: Happy Soul. Owner: Mr. Kersi Homiy Vaccha. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

**4. FAIR HAVEN PLATE (DIV. I):** ICICLE (A.M. Togralu) 1, Bangor On Dee (A. Imran Khan) 2, Candy Girl (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Superstallar (Akshay Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, Nk and 1-1/4. Im, 27.01s. ₹31 (w), 12, 13 and 17 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 60, SHW: 13 and 28, FP: 115, Q: 67, Tanala: 350. Favourite: Bangor On Dee. Owner: Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: B. Mukesh Kumar.

**5. FAIR HAVEN PLATE (DIV. III):** STAG'S LEAP (B.R. Kumar) 1, Alabama (Akshay Kumar) 2, N R I Ultrapower (S. Saqlain) 3 and The Image (Ashad Asbar) 4. 1/2, 1-1/2 and 3/4. Im, 28.12s. ₹323 (w), 54, 15 and 18 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 65, SHW: 80 and 15, FP: 1,704, Q: 308, Tanala: 12, 158. Favourite: Alabama. Owner: Mr. Rajendran 933. Favourite: Blue Brigade. Owners: Mr. Teegala Vijender Reddy, Mr. Teegala Sumant & Mr. Ashok Ranpise. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

THP: 41, SHW: 37 and 15, FP: 676, Q: 143, Tanala: 1,760. Favourite: Indian Sniper. Owner: Mr. Sanjay R. Goyani. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

**7. KAMAREDDY PLATE: HIGH REWARD** (R.S. Jodha) 1, Sergeant Reckless (Deepak Singh) 2, Fara (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Only The Brave (Santosh Raj) 4. 3, 1/2 and 2-1/2. Im 14. 44s. ₹79 (w), 18, 22 and 13 (p). SHP: 98, THP: 54, SHW: 53 and 47, FP: 1,762, Q: 303, Tanala: 3,845. Favourite: Bash On Regardless. Owner: Mr. Murugaparan Alagappa. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

**8. FAIR HAVEN PLATE (DIV. II):** NUGGET (Akshay Kumar) 1, Southern Act (Md. Ismail) 2, Dream Station (B. Nikhil) 3 and Wind Sprite (Afroz Khan) 4. Not run: Pacific Command. Hd. 2:34 and Hd. Im, 27.40s. ₹16 (w), 11, 19 and 68 (p). SHP: 55, THP: 140, SHW: 17 and 30, FP: 107, Q: 79, Tanala: 1,069. Favourite: Nugget. Owners: Mr. Puttamreddy Prathap Reddy & Mr. Sonna Raju Adipudi. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh. Jackpot: 100%: ₹5,80,404 (c/o). Treble: (i) 696 (66 tkts.), (ii) 3,891 (9 tkts.), (iii) 6,974 (12 tkts.). Mini Jackpot: (i) 63,244 (1 tk.), (ii) 85,710 (c/o).



Velavan and Akanksha with their titles. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Akanksha and Velavan reign

## Sports Bureau

Velavan Senthilkumar and Akanksha Salunkhe won the men's and women's titles in the PSA Challenger squash tournament in Canberra on Sunday.

**The results (final): Men:** Velavan Senthilkumar bt Joseph White (Aus) 11-8, 11-9, 2-11, 11-3; **women:** Akanksha Salunkhe bt Tanvi Khanna 9-11, 12-10, 8-11, 11-8, 13-11

**CUTTING EDGE**

**Bumrah's return will add depth to Indian attack: Ambrose**



West Indies legend Curtly Ambrose said Jasprit Bumrah's presence will make India favourites in ICC Cricket World Cup. "Jasprit Bumrah is a fine bowler and as he returns to the Indian team it will add a lot of depth and variety to the Indian attack. Having said that, a comeback is never easy. My advice to him will be to go gradually".

**MAIDEN SUCCESS**

**An and Vitidsarn crowned badminton World champions**



World No. 1 An Se-young of South Korea and Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn won their maiden women's and men's singles titles in the World badminton championships in Copenhagen on Sunday. While An beat former champion Carolina Marin 21-12, 21-10 in the final, Vitidsarn downed Japan's Kodai Naraoka 19-21, 21-18, 21-7.

**CLUTCH**

**Messi comes off the bench to score, Miami beats New York**



Lionel Messi came off the bench and scored in the 89th minute as Inter Miami began its push for the Major League Soccer playoffs with a 2-0 win at New York Red Bulls on Saturday. The win lifts Miami off the bottom of the Eastern Conference and reduces the gap to the last playoff spot to 11 points with 11 games remaining.

**TROUBLE SHOOTING**

**RFEF schedules urgent meeting over Rubiales scandal**



Spain's football federation will meet urgently on Monday as its president, Luis Rubiales, faces a FIFA suspension over allegations he gave player Jenni Hermoso an unwanted kiss on the lips following Spain's victory in the Women's World Cup. Rubiales has refused to resign over the incident, saying the kiss was consensual.

**Neeraj emerges the king of the javelin**

The Indian great hurls to a distance of 88.17m to clinch the gold ahead of Pakistan's Nadeem; Indian men finish fifth in the 4x400m relay

**ATHLETICS WORLDS**

**Jonathan Selvaraj**  
BUDAPEST

Neeraj Chopra roars as the javelin is expelled from his right arm. The eight-foot long steel tipped aluminium Nordic Valhalla screams skyward. Torqued by the Indian's arm, it's fluorescent green tail wiggles angrily like a hissing viper. For a moment it's trajectory takes it high enough that disappears into the black sky above the Nemzeti Atlétikai Központ in Budapest. Then you see it again as it begins its descent.

It sails over the dotted white arc that mark 80 meters from where the Indian stands.

There's no arc that marks immortality. That's where it lands. 88.17m.

The Indian is still roaring. He turns around to the stands where the people are screaming. Others are crying. The 25-year-old has a wide grin. He holds his arms aloft as he waits for the digital scoreboard to tell him what he already know. The measurement comes in but it's just a detail at this point.

The throw is more than enough. It ticks that final box in his staggering list of accomplishments. Neeraj Chopra is now World Champion. It's not that he needed the affirmation.



**Victory cry:** Neeraj exults after his massive second throw which assured him the big prize. REUTERS

The 25-year-old from Haryana is already an Olympic champion. He's already the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. He had already become the first Indian man to win a world medal when he took silver at the Eugene World Cham-

pionships behind Grenada's Anderson Peters last year. He is already arguably the greatest Indian athlete of all time.

What's a world title but just an underline for emphasis at this point. It's a treasure trove that anyone

would be grateful for.

Not the Indian. He doesn't have the slightest bit of impurity in his treasure cabinet now. It's all 24 carat.

The Indian is perfect. He's needed to be.

Coming into Budapest,

he was undefeated this season. But he's only competing twice after suffering a groin injury after the first time. Two other throwers - Jakub Vadlejch and Julian Weber have thrown better. Oliver Helander with an 89.93m personal best is

here too. Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem - a freak of a natural talent is here too. He won the Commonwealth title last year with a throw of 90.18m - beating the Indian he admitted admiring to the magical 90m mark. Here in Budapest, Arshad had made a statement of intent with an effortless throw of 86.79m in qualification.

Neeraj had done better with 88.77m but he might have felt Nadeem breathing down his neck.

He would have felt the heat on Sunday night too. He starts with a foul. It's about 75m. Not enough for his standard and he steps over the foul line. The next one is good. 88.17m

On Sunday night, Neeraj breaks free of them all. Peters, the champion from last year, is left behind in qualification. The rest will bend the knee in the final. Vadlejch finishes with 86.67m. Weber with 85.79m. Nadeem the closest with 87.82

They try their best. They are good. Neeraj, his Nordic Valhalla flying where he wills, is great. He's better than great. In Nordic mythology Valhalla is home of the Gods. At Budapest the Indian is one too.

In the men's 4x400m relay, India finished fifth with a timing of 2:59.92s. USA Claimed the gold with 2:57.31 ahead of France (2:58.45) and Great Britain (2:58.71).

**Duplantis soars to retain his crown**

**Agence France-Presse**  
BUDAPEST

Noah Lyles and Sha'Carri Richardson, the two faces of the World Athletics Championships, won their third and second golds respectively by anchoring the United States to 4x100m relay triumphs in Budapest on Saturday.

On an enthralling night's action, Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis and Faith Kipyegon rubber-stamped their authority in their events.

Charismatic Swede Duplantis retained his pole vault title, although he fell short of bettering his own world record, whilst Kenyan Kipyegon became the first woman to achieve the 1500 and 5,000m double, when she won the latter.

It was a night of firsts for Canada, which had earlier in the championships swept both the men's and women's hammer titles. Marco Arop and Pierce LePage became the first Canadians to win the men's 800m title and decathlon respectively. After claiming a first individual sprint double since Usain Bolt in 2015, Lyles mirrored the Jamaican legend in running the fourth leg to help take USA to the win in 37.38 seconds.

Olympic champion Italy, with Tokyo 100m champion Marcell Jacobs on the second leg, claimed silver in 37.62sec, while Jamaica

took bronze (37.76).

Richardson anchored USA to a championship record time of 41.03sec ahead of arch-rival Jamaica (41.21s) and Britain (41.97s). The USA quartet broke the Jamaican's championship record that had stood since 2015 in Beijing.

**Masterclass**

Kipyegon delivered another masterclass to win her second gold in the Hungarian capital in 14min 53.88sec. Dutch rival Sifan Hassan claimed silver in 14:54.11, with another Kenyan, Beatrice Chebet, taking bronze (14:54.33).

Decathlete LePage turned his silver last year into gold with a total of 8,909 points, teammate and Olympic champion Damian Warner filling second spot (8,804). Grenada's two-time Commonwealth Games champion Lindon Victor took bronze (8,756).

Duplantis retained his pole vault title with a best vault of 6.10 metres. Ernest John Obieno of the Philippines took silver with 6.00m, while Australian Kurtis Marschall and American Chris Nilsen shared bronze (5.95m).

Arop confirmed his status as World No. 1 this year timing Irwin 44.24sec with long-time leader Emmanuel Wanyonyi of Kenya second in 1:44.53. Britain's Ben Pattison won a bronze with a 1:44.83.

**Verstappen drives to ninth win in a row**



**Take that!** Verstappen sprays the bubbly on veteran Alonso after yet another success on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

**DUTCH GP**

**Reuters**  
ZANDVOORT

Red Bull's Max Verstappen celebrated a record-equaling ninth successive Formula One victory on Sunday after winning a chaotic and rain-halted Dutch Grand Prix for the third year in a row.

The home triumph from pole position at a soggy Zandvoort equalled now-retired Sebastian Vettel's 2013 streak of success and was Red Bull's 14th consecutive triumph and 13th of the season.

**The results:** 1. Verstappen (Red

Bull) 2h:24m:04.411s; 2. Alonso (Aston Martin) +3.744s; 3. Gasly (Alpine) 7.058; 4. Perez (Red Bull) 10.068; 5. Sainz (Ferrari) 12.541; 6. Hamilton (Mercedes) 13.029; 7. Norris (McLaren) 13.232; 8. Albon (Williams) 15.155; 9. Piastri (McLaren) 16.580; 10. Ocon (Alpine) 18.346; 11. Stroll (Aston Martin) 20.087; 12. Hulkenburg (Haas) 20.840; 13. Lawson (AlphaTauri) 26.147; 14. Magnussen (Haas) 26.410; 15. Bottas (Alfa Romeo) 27.388; 16. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri) 29.893; 17. Russell (55.754); DNF: Zhou (Alfa Romeo); Leclerc (Ferrari); Sergeant (Williams).  
**Standings Drivers:** 1. Verstappen 339; 2. Perez 201; 3. Alonso 168; 4. Hamilton 156; 5. Sainz 102.  
**Constructors:** 1. Red Bull 540; 2. Mercedes 255; 3. Aston Martin 215; 4. Ferrari 201; 5. McLaren 111.

**Transition phase in Tennis as fresh rivalries emerge**

**US OPEN 2023**

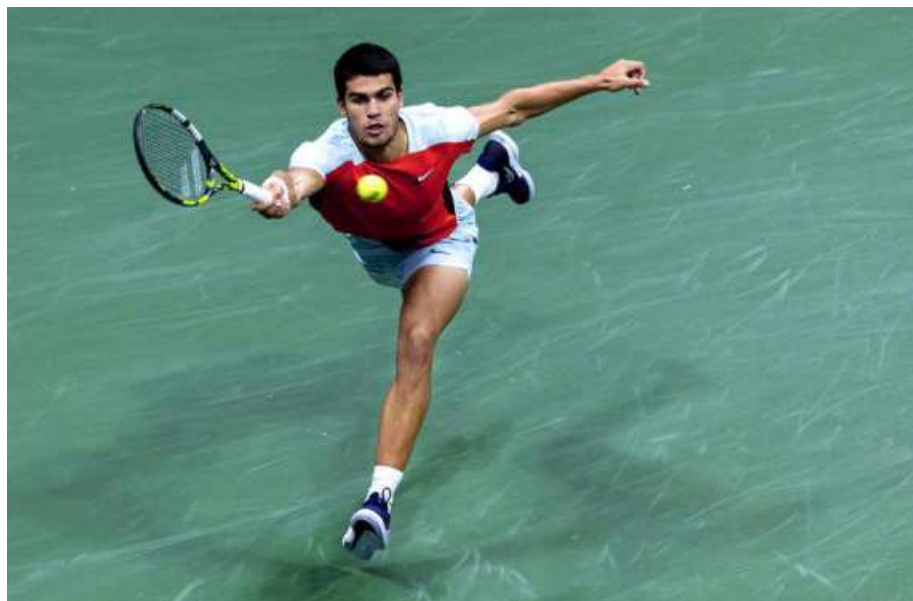
**Associated Press**  
NEW YORK

It seems everyone in the world of tennis was riveted by Novak Djokovic's victory over Carlos Alcaraz in the final of the last tournament for both ahead of the U.S. Open.

It was a titanic showdown between the two giants of the men's game at the moment and set the stage for what will be an expected meeting to determine the champion at Flushing Meadows, where play begins on Monday and finishes on Sept. 10.

Last weekend's contest at the hard-court Cincinnati Masters also served to symbolize the state of change the sport currently finds itself in, a year removed from Serena Williams' farewell match in New York and Roger Federer's retirement announcement soon thereafter.

Alcaraz is The Next Big Thing, the winner of the 2022 U.S. Open who grabbed his second Grand Slam title last month at



**New challenge:** Alcaraz represents the next generation and he will be looking to hold his fort coming into the tournament as defending champion. AFP

Wimbledon by beating Djokovic. And Djokovic, the owner of 23 major trophies, is the only member of The Big Three competing nowadays, what with Federer (who has 20) done and Rafael Nadal (22) out since January with a hip problem.

"Everyone has to kind of go on to their next stage. We're seeing that unfortunately with Serena, with

Roger, with Rafa. There is going to be a bit of a transition period," said Chris Eubanks.

No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek, who is 22, No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka and No. 4 Elena Rybakina, 24, appear poised to stay near the top of the women's game - Swiatek already has won four Slam titles, including the 2022 U.S. Open; the others have one apiece -

and No. 6 19-year-old Coco Gauff might be ready to etch her name on one of the four most prestigious trophies in tennis.

"For those of you who have long wondered about the future of tennis as we transition out of a golden age, we saw 2022 as a year of emerging stars," said Lew Sheer, the CEO and executive director of the U.S. Tennis Association.

**Nunez brace does it for 10-man Liverpool**

**EURO LEAGUES**

**Agencies**  
NEWCASTLE

Darwin Nunez came off the bench to score twice as Liverpool snatched a sensational 2-1 Premier League win over Newcastle United on Sunday as the Reds bounced back from a straight red card in the first half for captain Virgil van Dijk.

In another match, Rodri came up with another big goal for Manchester City, scoring in the 88th minute to secure the champions a 2-1 win at Sheffield United. Matty Cash's first goals for Aston Villa in more than a year inspired the team to a 3-1 victory over Burnley.

In LaLiga, Barcelona fought back to secure a barnstorming 4-3 win at Villarreal, with Robert Lewandowski bagging the winner late in the second half.

In Serie A, Cristian Pulisic continued his bright start at AC Milan with another goal in Saturday's 4-1 win over Torino, while Roma slumped to a 2-1 defeat at Verona.



Nunez came in as a substitute and made instant impact. REUTERS

**The results: Premier League:** Burnley 1 (Foster 47) lost to Aston Villa 3 (Cash 8, 20, Diaby 61); Sheffield United 1 lost to (Bogle 85) Manchester City 2 (Haaland 63, Rodri 88); Newcastle United 1 (Gordon 25) lost to Liverpool 2 (Nunez 81, 90+ 3).  
**Serie A:** AC Milan 4 (Pulisic 33, Giroud 43-pen, 65-pen, Hernandez 45+1) bt Torino 1 (Schuurs 36); Verona 2 (Duda 4, Ngonke 45+2) bt Roma 1 (Aouar 56).  
**LaLiga:** Sevilla 1 (Gudejil 45+ 2) lost to Girona 2 (Herrera 16, Alex Garcia 56); Villarreal 3 (Foyth 26, Sorloth 40, Rodriguez 50) lost to Barcelona 4 (Gaviria 12, de Jong 15, Torres 68, Lewandowski 71).  
**Bundesliga:** Bayern Munich 3 (Uduokhai 32-og, Kane 40-pen, 69) bt Augsburg (Dijon 86).

## INBRIEF



## Chelsea completes the signing of goalkeeper Petrovic

Chelsea completed the signing of goalkeeper Djordje Petrovic from Major League Soccer club New England Revolution on Saturday. The 23-year-old Serbia international signed a seven-year deal at Stamford Bridge and will initially be expected to be a backup to summer signing Robert Sanchez. The clubs did not disclose the transfer fee but British media reported the deal was worth £14 million.

## Lucky loser Tormo rallies to clinch Cleveland title

Lucky loser Sara Sorribes Tormo rallied from a break down in both the second and third sets to defeat Ekaterina Alexandrova 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 for the WTA title in Cleveland on Sunday.

## Rishab Agarwal loses in the final

Sixth seed Rishab Agarwal lost 6-2, 6-2 to fifth-ranked Matyas Fuele of Hungary in the final of the \$25,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Tainan, Chinese Taipei, on Sunday.

## Top seed Yogesh Shah claims the over-65 title

Top seed Yogesh Shah prevailed 7-6(4), 3-6, [10-7] against second seed Murthi Suresh in the over-65 final of the ITF Masters tennis tournament in Palodia, Ahmedabad.

**The results (finals):**  
**Over-30:** Harshvardhan Thirani bt Maulik Chauhan 6-4, 6-3;  
**Over-35:** Khush Bakeri bt Harsh Lakhisarani 6-1, 6-2;  
**Over-40:** Vishal Kiran Sevak bt Jayesh Gohel 6-3, 6-4;  
**Over-45:** Bharat Parmar bt Nitesh Rungta 6-0, 6-1; **Over-50:** Narendra Kankaria bt Navin Agarwal 6-1, 6-0; **Over-55:** Paresh Patel bt Phulla Shah 6-3, 6-1; **Over-60:** Shirish Sutaria bt Vijay Kumar Trivedi 6-0, 7-5; **Over-65:** Yogesh Shah bt Murthi Suresh 7-6(4), 3-6, [10-7].

## LIVE TELECAST

**Maharaja Trophy T20:** Star Sports 2 & FanCode, 1 & 5.30 p.m.  
**US Open:** Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 8.30 p.m. onwards  
**Serie A:** Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 10 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday)  
**Laliga:** Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Tuesday)

## Indian women down Thailand for third straight win

## HOCKEY 5S

## Press Trust of India

India continued its unbeaten run in the Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier, registering a hard-fought 5-4 win over Thailand in its third match of the tournament here on Sunday.

For India, skipper Navjot Kaur (first minute), Monika Dipi Toppo (first, seventh), Mahima Choudhary (20th) and Ajmina Kujur (30th) were on target. Thailand's goals were scored by Piresram Anongnat (third), Aunjai Natthakarn (10th, 14th) and Suwapat Konthong (19th).

India had registered a 7-1 win over Japan in its second match on Saturday. This was after the team started its campaign with a 7-2 thrashing of Malaysia on Friday.

On Sunday, India got off the blocks at a rampaging pace, putting pressure on the Thailand defenders from the word go. Navjot opened the scoring in the first minute through a field goal. India doubled its lead in no time when Monika found the back of the net from a field effort.

Thailand pulled one back through captain Anongnat two minutes later.

## CAG prevails over IAF, continues unbeaten streak

Skipper Chandan Singh's goal seals victory in a tight contest; HUTN loses again to Indian Army; Indian Railways registers commanding win over Indian Navy

## HOCKEY

## K. Keerthivasan

CHENNAI

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) continued its unbeaten run in a Group-B tie of the 94th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup All-India hockey tournament here on Sunday, with a 2-1 victory over Indian Air Force (IAF).

Later, Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu (HUTN) suffered its second defeat in three matches, losing to Indian Army 3-0 in another Group-B match while Indian Railways posted a 4-1 win over Indian Navy in a Group-A contest.

Of the lot, CAG has been a consistent side with a de-



Hero: Indian Railways' Darshan Gawkar scored a brace against Indian Navy. M. VEDHAN

finite structure and better understanding between its defence, midfield and forward. On the day IAF was equal to the task as it showed its mettle by not allowing CAG any leeway. After Parvinder Singh opened the account on a

counter-attack for CAG in the second quarter, IAF hit back quickly with a near-perfect penalty corner strike by Lovdeep Singh that hit left side of the roof.

CAG and IAF fought tooth and nail in the third quarter without conceding

an inch. Skipper Chandan Singh scored what turned out to be winner off a penalty corner in the fourth.

Indian Army prevailed over HUTN in a match that was scrappy for most part. Both teams failed to cash in on the numerous opportunities that presented themselves. Army could convert only two of the seven penalty corners. On the other hand, the circle penetrations of HUTN were below par, an aspect that showed its forward-line in poor light.

## The results:

CAG 2 (Parvinder Singh, Chandan Singh) bt IAF 1 (Lovdeep Singh); Indian Railways 4 (Yuvraj Walmiki, Darshan Gawkar 2, Pratap Lakra) bt Indian Navy 1 (Sushil Dhanwar); Indian Army 3 (Pratap Shinde, Harman Singh) bt HUTN 0.

## Mohun Bagan finally gets the better of Mumbai City, to meet Goa in semifinals

## DURAND CUP

## Amitabha Das Sharma

KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant produced a nice essay of attacking football to down Mumbai City FC 3-1 in the last quarterfinal match of the 132nd Durand Cup here on Sunday.

Egged on by a vociferous home crowd of around 25000, the Indian Super League champion proved its superiority over the ISL league shield winner to book a semifinal encounter with FC Goa on Thursday at the same venue.

**Paying the penalty** Bagan sought the attack route right from the start and was rewarded for in the ninth minute when its



On Target: Cummings. DEBASISH BHADURI

Australian forward Jason Cummings was brought down by the Mumbai goalkeeper Phurba Lachenpa after the former got the ball through in the clear.

Cummings made no mistake from the spot as the Mariners looked for their first win against the Islanders, who had won five and drawn three in the

previous eight meetings.

Mumbai made a comeback with a nice goal in the 28th minute.

Argentine forward Pereyra Diaz got his body in the way to guide the ball home after the Scottish attacker Greag Stewart and Spanish midfielder played a one-two inside the Bagan box to create the chance.

Before Mumbai could plot its next move, Bagan re-established the lead

with Manvir Singh getting his header right on a Hugo Boumous assist in the 30th minute.

The Mariners took the match beyond the reach of their opponent with defender Anwar Ali nodding home an Ashique Kuruniyan cross in 63rd minute.

## The result:

Mohun Bagan SG 3 (Cummings 9-pen, Manvir 30, Anwar 63) bt Mumbai City 1 (Diaz 28).

## TNCA XI steady after restricting Bengal to 193



Ajith Ram (TNCA President's XI, 7/96).



Shubham Sharma (MPCA, 141 batting)

## BUCHI BABU

## S. Prasanna Venkatesan

TIRUNELVELI

Leg-spinner Jhathavedh Subramanyan picked up three for 12 in five overs, and pacer Ajay K. Krishnan, left-arm spinner M. Siddharth, and off-spinner Shahrukh Khan claimed two wickets each as TNCA XI bowled out Bengal for 193 on day one of the Group D match in the Buchi Babu All India invitational cricket tournament at the India Cement Company ground here on Sunday.

TNCA claimed four wickets, while Bengal's 19-year-old Shashank Singh brought up his fifty in the first session.

## Shahrukh strikes

After resumption, skipper Shahrukh chose to bowl himself to try and break the fifth-wicket partnership (69, 111b) between Shashank and left-hander Deepak Kumar Mahato.

And he did break the stand, when Shashank (68, 115b, 4x4, 4x6) gave him the charge and holed out to long-on.

The off-spinner almost had another wicket in the same over as a catch was put down at the slip.

Shahrukh had Sukhmeet Singh caught at mid-wicket off a full toss in his next over.

Jhathavedh, who came into the attack only in the 49th over, helped TNCA wrap up Bengal's innings.

In the absence of pacer Yudheeswaran, medium-pacer Nidhish S. Rajagopal stepped up to bowl five overs and get a wicket — southpaw Toufik Uddin Mondal miscued his pull off a short ball for Shahrukh to position himself for its landing at first slip.

## The scores (day one):

**At Tirunelveli:** Bengal 193 in 57.2 overs (Shashank Singh 68, Deepak Kumar Mahato 47) vs TNCA XI 108/2 in 32 overs.

**Toss:** Bengal.

**At Dindigul:** Madhya Pradesh 301/3 in 90 overs (Arham Aqueel 49, Shubham Sharma 141 batting, Aniket Verma 94) vs Haryana.

**Toss:** MP.

**At Salem:** J&K 241/6 in 90 overs (Qamran Iqbal 58, Abdul Samad 40) vs Mumbai.

**Toss:** Mumbai.  
**At Coimbatore:** Chhattisgarh 270 in 85.3 overs (Shashank Singh 56, Ajith Ram 7/96) vs TNCA President's XI 4/0 in 2 overs.  
**Toss:** TNCA President's XI.



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## The world today accepts superiority of India's intelligence, wisdom and talent.

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# Tata Steel tournament – a solid platform that takes Indian chess forward

Tournaments like these where our young players fight it out with international Grandmasters really help the cause of producing newer champions, says the legendary Viswanathan Anand who has been the event's ambassador since 2021

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**

**T**hey presented an unusual, but striking, sight. You normally wouldn't expect European women in sarees for the closing ceremony of a chess tournament.

They may have been wearing the unstitched Indian garment for the first time in their lives, but at the Bhasha Bhawan auditorium of Kolkata's National Library, they managed it as well as they did the pieces on the chessboard, at the Tata Steel Chess India tournament. It was the first time that women were playing in India's only elite chess event.

## Special tournament

The organisers, Tata Steel, ensured that their first ever women's tournament was special. They gave the women the same prize money as the men.

"I don't remember a (chess) tournament where the prize-fund was the same for both men and women," said Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine, during the draw of lots on the eve of the event.

"Because such a tournament didn't exist." Muzychuk was a beneficiary of the organisers' decision to implement equal pay: she won the rapid section. A year later, she will be back to defend her title for the fifth edition of the tournament, which opens on August 31.

There is bound to be more interest in this year's tournament, given the kind of unprecedented following in the country the recent Chess World Cup, which concluded at Baku a few days ago, had. Praggnanandhaa was very much the star in the tournament, as he made it to the final.

His compatriots had also done well

there. In fact, four of the eight quarterfinalists were Indians – D. Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and Vidit Gujrathi being the others. All of them will feature at the Tata Steel Chess India.

Arjun was the winner last year in the blitz section. In the rapid, he was the runner-up, while Gujrathi was third.

Arjun seems to love this event. In 2021, he had won the rapid and was the runner-up in blitz.

## Breakthrough

That edition of the tournament proved a breakthrough for the teenager from Warangal. At the time he wasn't as well-known as his contemporaries like Praggnanandhaa or Gukesh, but now he is one of the stars of India's golden generation of chess players threatening to dominate the world.

Tata Steel Chess India has attracted the world's top talents. The inaugural edition, held in 2018, itself had big stars like Hikaru Nakamura, Levon Aronian, Wesley So, Sergey Karjakin and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and India's own Viswanathan Anand, who defied age to win the blitz title. Nakamura came first in the rapid event.

The man who ended Anand's reign as the World champion, Magnus Carlsen, was the biggest attraction in the second edition of the tournament. Not surprisingly, he triumphed. The overall champion was decided by adding points from the blitz and rapid sections. The Norwegian finished with four points more than the second-placed Nakamura.

After a break enforced by the coronavirus, the tournament returned in 2021. Aronian and Le Quang Liem, a former World blitz champion, were

among the main players from overseas.

Aronian won the blitz, beating the rapid champion Arjun in the tie-breaker. He had an explanation for why his young rival didn't win the blitz title. "The only reason is... that Arjun is a very strong chess player, but physically he is not strong enough to carry two cups," he said at the closing ceremony, making the packed auditorium laugh.

After taking part in the first three editions, Aronian wasn't there for last year's tournament, in which Nihal Sarin won the rapid section, ahead of strong rivals like Nakamura, So, Mamedyarov and Nodirbek Abdusattorov. Another Indian champion last year was R. Vaishali, Praggnanandhaa's elder sister, who surprised everyone by winning the women's title.

## Added glamour

This time around, two strong Chinese players add further glamour to the women's field. Ju Wenjun is the reigning Women's World champion, while Lei Tingjie is the runner-up. The duo had contested the final back home in China last month.

Nino Batsiashvili and Irina Krush are the other foreigners in the women's section, besides Ushenina. Former Women's World rapid champion Koneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika, Savitha Shri, Vantika Agarwal and Vaishali complete the line-up.

The men's field is headed by the 2021 World blitz champion Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. Alexander Grischuk, Teimour Radjabov, Vincent Keymer and Abdusattorov are the other foreigners in the fray. Praggnanandhaa, Gukesh, Gujrathi, P. Harikrishna and Arjun form a

strong Indian contingent.

Those players could expect strong support from the chess lovers of Kolkata, who arrive in large numbers to watch their favourite players in action. You would find the auditorium often full.

Tata Steel deserves credit for bringing the world's top stars to India and giving an excellent opportunity for the country's young talent.

"Sports has been a way of life for us at Tata Steel for over a century now," says Chanakya Chaudhary, Vice President, Corporate Services, Tata Steel. "We continue to promote sporting activities and thereby engage with the community in a conscious and meaningful way. We are encouraged by the enthusiasm and participation we have received from the city of Kolkata over the past years, and are determined to make this world class chess competition even better."

Anand has been the tournament's ambassador since 2021. "I am extremely delighted that chess is slowly but steadily becoming a global sport which is being followed widely," he says. "Tournaments like Tata Steel Chess India where our young players fight it out with international Grandmasters really help the cause of producing newer champions. This format has already shown some results, as is visible with our young brigade doing well at international tournaments, such as the World Cup in Baku."

At Baku, Praggnanandhaa had done India proud, despite losing to Carlsen in the final which had gone to the tie-breaker. He should be keen to do well in a tournament at home. As will the other young Indian stars.

## THE GIST

There is bound to be more interest in this year's tournament, given the kind of unprecedented following in the country the recent Chess World Cup, which concluded at Baku a few days ago, had

Praggnanandhaa, D. Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and Vidit Gujrathi, among other, will feature at this year's edition

The inaugural edition, held in 2018, itself had big stars like Hikaru Nakamura, Levon Aronian, Wesley So, Sergey Karjakin and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and India's own Viswanathan Anand

## GAME TIME

Test your knowledge on trivia and events related to the US Open

**Nihit Sachdeva**

### QUESTION 1

Who won the women's singles title at the US Open in 1973, the year in which equal prize money was awarded for the first time at a Slam?

### QUESTION 2

Who was Novak Djokovic's opponent when the Serbian was disqualified from US Open in 2020 for accidentally hitting a line judge with a ball?

### QUESTION 3

Who is the only player to have won US Open on grass, clay and hard court?

### QUESTION 4

Who became the youngest player to play at the US Open in 1979, a record which still stands?

### QUESTION 5

Who became the first man in the Open era to successfully defend his US Open title?

### QUESTION 6

Who did Emma Raducanu beat in the US Open 2021 final to become the first-ever qualifier to win a Grand Slam title?

### QUESTION 7

Which American player revealed in the episode 'Breaking Point' of the Netflix docu-series 'Untold' that he was forced to withdraw from his fourth-round match against Roger Federer at US Open 2012 due to a severe anxiety attack?

### QUESTION 8

Who did Juan Carlos Ferrero, the coach of defending champion Carlos Alcaraz, lose to in his only US Open final appearance?

### QUESTION 9

Connect Mahesh Bhupathi, David Rikl, Martin Damm, Lukas Dlouhy and Radek Stepanek with results of another Indian tennis player at US Open.



### Question 10

Identify this player who defeated Chris Evert in the 1979 final to become the youngest-ever female champion at the US Open at the age of 16

## THE ANSWERS

- Margaret Court;
- Pablo Carreno Busta;
- Jimmy Connors (1974 on grass, 1976 on clay, 1978, 1982 and 1983 on hard court);
- Kathleen Horvath (Age - 14 years 5 days);
- John McEnroe (1979-81);
- Leylah Fernandez;
- Mardy Fish;
- Andy Roddick (2003);
- All five of them reached the men's doubles final with Leander Paes (Damm, Dlouhy and Stepanek won the title with Paes);
- Tracy Austin (Image credit: The Hindu Archives)



Tennis' big names showed up in front of a record turnout at Flushing Meadows for the Arthur Ashe Kids' Day ahead of the US Open. Djokovic entertained the crowd, having a hit with everything from a pan, a stop sign and a baseball bat to a TT paddle. Alcaraz and Swiatek played some 'soccer' while Gauff threw about a 'football' to raise money for charity. GETTY IMAGES

# Somatic mutations: a genomic revolution hiding inside our cells

Scientists have known of somatic variants and their role in diseases for many years now, but there has been an explosion in the amount of data and knowledge only recently. This was due to our ability to sequence the genetic material in individual cells

Sridhar Sivasubbu  
Vinod Scaria

**T**he human genome has 23 pairs of chromosomes, one inherited from each of our parents. The genome is the blueprint of our genetic makeup. The ovum and the sperm carry these blueprints from our parents. After fertilisation, the combined single cell, with the 23 chromosomes, starts to divide, copying the genetic material over and over to nearly a trillion cells - which make up the human body.

As the cells divide, the DNA is copied with extremely high accuracy thanks to proteins that proofread and correct errors in the DNA. But despite this mechanism, various studies have estimated that there is still an error rate of 0.64-0.78 mutations per billion base pairs per division. But this rate is also minuscule given the large size of the human genome.

**'Copy-paste' mistakes**

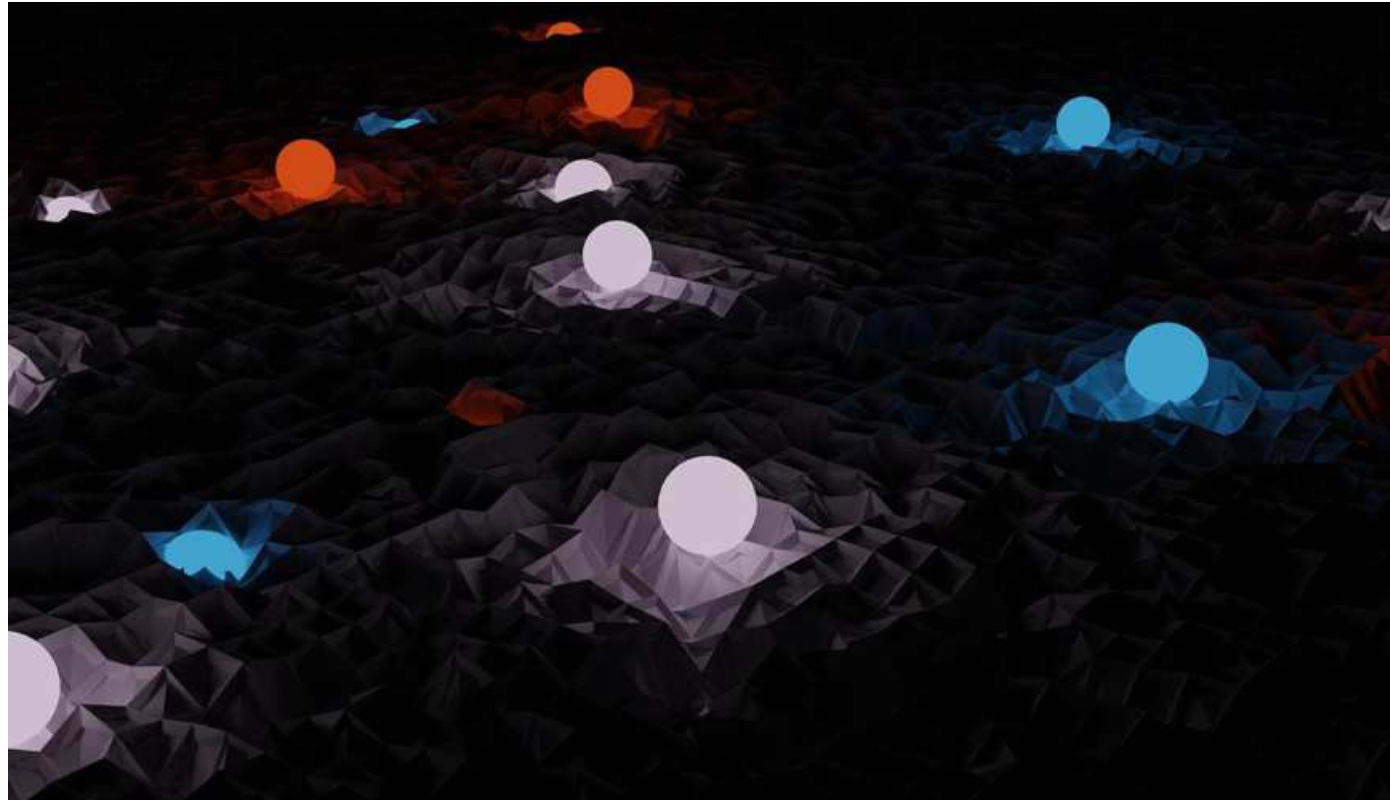
The number and effect of these errors vary significantly, depending on the stage of development or the point in the life-cycle at which they occur. An error that occurs in the DNA after birth but during development is called a somatic genetic mutation. Their occurrence is driven by the repeated 'copy-pasting' of the genome - which means there will be more somatic genetic mutations the older an individual is and the higher the turnover of the tissue. Turnover is the replacement of old cells with new ones.

Sometimes, a somatic genetic mutation can render a cell fitter than others, which leads to the formation of tumours. So these mutations are called driver mutations.

Given these details, we should think of the human body as a mosaic of cells rather than as a clone of a single cell. In their genomic composition, these cells are similar to each other, but still different enough thanks to a handful of genetic variants. While most of these variants may not have a function, a small number will if they lie in parts of the genome responsible for encoding proteins or regulating them.

**Knowledge explosion**

Somatic genetic variants are important for a number of normal physiological processes. For example, the immune cells in our body, which produce antibodies, undergo an enormous amount of somatic changes to create diverse proteins. These proteins recognise and bind to specific pathogens, forming a 'library' of cells, each with a specific protein. During an infection, the body selects cells from this library, depending on which can bind to a pathogen better, and uses them to make



An abstract illustration. We should think of the human body as a mosaic of cells rather than as a clone of a single cell. SHUBHAM DHAGE/UNSPLASH

antibodies.

Scientists have known of somatic variants and their role in diseases for many years now, but there has been an explosion in the amount of data and knowledge only recently.

This was due to our ability to sequence the genetic material in individual cells. Specifically, using advanced microfluidics and high-throughput sequencers, we can now sequence tens of thousands of cells from a tissue at the same time, opening big windows into genes and the functional diversity of cells in the human body.

**Cancer's signatures**

Somatic genetic variants play an important role in the development of cancers. We now know that somatic changes can cause a cancer to develop and that cancers can accelerate the development of somatic changes. So they can help with early detection, diagnosis, and prognosis.

Early detection and diagnosis of cancers rely on the fact that certain patterns - called mutational signatures - of genetic variations are characteristic of specific cancers.

There are technologies to detect DNA from tumour cells that has 'escaped' the cells into blood or fluids, to spot a cancer early. Similarly, certain variations in a cancer could be used as a signature of the disease's progress and/or to track how a tumour has responded to some course of therapy.



An error that occurs in the DNA after birth but during development is called a somatic genetic mutation. Their occurrence is driven by the repeated 'copy-pasting' of the genome

**Under-recognised cause**

The other major application for somatic changes is in the development of genetic diseases. Many genetic conditions arise from somatic genetic variants. Obviously, these conditions are not inherited from either parent but are due to new genetic variations that have arisen during development. So the severity and distribution of the disease depends on how early or late during development the corresponding mutation occurred.

In fact, somatic genetic variants are an under-recognised cause of many immune disorders that are the result of mutations in a single gene, including primary immunodeficiency disorders. In some instances, somatic changes can be beneficial in a genetic disease - by changing a deleterious change to a normal one, a phenomenon known as revertant mosaicism. For example, around 10% of cases of Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome, a rare genetic immunodeficiency, have been found to have revertant mosaicism, as a result alleviating the severity of the disease in

many individuals.

**SMAHT Network**

The U.S. National Institutes of Health recently launched a programme focused on understanding the breadth of somatic mosaicism and the biological and clinical significance of such somatic events in humans. Called the 'Somatic Mosaicism across Human Tissues' (SMAHT) Network, it aims to catalyse our study of the field by discovering somatic variants, developing tools and resources with which to study them, and improving our ability to analyse, interpret, and organise them in different biological and clinical contexts.

In effect, SMAHT should be able to deliver novel biological insights using a data-centric approach. The U.S. government has for now invested \$140 million in a SMAHT-led effort to characterise somatic variants in 10-15 tissues from 150 post-mortem samples obtained from deceased individuals.

As we plumb more intricate depths of the cells that we are made of, and their wondrous diversity, we also take strides on the road to usher in innovative approaches to understand and manage the diseases that assail us. The ability to scrutinise our genes at the level of single cells also empowers us to reshape our understanding of the fundamental aspects of evolution.

*The authors are senior consultants at the Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation. All views and opinions are personal.*

**THE GIST**

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**BIG SHOT**



Customers at a seafood market in Beijing, China, on Friday. China will stop all seafood imports from Japan, escalating tensions between the two nations as Japan begins a contentious release of treated wastewater from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant. On the same day, fish auction prices around the plant dipped amid uncertainty over consumer response, against the backdrop of protests at home and in neighbouring countries. BLOOMBERG

**WHAT IS IT?**

**Echolocation: What goes around comes around**

Arkatapa Basu

What do bats, dolphins, and submarines have in common? They use the same technique to get a sense of their surroundings: echolocation. Here, an animal or a device emits sound waves, and listens for their reflections by objects in their surroundings. Based on what the reflected waves, or echoes, sound like, the animal or device understands its environment.

Animals that use echolocation emit high-frequency sound pulses, often beyond the range of human hearing. Bats, which have poor eyesight, use this ability to hunt and navigate in the dark while dolphins use it to locate objects and communicate underwater. Whales and some birds, such as the tawny oilbirds, swiftlets and the tenrec (from Madagascar), also use echolocation. Humans have harnessed the principles of this ingenious technique to create devices like sonar and radar. Sonar - an acronym of 'sound navigation and ranging'. It is widely used for underwater navigation, communications, and even as a method to find fish. Radar - an acronym of 'radio detection and ranging' - is used in aviation, weather forecasting, and military



A Bechstein's bat in flight. The mouth is open using echolocation for orientation. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

applications, to detect and track objects by bouncing radio waves off them. More recently, engineers have used echolocation to develop smartphone apps that can create a map of a room to help people with visual impairments navigate their environs better.

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