



TRAGEDY REPEATS

4 die after consuming illicit liquor in Bihar

NEWS » PAGE 10



REPUBLIC DAY PARADE

Women personnel in BSF camel contingent

NEWS » PAGE 10



MOTIVE UNCLEAR

California shooting suspect found dead

WORLD » PAGE 13

THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY  
**Its structural slippages and the Indian scene**

An equation with electoral politics

EDITORIAL » PAGE 6



MEHBOoba MUFTI'S TAKE  
**'Bharat Jodo Yatra, a genuine outreach'**

NEWS » PAGE 11

## IN BRIEF



**MCD gets another chance to elect new Mayor today**

**NEW DELHI**  
A day ahead of the House meeting of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, both AAP and the BJP said they were confident of winning the mayoral elections, even as the row over nominated members and elected councillors taking oath threatens to derail the proceedings again. » Page 3

**Judges don't face polls, but people assessing them'**

**NEW DELHI**  
Amid the ongoing row between the Executive and Judiciary, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday said judges do not have to face polls, but they are being watched by the public for their judgments. » Page 11

## Mary Kom-led panel to probe wrestlers' charges

It will investigate allegations against Wrestling Federation of India president and submit a report within a month. Till then, the committee will carry out WFI's day-to-day work, says Sports Minister

**Y.B. Sarangi**  
KOLKATA

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday announced that six-time World champion and Olympic medallist boxer M.C. Mary Kom will head a government-appointed five-member Oversight Committee to investigate the charges levelled by some prominent wrestlers against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Olympic medallist wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt, well-known shuttler Trupti Murgunde, former Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) CEO Commander Rajesh Rajagopal, and former Executive Director (Team) of the Sports Auth-

### In the ring

The announcement of an Oversight Committee headed by M.C. Mary Kom comes a week after wrestlers levelled allegations against Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. A look at the developments over the past week:

**Jan. 18:** Wrestlers begin protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi

**Jan. 18:** Sports Ministry sends notice to WFI seeking explanation

**Jan. 19:** Sports Minister Anurag Thakur meets wrestlers, assures them that the charges would be looked into

**Jan. 20:** Protest called off

**Jan. 20:** WFI replies to notice, rejects all allegations

**Jan. 21:** Sports Ministry asks WFI executive committee to abstain from activities of the federation

Mary Kom

ority of India (SAI) Radhika Sreeman are the other committee members.

"It [the oversight committee] will investigate the serious charges levelled by the wrestlers and will submit its report within a month. Till then, the com-

mittee will carry out the WFI's day-to-day work," said Mr. Thakur. The panel will probe the allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment and intimidation, financial irregularities and administrative lapses, said a release.

Ms. Kom and Mr. Dutt are also part of a seven-member committee formed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to look into the wrestlers' allegations. Ms. Kom heads the IOA panel as well.

Several top Haryana-based World and Olympic medallist wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik, began a protest in Delhi on Wednesday last. It was called off following assurances from Mr. Thakur.

The Ministry had sought an explanation from the WFI. The federation rejected all the allegations, claiming the protest was part of a "larger conspiracy to malign and defame" Mr. Singh, a BJP MP from Kaiserganj in Uttar Pradesh, who has criminal cases pending against him.

Two students in Kerala infected with Norovirus

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KOCCHI

Norovirus infection was confirmed in two schoolchildren in Ernakulam district even as health authorities in Kerala stepped up efforts to contain its spread.

The infection was confined in two children of Classes I and II at Bhavan's Adarsha Vidyalaya, Kakkanad. The virus was detected in their stool samples.

Norovirus is mostly spread through contaminated food and water. Its symptoms are vomiting and/or diarrhoea, head and body aches, the Health Department said.

Sixty-two children and a few parents had earlier exhibited symptoms. Three students are under treatment. Their condition is said to be stable.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 10

21 Andaman islands named after Param Vir Chakra awardees



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the naming ceremony of 21 islands of Andaman and Nicobar, via videoconferencing, on Monday. PIB

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep.

Home Minister Amit Shah was present in Port Blair at the culmination of a seven-day event organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs in honour of Netaji. He said the 126th birth anniversary of Netaji is being celebrated nationwide as 'Parakram Divas'.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 10  
**MORE REPORTS**  
» PAGE 10

## Religious texts to be taught in M.P. govt. schools

**Shubhomoy Sikdar**

RAIPUR

Religious scriptures and epics such as the *Bhagavad Gita*, *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana* will be taught in government schools in Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Monday.

Ancient epics are invaluable holy texts and they help in building the moral character of human beings, he said at an event organised by Vidya Bharati,



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Janata Party (BJP) government is looking to consolidate its traditional Hindu vote bank. Late last year during the Dhanteras festival, it had organised Dhanvantari puja in all medical colleges in the State. The BJP's main challenger, the Congress, has been trying to up the ante to woo voters ahead of the election by holding pujas.

The *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, *Vedas*, *Upanishads* and *Bhagavad Gita* are invaluable books.

These texts have the capacity to make humans moral and complete. We will teach these books in government schools. Why should [lessons on] Lord Ram not be taught?" Mr. Chouhan said on Monday.

The Chief Minister added that those who insult great personalities such as Bhakti poet Tulsidas, who authored the 16th-century epic *Ramcharitmanas*, won't be tolerated.

He was alluding to recent statements by some

leaders of Opposition parties that the text promotes "hatred in society".

**Imposition of English'** Mr. Chouhan underlined the "importance of moral and spiritual education" and highlighted the government's effort to bring out medical and engineering textbooks in Hindi.

At an event in Singrauli on Sunday, he had described the purported imposition of English as a conspiracy of the Congress.

Will take up Pandits' issues: Rahul

**Peerzada Ashiq**

JAMMU

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday empathised with migrant Kashmiri Pandits and lis-

tened to their grievances in Jammu during the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

He said the community had been wronged by the J&K Lieutenant-Governor's administration, and that

he would write to the Prime Minister and raise the issues faced by the Pandits in Parliament.

**FULL REPORT**  
» PAGE 11



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Assam to book men marrying girls below 14 years under POCSO Act

**The Hindu Bureau**

GUWAHATI

The Assam Cabinet has decided to book men who marry minor girls under stringent laws prescribing imprisonment from two years to life, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday.

Citing the National Family Health Survey-5 report, he said an average of 31.8% of girls in Assam get married at the "prohibited age" and 11.7% of them become mothers before adulthood compared with the national average of 23.3% and 6.8%, respectively. The legal age for marriage is 18 years for women and 21 for men.

"Health experts attribute the high rate of maternal and infant mortality in Assam primarily to child marriage, which has warranted the decision to punish men who marry minors," he told reporters after a Cabinet meeting.

Dhubri in western As-

sam tops the list of districts with 50% of girls getting married and 22% of them becoming mothers before they turn 18, Mr. Sarma said. According to the 2011 Census, Dhubri has a Muslim population of 79.67%.

**Varying sentences** The Chief Minister said the "alarming situation" prompted the Cabinet to decide to book men who marry girls below 14 years under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, entailing life punishment.

"Men marrying girls between the age of 14 and 18 will be booked under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act of 2006 with a minimum sentence period of two years," he said.

Mr. Sarma said the police have been asked to crack down on child marriage in the State, concentrating on cases in the past year. He also said a child protection officer will be appointed in every village.

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## HC notice to Centre on plea against blocking of 'Dowry Calculator'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought Centre's response on a plea moved

against the 2018 blocking of [dowrycalculator.com](http://dowrycalculator.com), a parody website created by film critic Tanul Thakur. The site features a satirical calculator that provides

the amount of dowry a groom is entitled to based on his age, caste, profession, skin colour, university and country of residence.

The Internet Freedom Foundation, a city-based non-profit that advocates for digital rights, has seized on Mr. Thakur's case to try and argue for more ac-

countability from the government on website blocking, such as by requiring that authorities offer the owners of blocked sites a hearing.



### WINTER CARNIVAL

A winter carnival titled 'Beat the Chill' was organised by Hillwoods Academy with a variety of game and food stalls. The function commenced with a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by the students marching the musical parade. Students adorned the stage with various dance and music performances. The carnival included rides like Columbus and Bouncy, and a plethora of activities like housis and grandparents' show among others. An alumni meet was also organised, in which the ex Hillwoodians showed up in large numbers even from batches as old as 1995. Activities like hopscotch, save the balloon were organised for them. The carnival was a grand success.

### WHEN STUDENTS DO THEIR SCHOOL PROUD



Ria Grover, a class 11 student of Pratap Public School, Jarnail Colony Karnal, won The Veer Gatha Project 2.0. She made a video presentation on Shaurya Chakra Awardee, Group Captain Varun Singh. She bagged the top spot from over 19.5 lakh entries. She will be awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10,000 by the Ministry of Defence and has been invited as a guest for the Republic Day 2023 Celebrations at New Delhi. The Management is proud of Ria's stupendous achievement and congratulates her on this glorious moment.

### EDUTAINMENT AT ITS BEST FOR YOUNG READERS



Young World Club is a fun-filled online edutainment portal from The Hindu, packed with rich multimedia content to make learning exciting. Updated every week, it offers children new ways to learn through its interactive sections on Think, Read, Do, Travel, Play, and Change. The content is presented in various interactive formats such as quizzes, crosswords, sliders, puzzles, dialog cards, flash cards, presentations, videos, games, timelines, and so on. Curated for children of age groups 8-11 (Juniors), 12-15 (Seniors), parents and teachers, this web platform offers children new ways to understand diverse topics.

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**FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER/NINE MONTHS ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

(₹ in Lakh)

S.No.	PARTICULARS	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
		QUARTER ENDED			9-MONTHS ENDED		YEAR ENDED	QUARTER ENDED			9-MONTHS ENDED		YEAR ENDED
		31.12.2022 (REVIEWED)	30.09.2022 (REVIEWED)	31.12.2021 (REVIEWED)	31.12.2022 (REVIEWED)	31.12.2021 (REVIEWED)	31.03.2022 (AUDITED)	31.12.2022 (REVIEWED)	30.09.2022 (REVIEWED)	31.12.2021 (REVIEWED)	31.12.2022 (REVIEWED)	31.12.2021 (REVIEWED)	31.03.2022 (AUDITED)
1	Total income from operations (net)	268267	244459	218995	743352	654808	875749	268472	244685	219253	743979	655492	876646
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	51706	40643	30699	115955	62418	101270	51768	40664	30815	116067	62701	101672
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	51706	40643	30699	115955	62418	74270	51768	40664	30815	116067	62701	74672
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	31159	24349	17395	72105	38936	50156	30716	23972	16897	70790	37602	49485
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))												
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	9616	9616	9330	9616	9330	9330	9616	9616	9330	9616	9330	9330
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of previous year						697052						694047
8	Securities Premium Account	185111	185111	176047	185111	176047	176047	185111	185111	176047	185111	176047	176047
9	Net Worth	789553	757820	694600	789553	694600	706382	785233	753943	690932	785233	690932	703377
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	288100	186000	200000	288100	200000	236000						
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-						
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.36	0.25	0.29	0.36	0.29	0.33						
13	Total Debts to total assets	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02						
14	Operating Margin (%)	20.28%	19.77%	15.03%	18.95%	15.28%	15.22%						
15	Net Profit Margin (%)	11.61%	9.96%	7.94%	9.70%	5.95%	5.73%						
16	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (₹ 1/- each) for continuing and discontinued operations												
	Basic : (* not annualized)	3.24*	2.53*	1.86*	7.50*	4.88*	6.04	3.19*	2.49*	1.81*	7.36*	4.72*	5.96
	Diluted : (* not annualized)	3.24*	2.53*	1.86*	7.50*	4.88*	6.04	3.19*	2.49*	1.81*	7.36*	4.72*	5.96
17	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-						
18	Debt Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-						

**NOTE :**

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter/Nine Months ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarter/Nine Months ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. [www.seindia.com](http://www.seindia.com), [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and on Bank's website [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com)

2. Information relating to Total comprehensive Income and Other Comprehensive Income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to Banks.

## Unconstitutional: AAP on 'One Nation, One Election'

AAP has submitted a report to the Law Commission of India, which had invited suggestions from people and parties on holding simultaneous polls

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI



The proposal for holding simultaneous elections is an idea often pushed by the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Most opposition parties, including AAP, have opposed it.

AAP leader Atishi said, "One Nation, One Election is a front to legitimise [BJP's] 'Operation Lotus' and legalise sale and purchase of MLAs." She said if polls are held simultaneously it would only help the resource-rich parties and those with national status.

## Criminal stabs policeman, arrested

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Monday said Head Constable Rinku Kumar was stabbed twice by an assailant in Qutub Vihar. The accused, Sunny, and two of his aides have been arrested, the police said, adding that Mr. Kumar is in ICU.

The incident took place on Sunday when Mr. Kumar and his colleague reached a spot following a PCR call about a scuffle. Sunny, a local criminal, stabbed Mr. Kumar and fled. When a police team raided Sunny's hideout, he and his aides fired at the police, who then shot three rounds, two of which hit Sunny's legs, and all of them were arrested.

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Timings DELHI		
TUESDAY, JAN. 24		
RISE 07:13 SET 17:54		
RISE 09:18 SET 20:49		
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25		
RISE 07:13 SET 17:55		
RISE 09:54 SET 21:54		
THURSDAY, JAN. 26		
RISE 07:13 SET 17:56		
RISE 10:27 SET 22:56		

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	26	08
Safdarjung	26	08
Palam	25	11

**Delhi Palam Today**  
22°C Morning will be cold with moderate fog & mist. Day will be pleasant. Spell of light rain or thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
17°C A dry weather to continue. The Cold Wave to prevail. Moderate fog & mist in very cold morning turns cool day. Night will be very cold.

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# MCD gets another chance to elect Delhi's new Mayor today

Both AAP and BJP express confidence in winning mayoral polls; will monitor House meeting and protest against wrongdoing, says AAP; don't understand the fuss over sequence of oath-taking: BJP

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI



Chaos in MCD's January 6 House meeting. FILE PHOTO

A day before the Municipal Corporation of Delhi House meeting, both AAP and the BJP expressed confidence in winning the mayoral elections, even as the dispute between the two parties – over the sequence in which the nominated members (or aldermen) and the elected councillors will be administered the oath – threatens to derail the House proceedings again.

Several AAP leaders said the party would protest on Tuesday if the aldermen are allowed to take oath before the elected council-

of trying to rig the mayoral elections through its attempt to provide voting rights to the aldermen. In response, the BJP had said that the House was run as per the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act and accused AAP of disturbing the proceedings.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana said, "We are confident that if everything goes on smoothly, Delhi's next Mayor will be from the BJP." On the issue of who will take the oath first, he said, "I don't understand why there is a problem over who takes the oath first. Everybody has to take the oath. The presiding officer will decide the order."

Members of AAP had launched a protest in the MCD's first House meeting on January 6 over the decision of the presiding officer – BJP councillor Satya Sharma – to first administer the oath to the 10 aldermen nominated by the L-G, while accusing the BJP

Clarifying his party's stand on the issue, AAP's MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak said that as per the civic body agenda for Tuesday's meeting, councillors are supposed to take the oath before the aldermen. "The people of Delhi have given a huge mandate to AAP, which must be respected. We appeal to the BJP to cooperate in convening the House and the elections tomorrow based on this agenda list," he said.

"We will closely monitor the House meeting and protest against any wrongdoing. But we will ensure that the Mayor is elected," said AAP councillor Mukesh Goel.

# 'May have to take a fresh decision on the order of oath-taking'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**Presiding officer**  
**Satya Sharma**  
**appealed to**  
**councillors to**  
**maintain peace**

sue," said Ms. Sharma. She hinted that the aldermen may be administered the oath first. She also appealed to the councillors "to maintain peace" during the proceedings.

Municipal secretary Bhagwan Singh and MCD's director for press and information Amit Kumar declined to comment.

On January 6, the first meeting of the newly elected MCD House was adjourned amid protests by AAP leaders over Ms. Sharma's decision to first administer the oath to the 10 aldermen.

Centre gets 'last chance' to respond to petition on foreign visits

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday gave one "last opportunity" to the Centre and the Lieutenant-Governor to reply to Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot's plea challenging a provision which requires State government Ministers, including the Chief Minister, to seek clearances from the Centre for visiting foreign countries.

Mr. Gahlot had approached the High Court in August last year in the backdrop of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal being denied permission to visit Singapore for the 8th World Cities' Summit from July 31 to August 7, 2022.

"Why are you not filing a reply? It cannot go on like this... Last and final opportunity is granted to file the counter affidavits within four weeks. List on May 22," Justice Prathiba M. Singh told the authorities.

The petition stated that the Delhi Chief Minister was previously denied permission to attend the C40 World Mayors' Summit in Copenhagen in 2019 and even Mr. Gahlot had requested clearance to visit London on an invitation, but there was no response from authorities in the Centre till the time the request became infructuous.

He said all these visits were on invitation and were crucial for exchanging ideas on improving urban governance.

## Businessman, son held for mowing down vendor

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The police on Monday said a businessman, his son and their driver have been detained after their car mowed down a 50-year-old ice-cream vendor in south Delhi's Munirka on Sunday.

Bablu Kumar, another vendor, informed the police after he heard a loud sound at the Outer Ring Road near the Munirka red light around 10.15 p.m. on

Sunday. On nearing the spot, he saw a car speeding away after knocking down a man. The man was lying in a pool of blood next to his cart that was smashed. The number plate of the car had dropped at the spot due to the impact of the crash, the police said, adding that it helped them trace the accused.

The victim, Bashu Dev Shau, was rushed to AIIMS, but he succumbed to his injuries, the police added.

## JNUSU to show BBC documentary today, authorities issue warning

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The JNU Students Union (JNUSU) on Monday invited students for a screening of the BBC documentary, *India: The Modi Question* at its office at 9 p.m. on January 24, even as the university administration has asked it to cancel the event, "failing which strict disciplinary action may be initiated as per university

rules".

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had on January 20, using emergency powers, issued orders to block YouTube videos of the first episode of the controversial documentary, and over 50 tweets with links to the videos, prompting several Opposition leaders to decry the "censorship".

Sharing the details of the screening, JNUSU pre-

sident Aishe Ghosh tweeted, "Join us for the documentary screening which has been 'banned' by an 'elected government' of the largest 'democracy'."

The JNU administration issued an advisory clarifying that no permission has been sought from it for what it described as "an unauthorised activity [which] may disturb peace and harmony of the university campus".

## Money-laundering case: no relief for Raghav Bahl

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

generation of "proceeds of crime" was being investigated.

Noting that his plea was "premature", the Delhi High Court on Monday declined the request by media baron Raghav Bahl to quash an Enforcement Directorate (ED) money laundering case against him.

Justice Jasmeet Singh also rejected Mr. Bahl's challenge to the look out circular (LOC) against him, observing that the issue of

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### Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter / Nine Months ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

₹ in Crores

Quarter Year Ended 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2022	₹ in Crores	Growth (yoY) %	Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Nine Months Ended	Nine Months Ended	Year Ended
					31.12.2022 (Unaudited)	30.09.2022 (Unaudited)	31.12.2021 (Unaudited)	31.12.2022 (Unaudited)	31.12.2021 (Unaudited)	31.03.2022 (Audited)
NET PROFIT	279.70	37.86	1.	Total Income from Operations	1172.88	1141.49	1213.36	3456.14	3445.46	4646.12
NET INTEREST INCOME	534.27	18.00	2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	371.88	355.35	288.33	1046.41	844.67	1124.61
GROSS NPA	591.08	-40.03	3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	371.88	355.35	288.33	1046.41	844.67	1124.61
GROSS NPA%	1.70	-	4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	279.70	262.30	202.88	776.21	594.96	821.91
NET NPA	259.10	-42.72	5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive Income (after tax)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NET NPA%	0.75	-	6.	Equity Share Capital	158.35	158.35	142.51	158.35	142.51	142.51
ROA(*)	2.00%	23.46	7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous Year	-	-	-	-	-	5193.19
ROE(*)	17.14%	4.64	8.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)	17.66	17.99	14.24	52.13	41.75	57.67
EPS	17.66	24.02	a) Basic:	17.66	17.99	14.24	52.13	41.75	57.67	
CASA	12851	10.15	b) Diluted:	17.66	17.99	14.24	52.13	41.75	57.67	
GROSS ADVANCES	34802	8.77								

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For and on behalf of the Board of Directors  
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Managing Director & CEO

## With eye on election, M.P. Cong. goes for organisational rejig

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Congress leader Kamal Nath with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. FILE PHOTO: PTI

Ahead of the Assembly poll later this year, the Madhya Pradesh Congress has undertaken a massive organisational overhaul by appointing 150 new general secretaries, 50 vice-presidents and 64 district presidents.

The fresh list of office-bearers released on Sunday also saw the inclusion of former Chief Ministers Sonia and Rahul Dighijaya Singh and Kamal Nath, and Mr. Nath's son, Nakul, in the 21-member political affairs committee. The panel also includes Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Govind Singh and senior leaders Kanti Lal Bhuria, Suresh Pachouri, Arun Yadav, Ajay Singh, Vivek Tankha, Jitu Patwari, Mahender Joshi and Shoba Oza.

However, soon after the announcement, party State in-charge J.P. Aggarwal said the list was not final. At least one appointment was "put on hold till further orders" following local opposition to the newly nominated district president of Indore.

Taking a dig at the Opposition party's organisational rejig, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan termed the exercise a "circus". He said everyone had been made an office-bearer as the party did not have sufficient workers. Mr. Chouhan also pointed out that the inclusion of Mr. Kamal Nath and his son in the political affairs committee was an example of nepotism.

"In the political affairs committee, a father-son duo has been included. Somewhere it is a party of a mother and son [a refe-

## Hijab row: SC to consider listing students' plea before 3-judge Bench

Muslim students from Karnataka file plea seeking a declaration of their right to wear hijab inside their classrooms; senior advocate Meenakshi Arora makes oral mentioning for early hearing as students have to attend practicals on February 6

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

**C**hief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday said he would consider forming a three-judge Bench soon to hear afresh the petitions filed by Muslim students from Karnataka who are seeking a declaration of their right to wear hijab inside their classrooms.

Senior advocate Meenakshi Arora made the oral mentioning for early hearing. She said the students were about to have their practicals on February 6.

A Division Bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia had delivered a split verdict in October last year on whether or not students had a fundamental right to wear hijab in government institutions.

Justice Gupta had upheld the Karnataka's prohibitive government order, saying "apparent symbols of religious belief cannot be worn to 'secular' schools maintained from State funds". He had said 'secularity' meant uniformity, manifested by parity among students in terms of uniform.



**Strong pitch:** A file photo of students holding a protest seeking permission to wear hijab in classrooms.

The judge had held that adherence to uniform was a reasonable restriction to free expression. The discipline reinforced equality. The State had never forced students out of State

schools by restricting hijab. The decision to stay out was a "voluntary act" of the student.

In his divergent opinion, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia had said secularity

meant tolerance to "diversity". Wearing or not wearing a hijab to school was "ultimately a matter of choice". For girls from conservative families, "her hijab is her ticket to education".

"By asking the girls to take off their hijab before they enter the school gates is first, an invasion of their privacy, then it is an attack on their dignity, and then ultimately it is a denial to them of secular education... There shall be no restriction on the wearing of hijab in schools and colleges in Karnataka," Justice Dhulia had held.

## Ahead of Maharashtra civic polls, Uddhav's Sena and VBA seal pact

**The Hindu Bureau**

PUNE

Ending speculation, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) on Monday officially announced their alliance ahead of the Maharashtra civic polls.

However, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress – Mr. Thackeray's allies in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition – who were not keen on allying with Mr. Ambedkar, have yet to signify their 'assent' to taking the party into the MVA.

Both leaders invoked the bonds between their respective grandfathers –



Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray and VBA president Prakash Ambedkar at a press meet in Mumbai on Monday. ANI

Prabhodankar Thackeray and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar – and said the new 'Shivshakti-Bhimshakti' had been forged in a bid to "keep democracy alive". However, they remained unclear on whether it would be limited to the BMC polls or whether they would contest future elections together.

Speaking at Ambedkar Bhavan in Mumbai's Dadar, Mr. Thackeray, attacking the BJP at the Centre and the State, said: "Ambedkar and Thackeray have a historical significance. Both our grandfathers fought the social evils of their times. So, we, the legatees have come together to root out

today's political evils with the idea of Country First."

Mr. Ambedkar said the union between the two parties had been effected to bring about change in the politics of the State.

The VBA, which had allied with the AIMIM in the 2019 polls, had played havoc by cannibalising Dalit-minority votes that traditionally went to the Congress and the NCP, causing damage to both the parties.

When questioned on whether the alliance would cause a rupture within the MVA, Mr. Thackeray said the time had come to think beyond party interests and save the country which was hurtling towards dictatorship.

Elangovan to contest in an Assembly poll after 34 years

**T. Ramakrishnan**  
CHENNAI

Former Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president and Union Minister of State E.V.K.S. Elangovan, 74, who has been nominated to contest in the Erode (East) by-election, which is to be held on February 27, is entering the electoral fray in an Assembly constituency after a gap of 34 years.

The by-election has been necessitated by the death of Mr. Elangovan's son E. Thirumurah Everaa, earlier this month.

The last time Mr. Elangovan contested was during the 1989 Assembly polls.

## High Court vacation Bench acted as a *de facto* CJ: Andhra Pradesh Chief Justice

**The Hindu Bureau**  
VIJAYAWADA

filed by CPI State secretary K. Ramakrishna, on January 12. Through the G.O., certain curbs were imposed on holding meetings and rallies on public roads.

Taking up the matter on Monday as per the directions of the Supreme Court, which refused to interfere with the interim order (issued by the vacation Bench)

that the G.O. be suspended till January 23, Chief Justice Mishra made a caustic remark that the vacation court acted as a '*de-facto* CJ' and belittled the CJ's position by taking up the case as if the petitioner staged a protest to deal with the case urgently.

Advocate-General S. Srinivasan said no citizen was en-

titled to claim that he/she had a vested fundamental right to conduct a meeting on a public road, and the State had not banned any meetings on public roads.

Appearing for the petitioner, senior advocate Raju Ramachandran said there was a complete ban on the fundamental right to assemble under the G.O.

## Rajasthan House session begins on a stormy note

**The Hindu Bureau**  
JAIPUR

The budget session of the Rajasthan Assembly began on a stormy note on Monday with the Opposition members trying to disrupt Governor Kalraj Mishra's customary address by raising the issue of rampant paper leaks in the State government's recruitment exams. Mr. Mishra shortened his speech, reading just a few pages, and left the House.

Speaker C.P. Joshi suspended for the day three agitating MLAs of the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP), who were demanding a CBI inquiry into the recent paper leak during the teachers' recruitment exam, and ordered them to be marshalled out.

Senior BJP MLA and Leader of the Opposition



Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra

journed and it was reassembled after some time.

RLP MLAs Narayan Beniwal, Pukhraj Garg and Indira Devi continued their protest and stormed into the well of the House, carrying placards demanding a CBI inquiry into the paper leak cases. Other Opposition members watched them silently from their seats at this point.

When his repeated instructions to the RLP legislators to go back to their seats failed to make an impact, the Speaker ordered the marshal to take them out of the House and expelled them for the rest of the day.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot later told reporters that the Opposition MLAs had created a ruckus because they did not have the courage to listen to the Governor's address.

## Bombay HC allows woman to terminate 32-week pregnancy

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

right to choose is the mother's."

A Division Bench of Justices G.S. Patel and S.G. Dige was hearing a plea filed by a woman in January through advocate Aditi Saxena that said the sonography of the foetus showed serious anomalies and abnormalities during a routine medical check up on December 22.

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1. Tender Document Issue Date : From 24.01.2023 up to 01.00 P.M. on 23.02.2023  
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## Misplaced secrets

President Biden's legal troubles could be a setback for case to prosecute Trump

**W**hen his predecessor Donald Trump's home in Mar-a-Lago, Florida, was raided last August and a trove of thousands of government documents was discovered there, including several hundreds of classified papers, little would U.S. President Joe Biden have imagined that he would find himself in a similar sticky situation. Yet, Mr. Biden and the White House have so far reacted calmly to the discovery of classified documents by his own attorneys at several sites including the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, a think tank in Washington, and in the garage and several other rooms of his home in Wilmington, Delaware. There are, of course, critical differences between the cases, which will probably be mirrored in varying legal consequences of each of the two classified leaks. First, the Trump stash is reported to be over 11,000, including about 300 marked classified or top secret, and includes photographs, whereas the papers associated with Mr. Biden are reportedly fewer than 12. Second, after Mr. Biden's lawyers first discovered classified files in a locked closet at the think tank, his team voluntarily notified the National Archives and the Justice Department and are 'cooperating with the investigation' fully. In Mr. Trump's case, after the U.S. National Archives found classified records to be missing and requested that Mr. Trump return them, he failed to comply and hence the matter was handed over to the FBI. Third, while both leaks are being investigated separately, the Justice Department is conducting a criminal inquiry into Mr. Trump's handling of the documents, but in Mr. Biden's case there is no indication of wilful intent so far and he is protected by a rule that a sitting President cannot be indicted.

Notwithstanding these facts, it is clear that Mr. Biden's – or his team's – improper handling of classified material will cost him politically. Already, polls have found that his job approval rating, which enjoyed a bump towards the end of last year, has slumped back to around 40% – the all-time low of his presidency. The President is also facing difficult questions on why, after the initial discovery of the classified papers on November 2, his team suppressed that information until well after the November 8 midterm elections. Similarly, Republicans led by House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy have called for a Congressional investigation into the Biden classified leaks. The backlash could well be a setback for the case to prosecute Mr. Trump for violating the Espionage Act, even though he appears to have wilfully taken the classified documents from their proper place of holding and then possibly obstructed justice when asked to return them.

## Promise, pragmatism

Ms. Ardern's politics, rooted in moral values, came up against a reality check

**J**acinda Ardern's time in office as New Zealand's Prime Minister was rattled by several successive challenges. At 37, the Labour leader came to power in 2017, promising a "transformational change". Nearly six years later when she leaves office, she would be better remembered for her handling of crises such as the coronavirus pandemic, the far-right terror attacks on mosques in Christchurch and volcanic eruptions. Ms. Ardern offered a leadership model rooted in empathy and moral values – the way she handled the Christchurch shootings is a case in point. Her approach towards the pandemic was initially popular, which helped Labour sweep the 2020 legislative elections. New Zealand's per capita death rate from COVID-19 is among the lowest in the developed world. The way she announced her resignation also won her praise – that there is "not enough in the tank" for her to continue in the top office – which made her stand out in a world where not many leaders relinquish power easily. Chris Hipkins, a former Minister for COVID response in Ms. Ardern's Cabinet and a troubleshooter for the Prime Minister, will succeed her and lead Labour in the 2023 election.

While her leadership style is widely praised, particularly among liberal sections across the world, there are also questions on whether Ms. Ardern made good on the promises she made to the electorate. New Zealand is one of the most expensive countries to live in. In 2017, Ms. Ardern vowed to tackle the country's housing crisis by constructing 1,00,000 homes, but only a fraction has been built in the past five years. Housing prices remain extensively high, while high inflation has left a hole in household budgets. Her promises to address child poverty (New Zealand has one of the worst rates of child poverty in the developed world) and tackle inequality (the top 10% control nearly half of the country's household net worth) have fallen flat. Besides, continued lockdowns and COVID measures even when neighbouring Australia opened up turned a chunk of Ms. Ardern's early admirers away from her. The slide in her popularity hit Labour's election prospects which prompted many within the party to question her leadership. According to a December poll, Labour's support stood at 33%, while 38% backed the centre-right National Party, the main opposition. It was against this background that Ms. Ardern announced her resignation. Mr. Hipkins now has only eight months to steady the ship and reverse the public mood, a tall task. He should blend Ms. Ardern's empathetic politics with a strong economic vision that would address New Zealand's structural economic problems while keeping its social harmony intact.

**T**he democracy that is functional around the world today – even as it has a long history of evolution – was essentially a 19th century to 20th century western creation. Every civilisation, of course, claims to have had some form of democratic origin. But the institution of universal adult franchise and governance through regular and multi-party elections (the universal norm today) has at the most a 100 years or less of practice behind it. Even in the most "advanced" democracies such as the United States, "universal franchise" of the 1920s did not include African-American citizens. In Britain, women obtained the right to vote in the 1930s, in France in 1944, and in Switzerland as late as 1971, over two decades after their Indian sisters.

### Devolution and capitalism

Basic to democracy is the devolution of power, and with it, welfare from the elite echelons to the ground level. Devolution occurs on the premise of the individual and equality. In practice, is there a good record for these principles? If one is to go by the long view of history, the answer is 'yes, most effectively'. The near-universal abolition of autocratic monarchies and hereditary aristocracies and their replacement by governance through popular mandate (with exceptions) and the spread of economic resources, infrastructure, education, health, etc. to the masses, with all their shortcomings and lacunae, call for acknowledgment even as the demand for these grows every day, constantly, and legitimately.

Yet, there is an unbreakable link between the wide spread of this devolution and capitalism. In capitalism's basic requirement to seek freedom for resources such as land, labour, and movement from the autocratic restraints of medieval monarchies, the notions of the individual's rights and equality evolved, culminating in the notion of a free market for every kind of resource mobilisation, including labour. It also implied a great deal of uniformity.

It is important to note that human history has been witness to several experiences of equality, mostly in its religious form: non-theistic Buddhism and monotheistic religions such as Christianity, Islam and Sikhism were proponents



Harbans Mukhia

taught history at Jawaharlal Nehru University

The complete equation of democracy with electoral politics draws attention away from any alternative form of governance – there is no space here for diversity

of social equality. However, equality here demanded the subjugation of the individual to the community or society.

Clearly, humanity's urge for equality has erupted over and over again in different parts of the world at different times; it was the same urge that had led to the most recent experiment of Marxian socialism in about a third of the globe and a large chunk of the population. However, it is equally important to note that no egalitarian ideology has ever been able to create an egalitarian society. What it does is to reshuffle existing social hierarchies and create some space for the upward movement of the lower rungs. But the urge for equality has found diverse ways to seek utterance. Its current urge seeks to establish uniformity through the same or similar institutions and practices.

The uniformity takes the form of periodic multi-party "free and fair" elections and guarantees of various kinds of freedoms, especially of the market. The elections are a means of self-correction of government policies and actions.

### The conduct of elections

Are elections truly free and fair?

To begin with, elections divide voters into a dubious majority and a minority. The majority-minority division of 50% plus one and 50% minus one is, in principle, hardly a decisive mandate even as this is treated as one empirically. But the practice of elections belies even this notion of "majority"; there is hardly a government anywhere in the world and at any time that governs through a majority of the mandate. Usually, 30% to 40% of the votes cast give a party a comfortable majority to rule legitimately. This is structured into multi-party principle; but even in a system such as the United States, Donald Trump could defeat Hillary Clinton even as she received some 2.5 million more popular votes than him, in 2016.

In practice again, contrary to theory, even as the voter is all alone in the polling booth voting as an untrammeled individual, her/his vote is still conditioned by numerous demands on it by family, community, religion, culture, and, above all, by the political alternatives offered by political

parties. A loss of individuality is implicated here. The individual does not create the choices which are given by parties, very often wrapped in false propaganda and even more false promises. The individual has the "freedom" to choose one or another of these.

The complete equation of democracy with electoral politics draws one's attention away from any alternative form of governance. There is no space here for diversity.

### A reinforcement of identities

This democracy came to India in its most modern form: unconditional adult franchise and multi-party periodic elections. Yet, the operative categories of electoral politics here have mostly been pre-modern: identity politics of caste, sub-caste, community, region, language, etc. Not long ago we were familiar with acronyms such as AJGAR (Ahir, Jat, Gurjar and Rajput castes) and MY (Muslims and Yadavs) and so on, signifying the vote base of different political parties, or what came to be picturesquely called the 'vote bank'.

Jawaharlal Nehru had hoped that education and the experience of democracy would force a retreat on these operative categories and generate a more "modern" consciousness among the masses. What has emerged is contrary to this. The very success of these mobilisations has reinforced identities instead of weakening them. The Bharatiya Janata Party is determined to create the biggest vote bank which would be ever hard to defeat: the entire Hindu population, comprising 80% of the populace. It can afford to marginalise and thus disenfranchise all others in the residual 20%. Remember the explicit assertion of this strategy by the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister in the form of his line, "80 versus 20" during the run-up to the Assembly elections?

So, as long as we practise this form of democracy, its fault lines and, above all, its link with capitalism will remain unbroken. Yet, the fact that humanity has throughout history sought one or another form of social equality keeps the possibility of this urge erupting yet again more amenable to achieving a reality that has eluded us so far. What its form and its grade of success will be are hard to guess. What can be said confidently is that history is still unfolding and creating a future for us.

## Needed, a new approach to data protection for minors

**H**ow freely should Indian teenagers access the Internet? And what responsibilities do platforms have towards their minor users? These are important questions to answer correctly to achieve India's digital ambitions. The draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill, 2022 currently provides for mandatory parental consent for all data processing activities by children, defined as any person aged under 18 years. This approach however misses the mark on two fronts.

### The gaps in the Bill

First, instead of incentivising online platforms to proactively build safer and better services for minors, the Bill relies on parents to grant consent on behalf of the child in all cases. In a country with low digital literacy, where parents in fact often rely on their children (who are digital natives) to help them navigate the Internet, this is an ineffective approach to keep children safe online.

Second, it does not take into account the "best interests of the child", a standard originating in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, to which India is a signatory. India has upheld this standard in laws such as the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. However, it has not been applied to the issue of data protection. The Bill does not factor in how teenagers use various Internet platforms for self-expression and personal development and how central it is to the experience of adolescents these days. From taking music lessons to preparing for examinations to forming communities with



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The principles of the 'best interests of children' and 'more responsibility on platforms' should inform India's approach to data protection for minors

people of similar worldviews, the Internet is a window to the world. While the Bill does allow the government to provide exemptions in the future from strict parental consent requirements, profiling, tracking prohibitions, etc., this whitelisting process does not acknowledge the blurring lines between what a platform can be used for. For example, Instagram is, strictly speaking, a social media platform, but is regularly used as an educational and professional development tool by millions of artists around the world.

### Use of personal data

Another issue in the current draft of the DPDP Bill is that each platform will have to obtain "verifiable parental consent" in the case of minors. This provision, if enforced strictly, can change the nature of the Internet as we know it. Since it is not possible to tell if the user is a minor without confirming their age, platforms will have to verify the age of every user. The government will prescribe later whether verifiability will be based on ID-proof, or facial recognition, or reference-based verification, or some other means.

Whatever form verifiability takes, all platforms will have to now manage significantly more personal data than before, and citizens will be at greater risk of harms such as data breaches, identity thefts, etc.

Thus we need to shift our approach with respect to children's data before this Bill is brought to Parliament. To avoid the folly of treating unequal equally and blocking off access to the Internet for teenagers these steps are needed.

First, we should move from a blanket ban on

tracking, monitoring, etc. and adopt a risk-based approach to platform obligations. Platforms should be mandated to undertake a risk assessment for minors and not only perform age-verification-related corresponding obligations but also design services with default settings and features that protect children from harm. This approach will bring in an element of co-regulation, by creating incentives for platforms to design better products for children.

Second, we need to relax the age of mandatory parental consent for all services to 13 years in line with many other jurisdictions around the world. By relaxing consent requirements, we will minimise data collection, which is one of the principles that the Bill is built on. This relaxation in age of consent in tandem with the risk mitigation approach elucidated above will achieve protection for children online while allowing them access.

### Surveys needed

This solution draws on the experience and deliberations in the United Kingdom, and in the United States (California, New York, etc.) where age appropriate design codes have been introduced. To tailor this solution to the Indian context, the government should also conduct large-scale surveys of both children and parents to find out more about their online habits, digital literacy, preferences and attitudes.

We must design a policy in India that balances the safety and the agency of children online. We should not put the onus of keeping our young safe only on parents, but instead it should make it a society-wide obligation. We have to get this part of the data protection framework right as India's 'techade' cannot be realised without its young.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### BBC documentary

The central government has moved rather swiftly to block the BBC documentary. While the party in power often highlights the report submitted by the Special Investigation Team absolving those who matter of any wrong-doing, one would like to recollect a telling account of those troubled days of 2002 in the book, *The Sarkari Musselman*. By the same logic applied now, the book too would merit a ban.

S.K. Choudhury,  
Bengaluru  
  
The central government's move to block the BBC documentary appears to be censorship of the media. This does not go with the principles of democracy. People's power to analyse

issues should not be underestimated.

P.R.V. Raja,  
Pandalam, Kerala

The BBC is not an organisation to propagate falsehood. There are some who have raised the issue of timing. Is there any time frame to air a well-analysed picture of any issue about which doubts still persist? The outright blocking of the documentary in question will only raise many questions on a dark event that is an indelible mark on the fabric of Indian history.

Tharcius S. Fernando,  
Chennai

There are many of us in India who know what the truth is despite various "clean chits". There is nothing much we can do except try and put the past

behind us and move on. But one of the powerful voices of the world cannot be stopped. The BBC as an organisation has no agenda. However, the timing of the airing of its documentary evokes curiosity.

S. Kamat,  
Alto Santa Cruz, Goa

One wonders what the purpose behind the BBC documentary is. It may be recalled that after prolonged investigations by various agencies, and later the higher judiciary, the issue was closed. The BBC has lost its credibility in India which was built brick by brick by Mark Tully. One wonders what he has to say.

J.P. Reddy,  
Nalgonda, Telangana

For a simmering issue that had attained finality by way

of a judicial verdict, it is most unfortunate that an esteemed news broadcasting agency has attempted to reopen the wounds. One fails to understand the logic and its timing. Although the British leader has taken gross exception to the documentary, its release appears to be more of an attempt to discredit India's ruling dispensation.

It is pertinent to mention here that the electorate of the State had given their unambiguous verdict on the Gujarat riots, which was the central theme in successive Assembly elections. It is ironic that a reputed broadcasting agency has not examined the horrendous Jallianwala Bagh tragedy, the blatant violation of human rights in Iraq on the pretext of

unearthing weapons of mass destruction, and even the West's dubious role in Afghanistan.

B. Suresh Kumar,  
Coimbatore

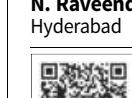
Without going into the merits and the demerits of the development, one wonders whether the BBC would have reacted with the same alacrity in unearthing the truth about the non-existent "weapons of mass-destruction" of Saddam Hussein. Children perished in their thousands due to an embargo on basic medicines. It was a different Vietnam that was recreated.

Shashi Bhushan,  
Secunderabad

Taking aim at the judiciary  
One does not need the brain of Einstein to understand what the

government, under the guise of correcting the 'flawed' collegium system, intends to achieve through its relentless and shrewd attempts to weaken the judiciary – to ultimately unleash sweeping powers without much judicial oversight. The media, the political Opposition and the judiciary play a vital role in checking executive excesses. Any dilution in the independence of the judiciary in India will be disastrous.

N. Ravendra Babu,  
Hyderabad



Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

# An India chapter for foreign universities

**F**or a long time, proponents of the internationalisation of higher education have cherished the dream of foreign universities operating in India. For nearly two decades, they have emphasised the need to provide conducive conditions and an enabling framework for such institutions. But the idea failed to come to fruition due to the concerns of the regulatory authorities and governments in India as well as the foreign higher educational institutions.

**Concerns**  
Promoting excellence, preventing malpractices, safeguarding the interests of students and protecting national interests have been some of the major concerns. Many were wary of the cultural threat that this initiative posed. Some of those who were at the forefront of preserving the purity of Indian culture are now a part of the political dispensation. Policy planners and regulators have been particularly concerned about how to come up with a framework that attracts the best of the best and deters the fly-by-night kinds of universities.

On the other hand, the sought-after universities are concerned about the potential adverse effect of setting up offshore campuses with their accreditation, ranking and reputation. Truly reputed higher educational institutions operate on a not-for-profit basis and have no materialistic motives to go offshore. A few countries that have such offshore campuses had to hard-sell the institutions the idea by leasing land at almost no cost, bearing the bulk of infrastructure cost and promising them the academic, administrative and financial autonomy that they enjoy in their home country. India could hardly afford any such incentives. Whatever was offered was riddled with caveats and contradictions.

Past setbacks notwithstanding, the idea of having world-class universities establish and operate



**Furqan Qamar**,  
former Adviser for Education in the Planning Commission, is a Professor of Management at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Views are personal

their campuses in India has been so compelling that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 provided that "selected universities e.g., those from among the top 100 universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India. A legislative framework facilitating such entry will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India." Even though the NEP favoured a "legislative framework", the idea is being executed through a regulatory route by the University Grants Commission (UGC). There seems to be determination to get the idea going, even if it amounts to some dilution in standards.

While the policy prescribed "facilitation" and "special dispensation" for the top 100 universities of the world, the draft regulation seeks to lower the standards by extending the scope to the top 500 universities, overall or in any discipline. Further, for the "educational institutions", just being "reputed" in their home country would be a sufficient requirement. The draft regulation doesn't seem concerned about the subjectivity and scope of discretion in the above articulation as it believes that the standing committee constituted by the UGC would do an unbiased and thorough job in processing the applications and identifying only the best institutions.

#### Contradictions

The initiative may still fail due to contradictions in the regulation. The draft regulation demands that the quality of education imparted by these institutions in India must be on a par with the quality of courses at their campus in the country of origin. Yet, it insists that they must not "offer any such programme of study which jeopardises the national interest of India or the standards of higher education in India". It promises academic, administrative and

financial autonomy to foreign institutions but takes that away by asserting that they abide by all the conditions that the UGC and the Indian government prescribe from time to time. The provision that the foreign higher education institutions must not do anything "contrary to the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality" might deter the best universities that most value their academic autonomy.

Leaving aside the issue of whether the idea would succeed, one wonders why India is so keen on foreign higher education. During a media briefing, it was stated that foreign universities in India would stop the outflow of \$28-30 billion in foreign exchange. This does not corroborate the data on outward remittances for studies abroad, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). During 2021-22, foreign outflow on account of studies abroad was no more than \$5.165 billion. Even if we add to it the outflows of \$3.598 billion for education-related travel (though these do not necessarily relate to studies abroad), the total education-related outflows would be \$8.973 billion. One could argue that even \$5.165 billion is a substantive sum and must be stopped from flowing abroad, but the idea of import substitution in higher education is complicated. Students do not go abroad for degrees alone; they also go for the experience, post-study work visas, income opportunities and better career prospects. Studying in a foreign university in India would offer them none of these. Most critically, as they are able to finance a good part of their education abroad through jobs, assistantships and scholarships, they find it more economical.

Still, India needs to have an enabling framework for the entry and operation of foreign higher educational institutions. It must, however, ensure that the best set up their campuses in the country.

The initiative may fail due to contradictions in the draft regulation



The BJP's assertion that Bagh Hazarika is fictional has angered some Muslims

#### STATE OF PLAY

**Rahul Karmakar**  
rahul.karmakar@thehindu.co.in

**I**n January 8, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma hit a raw nerve by suggesting that Bagh Hazarika, the 17th-century Muslim warrior fabled to have fought the Mughals alongside legendary Ahom general Lachit Barphukan, is a fictional character. He said a narrative had been created about Bagh Hazarika, whose real name was Ismail Sidique. He wondered why "our history teachers" never questioned this narrative. "If you read the entire history of the Battle of Saraighat, you will find there's no mention of Bagh Hazarika anywhere," he said again on January 12.

The Battle of Saraighat, fought in March 1671, is often equated with the Battle of Tralfagar. Barphukan's army, comprising various ethnic communities apart from the dominant Ahoms, used the hills, marshes, jungles and water bodies to defeat the Mughal army led by Raja Ram Singh. Mr. Sarma's observation angered some minority leaders who saw it as a "right-wing ploy to provoke" Assamese Muslims and divide Assamese society. But he was not the first to stir up controversy.

Bagh Hazarika's existence began to be questioned during the celebration of Barphukan's 400th birth anniversary in New Delhi in 2022 with the Hindu Jagran Manch saying the Muslim warrior is a fictional character without any "symbolic representation" in Assam's history. Panel discussions then focussed on how the Ahom general, by thwarting the Mughal invasion, prevented Islamisation in a large

swathe of land. The panellists said reliable accounts of Ahom history do not mention any associate of Barphukan by the name of Bagh Hazarika.

"Pained" by the bid to erase Bagh Hazarika from popular history, 10 Assamese Muslim intellectuals and scholars requested the Assam government to constitute a committee of histories under a reputed university to find out more about the warrior. While some community members said there is not enough documentation to prove Bagh Hazarika existed, all of them agreed that his name finds mention in history and that the controversy was being created in keeping with the Hindutva agenda of not recognising the contribution of Muslims to Indian history.

Assamese Muslim leaders point to the *Annals of the Delhi Badshahate*, by historian Surya Kumar Bhuyan, published by Assam government's Directorate of Historical and Antiquarian Studies in 1947. A footnote on 'Assamese Muhammadan Commanders' says Bagh Hazarika's "military genius was partly responsible for the success of Lachit Barphukan's operations against Ram Singh'. This was heard from Maulavi Mufizuddin Ahmed Hazarika," a noted Assamese poet and "a descendant of the said Bagh Hazarika". Assamese literary stalwarts such as former Director-General of Police Harekrishna Deka said Bagh Hazarika has been in folklore for

a long time like some other "historical" characters and cannot be dismissed as fictitious because histories of Assam do not mention him.

Bagh Hazarika has been seen as a "misfit" in the appropriation of Barphukan as a "Hindu" warrior after the BJP came to power in Assam. The Tai Ahom Yuva Parishad has opposed this "distortion of history" as the community during the general's time practised an indigenous faith. The BJP has also taken credit for making Barphukan a "national hero" despite the National Defence Academy conferring its best cadet with the Lachit Barphukan Award since 1999, when the government led by the Asom Gana Parishad, a minor BJP ally now, was in power.

But what has raised eyebrows is the "message" the BJP might have sent out to the Assamese Muslims that they are not "khilonja (indigenous)" enough. The Bagh Hazarika issue has been raked up less than six months after five sub-groups of indigenous Muslims were identified, to set them apart from Bengali-speaking/Bengal-origin Muslims.

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# For Indian startups, the pace up the funding ladder quickens

Startups founded in 2021 took only 28 months on average to transition from the seed stage to Series A

#### DATA POINT

##### Agencies

A recent article titled 'What drives startup fundraising in India?' was published as a part of the January 2023 issue of the Reserve Bank of India's monthly bulletin. It shows that more startups have been becoming unicorns in recent years in India. The article also points out that the number of months taken by startups in India to climb up the funding ladder has drastically declined in recent years.

As on January 12 this year, there were 87,988 startups in India recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). This makes the country the third largest startup ecosystem in the world. Only those entities which work towards innovation or which have a scalable business model are recognised in India as startups up to 10 years from the time of their incorporation and which had a turnover that did not exceed ₹100 crore in any year.

According to DPIIT, startups have created around 7.6 lakh jobs in India as of June 30, 2022. Also, the average age of startup founders India was reported to be 32 years (as of 2019) and 14% of the startups had at least one female founder (as of 2022).

In the post-pandemic period, startups have been on a fast lane in India. In 2021, the average time taken for a startup to become a unicorn dropped to 7.8 years from 9.9 years in 2020. A unicorn is a private limited company with a valuation of over ₹1 billion. **Chart 1** shows the number of unicorns created in India each year. The number of unicorns has surged in the post-pandemic period with the total count increasing to 107 as of September 2022.

Most unicorns in India were FinTech platforms, Software-as-a-Service companies and e-commerce firms. But interestingly, ma-

ny new entrants in 2021 to the unicorn club were from non-traditional areas (cloud kitchens, gaming, data management and analytics, and content). As shown in **Chart 2**, close to 40% of startups in India as on January 11 this year were in Bengaluru followed by Gurugram (16%) and Mumbai (15%).

Usually, a startup goes through many rounds of funding from funds, high net-worth individuals and other businesses in successive pitches or rounds (seed, Series A, B, C and so on). Initially, the seed money comes from the founders, friends and family who are called angel investors. Early rounds may be used to establish a foothold in the market, while later rounds may be used for expansion. Later, when the startup gets acquired, or becomes a listed company, or merges with another firm, it no longer needs funding.

Notably, the median number of months required to rise up the funding stages has reduced for the startups founded in recent years. **Chart 3** shows the median months taken for startups founded in 2014 and 2021 to rise up to the funding stages. Startups founded in 2014 took an average 50 months to transition from the seed stage to Series A, whereas startups founded in 2021 took only 28 months. Similarly, for those founded in 2014, the progression from Series A to B was 36 months as against 12 months in 2021.

Indian tech startups raised ₹17.4 billion over 2,531 rounds in 2019. In 2020, this was around ₹6.9 billion. In 2021, this increased to ₹45.4 billion over 2,900 rounds. The share of late-stage startups (Series C and beyond) in total funding and in the number of funding rounds increased compared to the past few years, as shown in **Chart 4**.

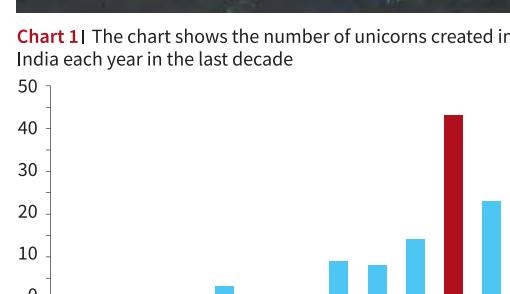
This indicates that investors are backing established companies that had proven themselves more than before, which is typically risk-averse behaviour.

#### A flying start for startups

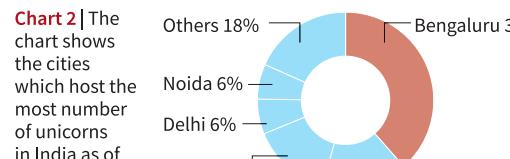
The charts and conclusions are sourced from "What Drives Startup Fundraising in India?" This was a paper published by the RBI as a part of its January bulletin



**Chart 1** The chart shows the number of unicorns created in India each year in the last decade

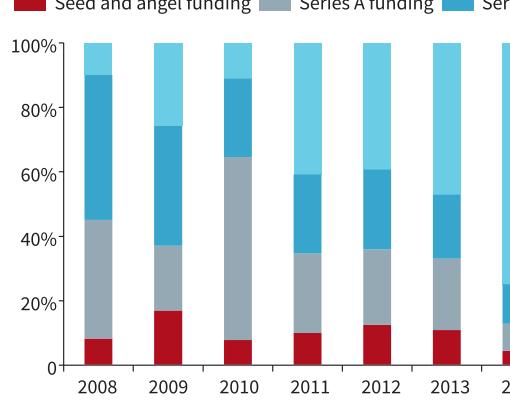


**Chart 2** The chart shows the cities which host the most number of unicorns in India as of January 11, 2023



**Chart 4** The chart shows the stage-wise share in the number of funding rounds

■ Seed and angel funding ■ Series A funding ■ Series B funding ■ Series C + funding



#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

**The Hindu**

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 24, 1973

#### Attention to rural India: Call to photographers

New Delhi, Jan. 23: The President, Mr. V.V. Giri, to-day called upon press photographers, presently pre-occupied with politics and VIPs, to turn their lenses on the common people and their struggles and aspirations. "It is, of course, pardonable vanity on the part of politicians to expect to see their pictures in newspaper every day, but I believe the time has come to change our conception of news photography," he said. The President was inaugurating a three-day convention of the Federation of Indian Photography and the "Indian Salon 1973" organised by the Camera Society of India. Noting that photography was a powerful medium of communication, the President urged photographers to devote their attention to the question of using it in the best possible manner to advance the national objectives. In particular, he wanted photographers to turn their attention more and more to rural India where over 80 per cent of the people lived. The need for acquiring a rural bias had been particularly underlined by the economic crisis through which the country was passing.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 24, 1923

#### Communal cry

Delhi, Jan. 23: To-morrow's meeting of the Legislative Assembly will be devoted to the discussion of non-official resolutions. The first motion on the agenda stands in the name of Mr. J. Ramaya Pantulu, who will urge that the selection of candidates for public offices should be based solely on merit and not on communal considerations. Col. Gidney has a resolution to quite the contrary effect, because he will demand that selection should be on a communal basis. Mr. Seshagiri Iyer, the newly elected President of the Democratic Party, has given notice of an amendment to Mr. Pantulu's resolution. This amendment is that the Government of India in making appointments to offices under its direct control shall ordinarily, where qualifications of candidates are adequately efficient by their education, ability and integrity, give preference to those that belong to a class not well represented in the service, due regard being had to provincial and linguistic considerations.

# Text & Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### The BCCI set to get richer with its women's IPL bid

**4,000**

In ₹ crore, the amount by which

BCCI is set to get richer as some of the top business houses are set to bid for the five Women's IPL teams on Wednesday. More than 30 companies have bought the bid documents worth ₹5 lakh. Corporates such as the Adani group, Torrent group etc have shown interest in buying a team. PTI

### Spotify announces layoffs, joins Microsoft, Meta and Amazon

**6%** The percentage of workforce, music streaming firm Spotify Technology SA, is planning to cut, adding to a glut of layoffs in the technology sector as companies prepare for a possible recession. Tech companies are facing a demand downturn after two years of pandemic-driven growth. This has made companies from Meta to Microsoft shed thousands of jobs. Reuters

### Pakistan imports luxury cars and items amid financial crunch

**1.2** In \$ billion, the amount Pakistan spent on the import of transportation items, including luxury cars, high-end electric vehicles, and their parts, during the last six months amid sinking reserves and a fear of default, according to a media report. The country is in the middle of a financial crunch with foreign exchange reserves depleting to as low as \$4 billion. PTI

### 1,80,000 Russian soldiers dead or wounded in Ukraine

**1.8** In lakh, the number of dead or wounded Russian soldiers in Ukraine so far, while the figures for Ukraine are 1,00,000 military casualties and 30,000 dead civilians, according to estimates released by Norway's army chief. The Norwegian general also called for the rapid delivery of combat tanks to Ukraine, which has so far been held up mainly by Germany. AFP

### Investment in capital markets through P-notes decline

**96,292** In ₹ crore, the

amount of investment in Indian capital markets through participatory notes (P-notes) at the end of December 2022. P-notes are issued by registered FPIs to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market indirectly. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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# The basic structure of the Constitution

At the heart of the current debate over the Supreme Court Collegium and the striking down of the National Judicial Appointments Commission, is a fundamental question — does Parliament have unlimited power to amend the Constitution or is it subject to inherent limitations?

## LETTER & SPIRIT

### Krishnadas Rajagopal

The Chief Justice of India, D. Y. Chandrachud compared the 'basic structure' of the Constitution to the North Star, an unfailing guide which shows the way when the path appears convoluted. His observation marks the response of the Supreme Court to a recent statement made by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar that the basic structure doctrine introduced by a 13-judge Bench 40 years ago, in the *Kesavananda Bharati Sripadagalvaru versus State of Kerala* through a 7:6 wafer-thin majority judgment, diluted parliamentary sovereignty. The opinion of the Vice President and the reply from the top judge have come amidst an ongoing verbal skirmish initiated by the government over the striking down of the 99th Constitutional Amendment and the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act in a 4:1 majority decision of the Supreme Court in October 2015. The government is now vying, after a gap of nearly eight years, for a stronger, if not dominant, spot in judicial appointments to constitutional courts. It remains bitter about the failure of the NJAC, a constitutional amendment, it said, was an exercise of the "will of the people" through Parliament.

At the heart of both the Kesavananda Bharati case, better known as the Fundamental Rights case, and the current debate over the Collegium, a powerful body of Supreme Court judges which recommends names for judicial appointments, is a fundamental question — does Parliament have unlimited power to amend the Constitution or is it subject to inherent limitations?

### The basic structure doctrine

The Kesavananda Bharati judgment held that Parliament cannot use its constituent power to alter the basic structure or the essential features of the Constitution. The Parliament, as senior advocate Nani Palkhivala said (at whose memorial lecture Chief Justice Chandrachud gave his reply) cannot cease to be a creature of the Constitution and become its master.

The basic structure or framework of the Constitution is its living spirit, holding up the body of its text. Its existence cannot be pin-pointed to any particular provision of the text. It is the "soul" of the Constitution, inextricably linked to the values enshrined in the Preamble, without which the document and the ideas that make it sacred would collapse. "A Constitution is a living system. But just as in a living, organic system, such as the human body, [where] various organs develop and decay, yet the basic structure or pattern remains the same with each of the organs having its proper function, so also in a Constitutional system the basic institutional pattern remains even though the different component parts may undergo significant alterations. For it is the characteristic of a system that it perishes when one of its essential component parts is destroyed," the Supreme Court explained in the 703-page Kesavananda Bharati verdict of April 24, 1973.

Granville Austin's *Working of a Democratic Constitution* said the basic structure doctrine "is fairly said to have become the bedrock of constitutional interpretation in India". The Constitution Bench in the NJAC judgment encapsulated the principle behind the basic structure theory when it said "a change in a thing does not involve its destruction".

Different judges on the Kesavananda Bharati Bench gave different examples of what constituted the 'basic structure' of



GETTY IMAGES

the Constitution, including supremacy; the federal and secular character of the Constitution; separation of powers among the legislature, executive and judiciary; dignity of the individual; unity and integrity of the nation; sovereignty of India; democratic character of our policy; welfare state and egalitarian society; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship and equality of status and opportunity among other essential features.

**The Kesavananda Bharati case**  
Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy in his *The Court and the Constitution of India: Summits and Shallows* says Chief Justice S. M. Sikri, who led the Kesavananda Bharati Bench, never divulged from where he derived the basic structure formula. "Since there are no signposts signalling basic features of the Constitution, every attempt to discover a basic feature becomes a 'voyage of discovery', Justice Reddy wrote.

The Kesavananda Bharati case came to the Supreme Court almost immediately after the Indira Gandhi government rode to victory in the 1971 elections on the popular slogan of 'garibi hatao' with almost 350 seats out of a total of 540. The government, smarting primarily under the Supreme Court's Golak Nath verdict which upheld the power of judicial review of constitutional amendments, introduced several Constitutional Amendments. The 24th Constitutional Amendment changed Article 13, a provision which mandated that no 'law' could take away or abridge fundamental rights. The Golak Nath judgment had interpreted the term 'law' in Article 13 (2) to include 'constitutional amendments' too. The Parliament through the 24th Amendment said a constitutional amendment cannot be rendered void merely because it infringed fundamental rights. It also modified Article 368, a provision which dealt with constitutional amendments, to enable the Parliament to add, vary or repeal any Article of the Constitution. The 13-judge Bench upheld the Parliament's power to amend the Constitution as long as it adhered to its basic structure or essential features.

The 25th Constitutional Amendment introduced Article 31C into the Constitution to implement the Directive Principles of State Policy under Article 39 (b) and (c) for distribution of material resources of the community and to prevent concentration of wealth. The government's aim was to facilitate nationalisation of industries and socialist measures. The Amendment mandated that any law enacted with this objective cannot be "deemed" void on the ground that it was inconsistent with fundamental rights. The latter half of Article 31C added that such a law would be outside judicial review. In fact, even a petition cannot be filed in court challenging such a law. In short, the Amendment gave Directive Principles primacy over fundamental rights and judicial review of the apex court.

Senior advocates Soli Sorabjee and Arvind Datar in their *Nani Palkhivala – The Courtroom Genius* described the great lawyer arguing that Article 31C was the "forerunner of a totalitarian State". The 13-judge Bench invalidated the part of Article 31C which took away the power of judicial review of the court.

However, the Kesavananda Bharati judgment gave no relief to the petitioner-seer when it upheld the 29th Constitutional Amendment which incorporated two land reform provisions made in the Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963 in the Ninth Schedule, immunising them from litigation claiming violation of fundamental rights. A fourth constitutional amendment, the 26th, on abolition of privy purses, was not considered by the Court.

**The (counter) arguments**  
Mr. Sorabjee and Mr. Datar, in their book, condense the submissions of the Union and the States, represented by senior advocate H. M. Seervai and then Attorney General Niren De, that constitutional amendments should not be nullified by the court as they mirror the "democratic will of the people". An argument which has surfaced again through Mr. Dhankar after four decades. But Mr. Palkhivala had met this argument with a prescient one of

his own, "people are not associated with the amending process at all. Parliament cannot be equated with the people, the Parliament's will is not the people's will".

### The aftermath

The judgment was delivered on the last working day of Chief Justice Sikri. Justice A.N. Ray, the fourth in line of seniority and who was part of the minority which upheld the unlimited power of Parliament to amend the Constitution, superseded Justices J. M. Shelat, K.S. Hegde and A. N. Grover to become the 14th Chief Justice of India. All three of his colleagues resigned. A similar supersession followed when Justice H. R. Khanna, after his lone but historic dissent upholding the fundamental right to life and personal liberty in the *Habeas Corpus* case during the darkest days of Emergency, was overlooked for Chief Justiceship. These incidents could be directly linked to the Supreme Court evolving the Collegium system to protect judicial independence, which is also part of the basic structure doctrine.

The basic structure doctrine had survived an aborted attempt to overrule the Kesavananda Bharati judgment by another 13-member Bench led by Chief Justice Ray. It came in handy when the court, in the *Indira Gandhi versus Raj Narain* case, removed the 39th Constitutional Amendment passed during the Emergency period which put the elections of the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and Lok Sabha Speaker beyond judicial review.

In 1980, the court once again used the basic structure formula, in the *Minerva Mills* challenge to the 42nd Amendment, to uphold judicial review of constitutional amendments and to protect fundamental rights.

Over the years, the courts have clarified the basic structure, including that of the "primacy to the opinion of the Chief Justice of India in judicial appointments and transfers in the context of the independence of the judiciary as a part of the basic structure of the Constitution to secure the rule of law essential for preservation of the democratic system".

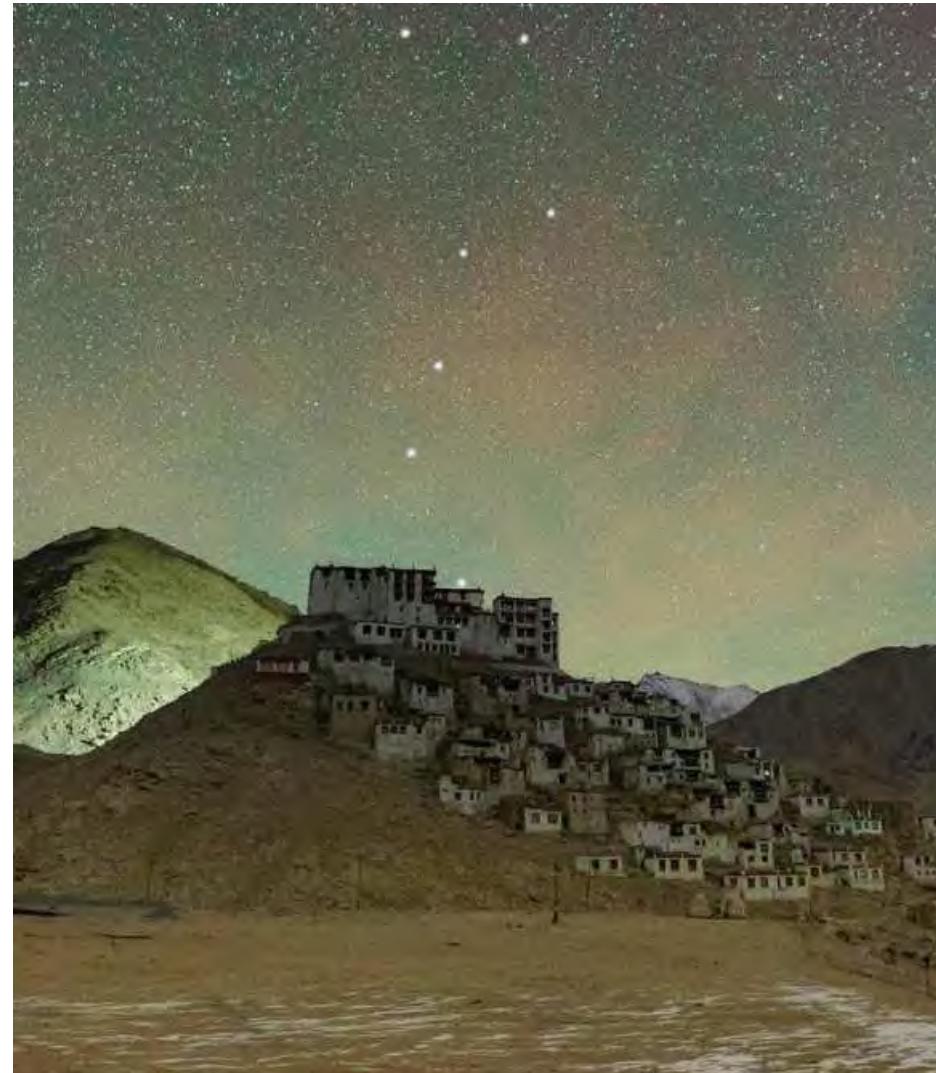
## THE GIST

▼  
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ABSTRACT



**Blinding lights:** The Chemrey Monastery before and after a power cut in March 2021. The number of stars that become invisible when the monastery is lit is 'striking'. DORJE ANGCHUK

# The dark sky is a natural resource, and too much light is polluting it

A 2016 study reported that a fifth of India's people experience a high level of skylight, non-natural light that increases the brightness of the night sky. The effects and consequences of this phenomenon make the absence of a global treaty to reduce light pollution more conspicuous

Vasudevan Mukunth

Kyba, Christopher C. M. et al, 'Citizen scientists report global rapid reductions in the visibility of stars from 2011 to 2022', Science, Vol 379, Issue 6629, pp. 265-268, January 2023.

DOI: 10.1126/science.abq7781

In December 14, 2022, the district administration of Ladakh designated six hamlets within the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary as a "dark-sky reserve" – an area whose sky is free of light pollution. The designation meant that the reserve had a responsibility to keep the skies dark, particularly for the astronomical observatories located in the area.

When private space venture company SpaceX's Starlink constellation of small satellites began to obscure the view of ground-based telescopes around the Earth, the idea of the sky as a natural resource capable of being polluted became popular. These incidents also rendered the absence of a global treaty to reduce light pollution more conspicuous. But while authorities safeguard telescopes' access to dark skies by actively lowering light pollution around their sites, the night-sky elsewhere is actually becoming brighter thanks to 'skylight', which has significant ecological, health and cultural consequences.

The prevalence of skylight

In a new study titled 'Citizen scientists report global rapid reductions in the visibility of stars from 2011 to 2022',

researchers from Germany and the U.S. analysed a global database of what the dimmest star visible from a particular location is; the database had more than 51,000 entries submitted by citizen scientists. They found that non-natural light had increased the brightness of the artificial glow of the night sky, or skylight, by 9.2-10% every year between 2011 and 2022. Specifically, they reported that the skylight had brightened around 6.5% over Europe, 10.4% over North America, and 7.7% over the rest of the world.

The finding is significant because it disagrees with satellite-based data, which has indicated that the rate of increase has been around 2% per year. According to the new study, the discrepancy is probably because satellites are unable to 'sense' blue light emitted by LEDs and to study light that is emitted parallel to the ground.

Visible light emitted by many sources is divergent, so light emitted insufficiently downward could find its way into the sky. Almost all surfaces in cities reflect light, meaning a portion of entirely down-cast light will be reflected upwards, contributing to night-time light pollution. The researchers recommend light sources that cast light at an angle below the plane of the horizon, capping the emissions of these sources and calibrating their output according to the total brightness at the spot being lit.

The situation in India

The study had only a few observations from Asia, South America and Africa. Africa had just 452 observations between January 2011 and August 2022 in the

database. There were no entries from China or Brazil – both rapidly industrialising nations – in the study. The researchers themselves admit the data collected from Europe and North America are representative, which means that their conclusions must be taken with a pinch of salt.

However, India isn't a blind spot. In March 2021, Dorje Angchuk, an engineer at the Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle famous for his night-sky photographs, tweeted pictures of the Chemrey Monastery, near Leh, before and after a power cut. The number of stars that become invisible when the monastery is lit is striking. A 2016 study reported that 19.5% of India's population – the lowest fraction among G20 countries – experiences a level of skylight that would at least keep the Milky Way galaxy out of sight and at most render "dark adaptation for human eyes" impossible. The effects include stimulating the cone cells in human eyes, which is possible only when an environment is considered to be well-lit.

A 2017 study reported that between 2012 and 2016, India's lit area increased by 1.07-1.09% and the average radiance of "stably lit areas" – for example, excluding wildfires – increased by 1.05-1.07%.

The consequences

The 2017 paper noted a curious pattern: "Regardless of historical or geographical context, humans tend to use as much artificial light as they can buy for about 0.7 percent of GDP." That is, even though LEDs have become more efficient, their utilisation hasn't decreased, which in turn

means the carbon emissions due to their production and use hasn't decreased.

Numerous studies have also found that artificial light at night affects both people and wildlife in significant ways. According to a 2003 report, lit beaches deter sea turtles from coming ashore to nest. A 2006 review found that skylight keeps trees from sensing seasonal variations. A 2011 study found that young burrow-nesting seabirds don't take flight unless the nesting site becomes dark. A 2019 study reported that clownfish eggs don't hatch when exposed to artificial light at night, killing the offspring. A 2020 study noted that skylight interferes with multiple aspects of insect life and allows insect predators to hunt for longer.

Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species adopted guidelines to address the problem at their meeting in Gandhinagar in 2020. By disrupting the circadian rhythm, artificial light at night can hamper the production of melatonin, an influential hormone in the human body which affects sleep, moods and cognition.

A small 2009 review concluded that circadian disruption increased the risk of breast cancer among night-shift workers by 40%. Starry skies have also inspired countless works of science and poetry. When Los Angeles had a big power cut in 1994, many people phoned local authorities to report a "silver cloud" at night. It became evident later that they were really seeing the Milky Way.

In 2020, Australian researchers wrote in a paper, "The erasure of the night sky acts to erase Indigenous connection to the stars, acting as a form of ongoing cultural and ecological genocide."



FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Know your English

"Mr. Sreenivas G. K. Pai of Karkala wants to know whether the use of 'spake' is correct in 'Thus spake Swami Vivekananda.'"

"The word 'spake' is not used in modern English. It is the old form of the word 'spoke.' 'Thus spake X' is occasionally used as the title of a book of sayings of some eminent person of the past."

"Mr. V. R. Raghavan of Madras wants to know whether the word 'annexure' to mean 'an additional document' exists. He is of the opinion that the correct word is 'annex' or 'annexe.'"

"'Annexure' does exist. But 'annex' and 'annexe' seem to be more frequently used in the English-speaking countries. Only a couple of English dictionaries have recorded 'annexure'. Even the seventh edition (1982) of the Concise Oxford Dictionary hasn't recorded 'annexure.' But in India only 'annexure' is used to mean an addition to a document. Both 'annex' and 'annexe' are pronounced 'aneeks.' The 'a' in the word is pronounced like the 'a' in 'bad' and the 'e' like the 'e' in 'bed.' The final 'e' of 'annexe' is silent. 'Annexure' is pronounced 'aneeksheer.' 'sher' rhymes with 'her.' 'Annex' or 'annexe' also means a 'supplementary building, especially for additional accommodation.'

You will find the details in the annexure. There is an annex to the document he gave me.

I don't live in the main building. I live in the annex."

"Mrs. S. Robert of Coimbatore wants to know how to pronounce the word 'devotee.'"

"The first 'e' in 'devotee' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'bit' and 'vote' rhymes with 'boat.' The stress is on the second syllable 'vote.' The first 'e' in 'devotee' is pronounced like the 'e' in 'set' and the 'o' is pronounced like the final sound in 'China.' The 'ee' is pronounced like the 'ee' in 'feel.' The stress is on the third syllable 'tee.'"

## THE DAILY QUIZ

From analysing current events in a comedic fashion to creating the next viral moment with your favourite celebrity, hosts of talk shows are always on topic. Here is a quiz on American talk show hosts

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

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1

This Emmy-winning host is said to have conducted over 50,000 interviews in his long career. He has interviewed political leaders like Russian President Vladimir Putin, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and every U.S. President since Gerald Ford. Name the host.

QUESTION 2

In a full circle moment, this guest who came on the season premier of the *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, appeared to send off the beloved talk show host. The actress who has appeared 20 times on the show, has also hosted the show during Ellen's absence.

Name the guest.

QUESTION 3

This satiric and late-night talk show programme takes a look at current events with a humorous twist. An episode of the show which was critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was blocked in India by Hotstar. Name the show and its host.

QUESTION 4

Name the person who replaced David Letterman as the host of the *The Late Show* on CBS.

QUESTION 5

Oprah Winfrey, Kelly Clarkson, Wendy Williams, Natalie Morales and Whoopi Goldberg. What do these women have in common?



Visual question:

In 2011, the then U.S. President Barack Obama described him as "host of the best late night show on TBS". Name this person. GETTY IMAGES

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This person gave the honorific of Netaji to Subhas Chandra Bose. Ans: Indian soldiers of the Indische Legion and officials in Special Bureau for India in Berlin

2. Netaji's birthday is celebrated as this. Ans: Parakram Divas

3. The political party founded by Bose in 1939. Ans: Forward Bloc

4. The name and profession Bose assumed when he escaped from India in 1941. Ans: Ziauddin, Insurance agent

5. The protagonist in *Bose The Forgotten Hero*. Ans: Sachin Khedekar

6. Bose was called as 'Prince among Patriots' by this person who was later called this title by Bose in July 1944. Ans: Mahatma Gandhi and 'Father of the Nation'

7. The names Bose suggested for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the name of the island in the UT named after him in 2018. Ans: Shahid and Swaraj. Ross Island

Visual: This temple in Japan has a statue of Bose. Ans: Renkoji Temple

Early Birds: S. Sampath Kumar| Vinod A. R| Jagadish. S| Ganesh Misal| Shreya Bhadra

## Word of the day

Adroitness:

skillful performance or ability without difficulty (used as a noun)

Synonyms:

facility, quickness, deftness, adeptness

Usage:

He parked my car with a degree of adroitness.

Pronunciation:

bit.ly/adroitnesspro

International Phonetic Alphabet:

/ə'drɔɪt̬nɪs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

**From Page One****21 islands get Param Vir Chakra awardees' name**

Stating that the identity of the Andaman was associated with the symbols of slavery instead of the memories of the freedom struggle, Mr. Modi said, "Even the names of our islands had the imprint of slavery."

Mr. Modi said that many messages are contained in the naming of the 21 islands. "The message is the message of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'; this message is the message of the bravery of our Armed Forces," he said. "Just like an ocean connects different islands, similarly, the feeling of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' ignites the spirit of 'Bharat Mata' and 'India First,'" Mr. Modi added.

"From Major Somnath Sharma, Piru Singh, Major Shaikan Singh to Captain Manoj Pandey, Subedar Joginder Singh and Lance Naik Albert Ekka, from Veer Abdul Hameed and Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran to all 21 Paramveers, everyone had only one resolve – Nation First! India First! This resolution has now become immortal forever in the name of these islands. A hill in Andaman is also being dedicated in the name of Captain Vikram Batra from the Kargil war," Mr. Modi said.

**'A pole star in India's history'**

Mr. Shah said the memories of the heroes could never be erased nor were they dependent on anyone's mercy to live on.

He added that Netaji would shine like the pole star in India's history. He said Netaji was a great example of courage as he "travelled from Kolkata to Berlin by car through a terrain with a temperature of -45 degrees Celsius to liberate the nation". "But unfortunately, many attempts were made to erase his memories," Mr. Shah said. "After Narendra Modi became Prime Minister he had a statue of Subhas Chandra Bose installed in Kartavya Path [in Delhi], he decided to celebrate Netaji's birth anniversary as Parakram Divas. And he chose the same day to announce the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island as his memorial to ensure that it's developed in a manner that evokes deep respect for the great hero in the hearts of the people who set foot here for generations. I thank the Prime Minister from the bottom of my heart."

He said in 2018, when Ross Island was named after Netaji, Neil Island renamed Shaheed Island and Havelock Island named Swaraj Island, it created a discourse around the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

"Some places are blessed to play a historic role. And the A&N islands were blessed to play a significant role in India's Independence," Mr. Shah said.

**Two students in Kochi infected with Norovirus**

School authorities said offline classes were suspended following the outbreak. Academic sessions will be held online till January 25. Necessary guidance is being given to the parents as per the directions of the Health Department.

An official communication by the District Medical Officer said the classrooms have been disinfected. Water samples had been collected and sent for detailed analysis. Control measures, including chlorination, have been initiated. Those showing symptoms should continue under observation. Care should be taken to ensure that the drinking water sources are clean and free of contamination, it said.

According to Health officials, though Norovirus outbreaks are rarely serious, it can spread fast if proper precautions are not taken. The virus spreads through the faecal-oral route. Infection occurs either through direct consumption of contaminated food or via careless handling of food by an infected person or caregiver.

**'Get rid of problems by stopping cow slaughter'**

**The Hindu Bureau**

AHMEDABAD

A local court judge in Gujarat has noted in a judgment recently that all of earth's problems will be solved if cow slaughter is stopped and also mentioned the benefits of its urine and dung.

The observations were made in November 2022 during a case related to illegal transportation of cattle. Principal District Judge Samir Vyas said this while sentencing a man to life imprisonment for illegally transporting cattle.

"Cow is not only an animal but it is a mother, that is why it is given the name of mother," he said, invoking a myth. He observed that "houses made of cow dung are not affected by atomic radiation" and the application of *gaumutra*, cow urine, is a "cure for many incurable diseases."

**Internet Archive takes down BBC documentary****Aroon Deep**  
NEW DELHI

The Internet Archive, a U.S.-based repository of webpage archives and media uploads by users around the world, has taken down a widely circulated first episode of the BBC's *The Modi Question*, a documentary that was ordered to be removed from YouTube and Twitter by the Union government, *The Hindu* has found.

"This item is no longer available," a message on the upload reads. "Items may be taken down for various reasons, including by decision of the uploader or due to a violation of our Terms of Use," it further says.

The Internet Archive did not respond to a query by *The Hindu* sent on Sunday on how it would react if it were asked to take the documentary down.

The site had emerged as one of the main sources where the documentary has been shared for viewing by Indian users, even as the BBC acts to restrict it on copyright grounds on YouTube.

It is unclear whether the takedown of the particular upload was a result of a request by the Indian government or by the BBC.

**PM, leaders pay tribute to Netaji at Parliament Hall**

Working to realise his vision for India, says Modi; Netaji always wanted to see India as a self-reliant, modern nation, says Om Birla; Jairam Ramesh takes a dig at the BJP with reference to Jan Sangh

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla paid floral tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the Central Hall of Parliament House on his birth anniversary on Monday.

"Today, on Parakram Divas, I pay homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and recall his unparalleled contribution to India's history. He will be remembered for his fierce resistance to colonial rule. Deeply influenced by his thoughts, we are working to realise his vision for India," Mr. Modi said in a tweet earlier in the day.

Several Union Ministers, the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress president, Mallikarjun Kharge, and MPs from across the parties were present.

As many as 80 students selected by the Ministries of Education and Youth Affairs under the programme, 'Know Your Leaders', also participated in the event.

Speaking on the occa-



**Remembering the leader:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge after paying floral tribute to Netaji in Parliament on Monday. PTI

sion, Mr. Birla said Netaji's sacrifice for the nation inspires every Indian and fills us with new energy and determination. "Netaji had an unwavering faith in India's rich and glorious history," he said. He recalled that Netaji always wanted to see India as a self-reliant, and modern nation."

The fanfare with which Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary was celebrated this year stood in stark contrast with a sombre affair last year

when other than Mr. Modi, Mr. Birla, and Ministers Piyush Goyal and V. Muraleedharan, MPs from only the Trinamool and the YSR Congress were present.

**Cong. takes a swipe**

Taking a dig at the BJP, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "The successor party to the one founded by S.P. Mukherjee claiming to be Netaji bhakts is laughable given what Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and S.P. Mu-

kerjee thought of each other as revealed in the latter's diaries. Netaji's elder brother opposed the Partition of Bengal so ardently advocated by the founder of Jan Sangh."

The Trinamool's Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien launched a broadside at the BJP. "The BJP, like a good student, has learnt its lesson from us well and is following the traditions that it should have long upheld," Mr. O'Brien told *The Hindu*.

**Narayanpur violence: delegation criticises Baghel government****Shubhomoy Sikdar**  
RAIPUR

victims and affected people."

The members said that these families continued to remain vulnerable despite the administration's assurances and that they were unable to practise their faith in peace.

The letter further notes that the families are facing the double whammy of social boycott and Hindu religious rituals being forced on them.

The delegation also questioned the role of the BJP and the Janjati Suraksha Manch in the matter.

"In every single case, it was told to us by the victims that it was those leaders among the tribals who were affiliated to the BJP, who mobilised and led the attacks," the letter said.

"Before the commencement of the parade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**BSF camel contingent to have women personnel at Republic Day Parade****The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

In a first, women personnel will be part of the Border Security Force (BSF) camel contingent at the Republic Day parade (RDP) this year.

Also, the ceremonial 21-gun salute during the parade will be given using 105 mm Indian Field Guns (IFGs) which will replace the vintage British 25 mm Pounder guns.

Since Independence, the 21-gun salute has been accorded by seven vintage Quick Fire 25 Pounder guns which fire blank rounds as the national anthem is played.

"Before the commencement of the parade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

will lead the nation in paying homage to the fallen bravehearts by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial," said Maj. Gen. Bhavish Kumar, Chief of Staff, Delhi area, who will also be the Second-in-Command of the parade. There will be 16 marching contingents from the armed forces, Central Paramilitary Forces, the Delhi Police, the National Cadet Corps and the NSS along with 19 military pipes and drum bands while 27 tableaux of various States, departments and armed forces will take part.

gents from the armed forces, Central Paramilitary Forces, the Delhi Police, the National Cadet Corps and the NSS along with 19 military pipes and drum bands while 27 tableaux of various States, departments and armed forces will take part.

Meanwhile, the SP has distanced itself from Mr. Maurya's statement with its leaders maintaining that the party respected all religious texts and religions.

**SP leader's remark on epic poem kicks up row****The Hindu Bureau**  
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) leader and former Minister Swami Prasad Maurya's controversial statement on epic poem *Ramcharitmanas* compiled by Tulsidas led to widespread criticism in Uttar Pradesh, with the ruling BJP alleging that the statement reflected the ideology of his party on Hinduism.

Mr. Maurya had said that in the *Ramcharitmanas*, objectionable language was used against backward classes, Dalits and Adivasis.

Meanwhile, the SP has distanced itself from Mr. Maurya's statement with its leaders maintaining that the party respected all religious texts and religions.

**Media body against proposal to empower PIB fact-check unit****The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA) on Monday sought the withdrawal of a draft amendment to the Information Technology Rules-2021, which empowers the Press Information Bureau's fact-check unit, or any other agency authorised by the Centre, to get social media platforms to remove the contents identified by it as fake or false.

The association said conferring such powers on the government without any checks and balances would result in "muzzling the fourth pillar of democracy and also have a chilling effect on the media". The amendment, which has been proposed by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, would stifle the freedom

of speech and expression of the media guaranteed under Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution, it said.

In a statement, the NBDA said the amendment would give the PIB and the Centre excessive powers to regulate digital news content without any scrutiny. It would directly affect the news media as the intermediaries might be coerced or directed by the PIB or any other agency to take down alleged "fake news" content without following the principles of natural justice. "This will also result in preventing any comment or criticism of the government," it said.

Introducing the amendment would lead to excessive regulation by the government which is neither desirable nor acceptable. This kind of censorship is not envisaged by the Constitution," it added.

**Murmu gives PM's national award to 11 children****The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2023 on 11 children, including one with a rare bone disorder who is now an accomplished singer and a youngster who jumped into a river to save the life of a woman. Rohan Ramachandra Bahir jumped into the Domri river in Rajouri to save the life of a 43-year-old woman who had slipped while washing clothes. He was awarded in the Bravery category for his exemplary courage.

Adithya Suresh, who suffers from a rare bone disorder since birth, has become an accomplished singer performing in over 500 shows. He was awarded in the category of Arts and Culture.

**Four die, over a dozen fall ill in fresh hooch tragedy in dry Bihar's Siwan****Amarnath Tewary**  
PATNA

At least four persons died and over a dozen fell critically ill in a fresh hooch tragedy in Siwan district of Bihar. Six persons have lost their eyesight, while 16 have been arrested in connection with the incident.

The incident happened at Bala village in Bhopatpur panchayat of Siwan. The villagers consumed spurious liquor on January 21 and from Sunday night, their condition started deteriorating. Subsequently, they were admitted to Siwan district hospital.

According to a statement issued by the Siwan district administration, "at least 10 people were admitted to the Siwan district hospital around 7 p.m. on Sunday after they complained of stomach pain, nausea and dizziness". District Magistrate Amit Ku-



**No end to menace:** A man undergoes treatment after allegedly drinking spurious liquor at Lakari Nabiganj, in Siwan. PTI

mar Pandey said the cause of death will only be ascertained after a post-mortem report".

**Report about trade'** "We have also spoken to the villagers and urged them to report fearlessly about illegal liquor trade in their area. No innocent will be harassed and a medical team is camping at the village. An investigating team

has been formed and we will be able to divulge more details once we get the autopsy report," said Mr. Pandey.

A senior police official of the district, on condition of anonymity, admitted to *The Hindu* that at least four persons have died and 14 are admitted to different hospitals of Siwan, Gorakhpur (in eastern Uttar Pradesh) and Patna. However,

villagers said the death toll had gone up to seven in Siwan while six persons lost their eyesight.

Janakdeo Rawat, a relative of one of the deceased persons, said, "All of them had consumed spurious liquor locally and returned home. Their condition deteriorated on Sunday night and they died by next morning." Besides, several villagers are critical and admitted to different hospitals, he added.

Additional Director General of Police Jitendra Singh Gangwar said 16 persons had been arrested so far in connection with the incident. "Senior district police officials have reached the village for further investigation. Spirit was brought from Kolkata for making sanitiser which was transported to Siwan from Muzaffarpur on January 18," Mr. Gangwar told presspersons.

# Bharat Jodo Yatra, the first genuine outreach to the people of J&K'

## COMMENT

Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra comes at a time when hatred and bigotry against the minorities, especially Muslims, is being fuelled in India. Partition, in 1947, where parties such as the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha played a decisive role, led to shocking massacres and a complete rupture of the trust among Indians. While the Muslim League succeeded in creating a country defined solely by the criteria of religion, the affiliates of the Hindu Mahasabha are still pushing for 'one nation one religion', notwithstanding what followed in Pakistan, especially after General Zia-ul-Haq wreaked havoc in the name of Islamisation of the country.

**Reaching out**  
The bleak state of affairs is eerily similar to what it is in today's India, where open calls for genocide against Muslims are made still on a regular basis. Jammu and



Mehbooba Mufti

is president, Peoples Democratic Party and a former Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir

In these trying and turbulent times, the Bharat Jodo Yatra has come as a breath of fresh air

Kashmir (J&K) was the first casualty of the Bharatiya Janata Party's agenda to marginalise Muslims in 2019, with its dismemberment and disempowerment. This was followed by the empty and hollow rhetoric of removing 'Dil ki doori' (the distance from the heart) and 'Dilli ki doori' (the distance from Delhi).

But the final stretch of Mr. Gandhi's 3,570-kilometre-long yatra, now in Kashmir, is being seen as the first genuine outreach to the people of J&K who have been threatened into silence and submission. Despite political compulsions, Mr. Gandhi has made his ideological convictions clear. He has taken the bull by the horns instead of choosing myopic electoral gains. His decision to walk in J&K is being seen as an attempt to heal the wounds inflicted on its people, who are being collectively punished and humiliated.

While our country has experienced communal riots throughout its history, the difference between the 1984 riots and the 2002 Gujarat massacre is that then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh not only acknowledged but also

apologised for the anti-Sikh riots. But the Gujarat pogrom is being showcased and justified by the government of the day as comeuppance for Muslims. There has been no closure or sense of justice for its victims, who continue to suffer.

A film steeped in falsehood and propaganda such as *The Kashmir Files* has been actively promoted by the Government of India since it fulfilled the purpose of demonising Muslims, while a credible documentary by the British Broadcasting Corporation based on the facts that led to the Gujarat massacre has been illegally banned invoking emergency censorship powers. The culture of impunity it sheds light on still persists – and on a larger scale throughout India with renewed vengeance.

The zeal with which this monstrous bigotry has spread its tentacles throughout the country is shocking and surprising. Especially because it is unravelling at a time when India ranks (at 107) below Sri Lanka (64), Nepal (81), Pakistan (99) and Bangladesh (84) in the Global Hunger Index. With 50% of its

population below the age of 25 years, India's youth should have been its most valuable strength. But the reality is that they are facing staggering and record-breaking unemployment. Government assets that were cultivated assiduously over the decades are being sold at throwaway prices to crony capitalists.

**The media's silence**

Instead of highlighting these key issues, the mainstream media has become a propaganda arm of the government. They are fanning this bigotry by spreading communal venom by endless debates on love jihad, *mandir-masjid* politics, etc. During Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement in 2011, the media went all guns blazing against the United Progressive Alliance government, raising critical questions. Today, even as an Opposition leader walks thousands of kilometres across the country, the same media devotes all their screen time to undermining and discrediting him.

We continue to live through an undeclared emergency (exponentially

more draconian than the one declared in 1975) where all the institutions necessary for democratic checks and balance have been subverted and weaponised to intimidate any form of opposition and criticism.

In these trying and turbulent times, the Bharat Jodo Yatra has come as a breath of fresh air. Mr. Gandhi's genuine attempts at uniting people across India and the yatra's message of love and peace have struck a chord with the entire nation. In 1947, when the Indian subcontinent erupted in communal violence, Kashmir was the only island of peace that did not witness a single case of death due to rioting. Gandhiji drew hope and inspiration, and rightly so, from Kashmiris. Seventy-six years later, one cannot help but feel a sense of *déjà vu* as Mr. Gandhi with his Kashmiri roots offers a glimmer of hope in trying to unite the country and keeping the very idea of India alive.

It is this idea of India that the people of J&K chose despite being a Muslim-majority State and also why I choose to walk in the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Tripura CPI(M) meet endorses poll alliance with Congress

**The Hindu Bureau**  
AGARTALA

The CPI(M) State Committee meeting on Monday endorsed a list of party candidates and the proposal to ally with 'democratic and secular' parties, including the Congress, in the Assembly election due on February 16.

Party general secretary Sitaram Yechury, former Chief Minister Manik Sarkar and State secretary Jitendra Chaudhury were present at the meeting.

The CPI(M) has reportedly finalised the number of seats it will contest with the Congress and smaller Left parties. The party is expected to give one seat each to the CPI, the RSP, the Forward Bloc and the CPI(M-L).

Congress State president Birajit Sinha confirmed that they have reached a seat-sharing arrangement with the CPI (M). "Congress will announce the [candidate] list on Wednesday after getting the approval of the party high command," he said. The CPI(M) leaders hinted at declaring the list of nominees on Tuesday evening or Wednesday.

Sources said the number of Congress nominees might not cross 20 in the 60-member Assembly.

## Rahul Gandhi throws weight behind Kashmiri Pandits

The Congress leader asks Union Territory administration to fulfil their demands, which are 'their rights and not charity'; he also pitches for the restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir

**Peerzada Ashiq**  
JAMMU

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday empathised with migrant Kashmiri Pandits and heard their plight in Jammu during the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

He also pitched for the restoration of Statehood to J&K, which was split into two Union Territories in 2019 by the BJP-led Central government.

Mr. Gandhi interacted with a delegation of Kashmiri Pandits and heard the issues raised by the community, including fresh migration in the wake of targeted killings by militants in the past two years in the Valley, and the J&K administration's move to stall salaries of migrant Pandit employees.

Mr. Gandhi said the community had been wronged by the J&K Lieutenant-Governor's administration, and that he would write to the Prime Minister and raise the issues faced by the Pandit community in Parliament.

"Injustice is being meted out to Kashmiri Pandits by this government. I am surprised that their delegation was told by the L-G



**Marching on:** Congress Leader Rahul Gandhi with supporters during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu on Monday. NISSAR AHMAD

that they should not seek alms. You [the L-G] should seek forgiveness from them," he said.

**BJP's approach**  
Amit Koul, a Pandit social activist, invited Mr. Gandhi to their Jagti township.

Mr. Koul said the Pandit delegation also raised issues related to the implementation of the Prime Minister's package which was introduced by the Manmohan Singh-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government.

The delegation also criticised the BJP government's approach towards

the Pandit community. "These people [the BJP] use Kashmiri Pandits. Whenever elections come, they take the name of Kashmiri Pandits for votes," another Pandit delegate said.

In a tweet, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said that Mr. Gandhi also promised to send a high-powered delegation from the party to the Valley on the matter of Kashmiri Pandits. "Rahul Gandhi asked them [Kashmiri Pandits] to prepare a three-point memorandum," he said.

Mr. Gandhi asked the

L-G administration "to fulfil the demands of Kashmiri Pandits, as what they demand is their due rights and not charity".

On his arrival in Jammu, Mr. Gandhi visited the Raghunath Temple and offered prayers. Scores of youngsters were waiting to receive Mr. Gandhi in Jammu. "All politicians have failed us. We are hopeful that the Congress will address our issues," Shubham Gupta, a local, said.

Steering clear from making any comment on the revocation of the provisions of Article 370 in 2019, Mr. Gandhi instead underlined the need to restore Statehood and address the issue of unemployment, while describing these as "the main issues faced by J&K". "J&K has the highest level of unemployment in the country. The Congress will fully support you and your [demand for] Statehood. We will use our full power," he said.

Mr. Gandhi said the J&K administration had failed to hear the voices of local people. He said the introduction of Agniveer scheme had further discouraged local persons from being recruited into the Army.

## Judges don't face polls, but people are assessing them'

**Ishita Mishra**  
NEW DELHI

**Judges hold the position for life; they are being judged for how they deliver justice: Law Minister**

Mr. Rijiju said the Chief Justice of India had asked him to check the online targeting of judges on social media platforms.

"I have taken his suggestion and we are considering it. But when people are criticising on a 'mass scale' what can we do?" he asked.

The Minister said some people were projecting the current situation between the government and the judiciary as a *Ma-habbharat*. "This is not true. CJI and I are in constant touch and we have discussions on all small and big issues," he said.

Speaking at an event, Mr. Rijiju said that politicians were elected and then made to lose every five years, while judges remain on the chair forever. He added that people criticised politicians and even rejected them, but judges did not have to face such scrutiny or contest polls. "But, the people are watching you and judging you as well. Your judgments, how you dispense justice. People are watching this and forming opinions," he said.

Since the day Narendra Modi took the oath of office as Prime Minister and he [Mr. Rijiju] took charge as Law Minister, "the government hasn't done anything that harms the judiciary or is against the Constitution", he said.

**Koshyari informs Modi of his desire to step down**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
PUNE

Amid recent clamour by the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for his resignation, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Monday said he had conveyed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi his desire to step down from political responsibilities during the latter's visit to Mumbai last week.

In a statement by the Raj Bhavan, Mr. Koshyari, who has been in the eye of the storm for his allegedly controversial remarks against great personalities of the State, expressed his desire to spend the rest of his life reading, writing and engaged in "other activities".

"It was an absolute honour and privilege for me to serve as the Rajya Sevak or Rajyalapal of a great State like Maharashtra – the land of saints, social reformers and valiant fighters," Mr. Koshyari said, also tweeting his remarks.

The development comes a fortnight after Mr. Koshyari reportedly commented that the Governor's role had brought only "unhappiness" to him.

Since last November, the Governor has been facing fierce opprobrium from the MVA parties (Sharrad Pawar-led NCP, Congress and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena faction) for allegedly calling Shivaji "an icon of olden times".

Digvijaya's views are his own, says Congress

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Hours after former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh claimed that the Narendra Modi government had not given any proof of the 2019 'surgical strike' in response to the Pulwama terror attack, the Congress on Monday distanced itself from the comment.

"The views expressed by senior leader Digvijaya Singh are his own and do not reflect the position of Congress," Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet.

"Surgical strikes were carried out before 2014 by UPA [United Progressive Alliance] government. Congress has supported and will continue to support all military actions that are in the national interest," the Congress leader added.

## No patriotism left in Congress, says BJP after surgical strike remark

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said that the Congress was raising questions on the value of our defence forces**

Uri attack in 2016 and the Pulwama attack in 2019. The Congress is raising questions on the value of our defence forces, it does not trust the people who protect us," he said.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP's headquarters in New Delhi, party spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said, "The country will not tolerate anyone speaking against our security forces. Due to their hate towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rahul Gandhi and Digvijaya Singh don't have patriotism left in them now."

Digvijaya Singh says that the Army hasn't provided proof of the surgical strikes [in response to the

## You will be left with no leaders, Meghalaya CM Sangma tells 'outsider' Trinamool Congress

**Rahul Karmakar**  
ADOKGRE (MEGHALAYA)

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Monday "warned" the Trinamool Congress that it was "investing" in the State in vain as most of its leaders would abandon the party after the Assembly election.

The polls are scheduled for February 27. He continued the tradition set by his father, the late P.A. Sangma, and launched the campaign of the National People's Party (NPP) from Adokgre in North Garo Hills district.

Mr. Sangma told his West Bengal counterpart, Mamata Banerjee, that the Trinamool Congress was as much a "bohiragato (outsider)" in Meghalaya, as she had called a "national party" in her State.

Ms. Banerjee had called the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) an "outsider" party

in full swing: Conrad K. Sangma addressing an election rally for his National People's Party in Adokgre on Monday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

ahead of the 2021 West Bengal election.

The BJP is a minor ally of the NPP in Meghalaya.

"I respect Madam Mamata Banerjee because she respected my father. But it is my duty to inform her that the market is abuzz with predictions that most of the Trinamool leaders who joined from different political parties are planning to leave the Trinamool. In fact, they are already in

touch with different political parties," Mr. Sangma told a large gathering at the Chenanggire stadium.

The Trinamool Congress became the principal Opposition party in Meghalaya overnight when 12 of the 17 Congress MLAs crossed over to the party in November 2021. Four of them quit the party before the Meghalaya election was declared and are contesting from other parties.

## Pradeep Sharma's bail plea rejected

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday rejected the bail plea of former encounter specialist and Shiv Sena leader Pradeep Sharma. He was arrested in the Antilia bomb scare and Mansukh Hirani murder case.

**HITES NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (2<sup>nd</sup> Call)**

HITES on behalf of Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Kerala invites online tender from eligible contractors for the Construction of Super Specialty Block for Govt. Medical College, Kottayam (Phase-I) in Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) mode (PAC: Rs.213,85,62,101/-). The project is funded by KIIFB. Tender documents can be downloaded from e-tender portal from 25.01.2023 onwards. For details visit [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in), [www.hites.com/tenders](http://www.hites.com/tenders) and CPP portal Associate Vice President (ID)

**ANDHRA PRADESH MARITIME BOARD NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JUVALLADINNE INTEGRATED FOOD PARK**  
Notice No. DOP-12/2/2023-PLG-DOP  
Expression of Interest is invited from interested Parties (including JVs), having experience in Aqwa/othe Food Processing and related activities including logistics, etc, for the Development of Juvalladinne Integrated Food Park at Juvalladinne Fishing Harbour, SPSR Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh. For more details please visit <https://apmaritime.in/#tenders> from 5:00 pm onwards on 24.01.2023 Sd/- CEO, APMB

**No. 1-7 /PW/DBM/ D1/2022-23/ GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MAHE**  
No.1-7/PW/DBM/D1/2022-23/  
**PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender (2<sup>nd</sup> call)**  
Dt: 23.01.2023  
On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited through the Executive Engineer, Mahe Division, Public Works Department, Mahe. The tender for 1 (One) work. For further details please refer to the web site [https://pudutenders.gov.in](http://pudutenders.gov.in).  
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD,MAHE**  
No.500/DIP/AD(Press)/2022-2023

## IN BRIEF



## CBI's plea challenging bail to Anil Deshmukh dismissed

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a petition by the CBI against bail granted to former Maharashtra Minister Anil Deshmukh in a corruption case. A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud pointed to Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the CBI, that the court had, similarly in October last year, refused an appeal by the ED against bail granted to Mr. Deshmukh. Though Mr. Mehta said the charges against Mr. Deshmukh were "serious", the CJI said the Bench did not want to intervene. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal said the apex court's refusal to entertain the CBI appeal was both "short and sweet".

## RBI extends time for renewal of agreements for lockers

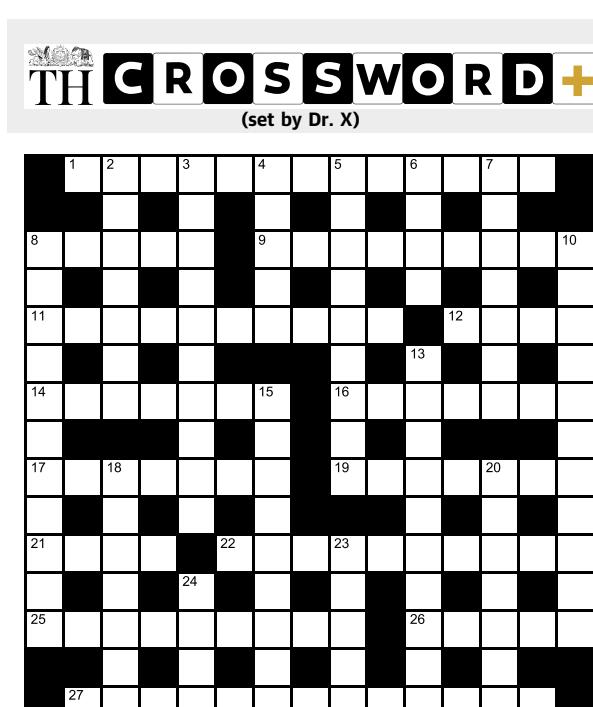
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the deadline for banks to complete the process of renewal of agreements for the existing safe deposit lockers in a phased manner by December 31, 2023, with intermediate milestones of 50% by June 30, 2023, and 75% by September 30, 2023. The earlier deadline was January 1, 2023. "Banks have been advised to make arrangements to facilitate execution of the revised agreements by ensuring availability of stamp papers," the RBI said in a circular. "In cases where operations in lockers have been frozen for non-execution of agreement by January 1, it shall be unfrozen with immediate effect," the circular said.

## Char Dham priests condemn Trivendra Rawat's remarks

Char Dham temple priests came down heavily on Trivendra Rawat, former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, who remarked that had the Devasthanam Board been in place, the State government would not have to wait for the Centre's help to rehabilitate people in Joshimath, the town affected by land subsidence. Talking to *The Hindu*, Suresh Semwal, president of Uttarakhand Char Dham Teerth Purohit Mahapanchayat, a body that represents the priests of Char Dham temples, said Mr. Rawat was an attention seeker and he kept commenting on sensitive issues just to hog the limelight.

## Bharat Biotech subsidiary recalls rabies vaccine batch

Vaccine maker Bharat Biotech's subsidiary Chiron Behring Vaccines has initiated a voluntary recall of a specific batch of its rabies vaccine, Chirorab. "We have issued a voluntary product recall of a specific batch of Chirorab with batch number 4188... action has been initiated due to theft [of the vaccine] from the shipping services provider in Karnataka," Bharat Biotech said in a release. The batch was fully tested and released. However, following the theft of a part of the shipment, the company decided to recall the entire batch since cold chain storage conditions of the stolen vaccines are not known. The company requested that the batch not be sold and be returned to it.



- Across**
- Gratifyingly brief film about Dr Watson reviewed (5,3,5)
  - Coats and hats around back of store (5)
  - Prompt to take afternoon rest (9)
  - Police line-up has Bihar's foremost criminal (10)
  - Seaweed in botanical garden (4)
  - Dash back, carrying money to get beer and dish of meat (7)

- Down**
- Republican in depression over blunder (4)
  - Lies trembling after receiving kiss, excited about performing in the sack (9)
  - Den with fuel blown up as stipulated (7)
  - Film about American civil rights activist is mundane (7)
  - Knocking back drink after consuming ecstasy, start to hysterically snicker (5)
  - Inaditable either (7)
  - CMYK

13770 (set by Dr. X)

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



## SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

## FAITH

## Greatness of Narayaneeyam

Achyutha is the greatest of all devatas. Among the devotees of Lord Vishnu, Sri Parameswara stands first. Of all the rivers, the Ganga is the most sacred one and of the various puranas Srimad Bhagavatam is the supreme most. Reading Bhagavatam creates a divine fervour. If we listen to it through our ears, our eyes will be well up and tears roll down. The true identity of a scripture is to identify the Supreme Being and Srimad Bhagavatam exactly reveals the same.

Sri Narayana Bhaddadi, a great Rig Vedic scholar, an exponent in Vyakarana sastra and Advaita philosophy, was deeply attracted after reading Bhagavatam. It contains all the stories of Lord Krishna. It induced him to compose Sri Narayana Bhaddadi. It is titled so because it tells about Lord Narayana (Guruvarappan) and composed by Sri Narayana Bhaddadi.

It is called "Anugraha Grantha" because a person who recites it is sure to be blessed with all peace, happiness and prosperity. Instead of obtaining a minuscule benefit by putting in maximum efforts by ourselves, with the help and guidance of Acharyas and Gurus, we can derive great benefits through least efforts, said Sri Damodhara Dhikshitar in a discourse.

When we are in the beginning stage, we may pray for our well being and comforts. As we go advanced, we will pray for the sake of all. The eyes of truly dedicated devotees will see only good even in bad people. Prahlada never requested the Lord to protect him or hand out punishments to his father. Lord Narasimha emerged by Himself to save Prahlada and all the celestials.

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Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

CMYK

AND-NDE

## News

## Laid-off Indian IT professionals face U.S. visa deadline

**Press Trust of India**  
WASHINGTON

Thousands of Indian IT professionals in the U.S. who lost their jobs following a series of lay-offs at companies such as Google, Microsoft, Facebook and Amazon are now struggling to find new employment within the period stipulated by their work visas to stay in the country.

According to *The Washington Post*, nearly two lakh IT workers have been laid off since November.

As per some industry insiders, of the sacked IT workers, 30% to 40% are Indians, a significant number of whom are on H-1B and L1 visas.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows U.S. companies to employ foreign workers in special occupations that require theoretical or technical ex-

pertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries such as India and China. L-1A and L-1B visas are available for temporary intracompany transferees who work in managerial positions or have specialised knowledge.

**Scrambling for options**  
A significantly large number of Indian IT professionals, who are on non-immigrant work visas such as H-1B and L1, are now scrambling for options to stay in the U.S. to find a new job in the stipulated few months that they get under these foreign work visas after losing their jobs and changing their visa status as well.

Amazon staffer Gita (name changed) arrived in the U.S. only three months ago. This week, she was told that March 20 would be her last working day.



**Uncertain future:** Over 30% of the two lakh IT professionals laid off in the U.S. since November are Indians.

The situation is getting worse for those on H-1B visas as they have to find a new job within 60 days or else they will be left with no other option but to head back to India.

Under current circumstances, when all IT companies are on a firing spree, they feel that getting a job within that short period is next to impossible.

"It is unfortunate that thousands of tech employees are facing lay-offs, particularly those on H-1B visas who are facing additional challenges as they must find a new job and transfer their visa within 60 days of termination or risk leaving the country," Silicon Valley-based entrepreneur and community leader Ajay Jain Bhutoria said.

"This can have devastating consequences for families, including the sale of properties and disruptions to children's education. It would be beneficial for tech companies to show special consideration for H-1B workers and extend their termination date by a few months, as the job market and recruitment process can be challenging," he said.

The Global Indian Technology Professionals Association (GITPRO) and the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS) on Sunday launched a community-wide effort to try and help these IT professionals by connecting job seekers to job referrers and informers. The FIIDS will work on efforts to influence policymakers and decision-makers of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

"With massive lay-offs in the tech industry, January has been brutal for tech professionals. Many talented folks lost their jobs. As the tech industry is dominated by Indian immigrants, they are the most impacted," Khanda Rao Kand of the FIIDS said. The laid-off H-1B holders need to find an H-1B sponsoring job in 60 days or leave within 10 days after becoming out of status.

## Plea on panel on SC status for converts dismissed

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and A.S. Oka on Monday dismissed a petition challenging the formation of a Commission of Inquiry to examine whether Scheduled Caste status can be accorded to Dalit Christians and Muslims.

The writ petition was filed by Pratap Baburao Pandit, secretary of Pragat Padhividh Sanghatna, a social and educational trust registered in Pune, who said that he was a Christian of Scheduled Caste origin, belonging to the Maher community.

Praying that the functioning of the commission be stayed and the notification forming it be quashed, the writ petition argued that the Union government has over the years formed multiple commissions, dating back to the first Backward Classes Commission (1955) on this subject, that have pronounced the need for acceding SC status to Dalits who have converted to Islam or Christianity.

The petition said, "The appointment of a new commission is with wrong intention of delaying the justice on the petition pending in this honourable court." The top court is expected to take up the main batch of petitions seeking SC status for Dalit converts in March this year.

## Agreement reached on AIP modules

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

In an important step that will enhance the endurance of the Scorpene-class conventional submarines of the Indian Navy, the Naval Materials Research Laboratory and the land-based prototype has been tested.

"This new endeavour between DRDO and Naval Group France will be a very significant step towards the detailed design certification of the energy module, which will be performed by NMRL," the DRDO said.



**Adding firepower:** INS Vagir was launched into water on November 12, 2020 and commenced sea trials on February 1, 2022. EMMANUEL YOGINI

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Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

CMYK

AND-NDE

**LONDON**

**U.K. ambulance workers strike again as unions call for talks**



Thousands of ambulance workers held another strike across England and Wales on Monday, in escalating industrial action as unions called the government to hold talks on improving pay and conditions. Ambulance workers began strike action on December 21 last year and further dates are planned for February. AFP

**PARIS**

**Burkina Faso asked French troops to quit, diplomatic note confirms**



Burkina Faso asked France to move its troops out of the country within a month, according to a diplomatic letter from the authorities. The Foreign Ministry's letter, dated last Wednesday, ends the 2018 agreement under which French troops were stationed there, and sets a deadline of a month for departure. AFP

**BRUSSELS**

**EU imposes new sanctions on Iran officials over protest crackdown**



The EU on Monday placed 37 more Iranian officials and entities on an asset-freeze and visa-ban blacklist over Tehran's bloody crackdown on protesters. The bloc targeted the Minister of Sports and the command of the Revolutionary Guards in 12 regions of Iran in its fourth round of sanctions, the EU's official journal said. AFP

**KARACHI**

**Woman shot dead by father in Pak. court for marrying against his will**



A newly wed woman was shot dead on Monday by her father in a court in Karachi, Pakistan, the police said. The incident happened when the woman came to the court to record her statement to confirm she had entered into a free-will marriage, they said. The woman from Waziristan had recently married a doctor. PTI

## Grid failure causes massive power outage in Pakistan

Millions in large parts of the country, including capital Islamabad and financial hub Karachi, were left without electricity; the Energy Ministry says the maintenance work is 'progressing rapidly'

**Press Trust of India**  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan faced a major power breakdown on Monday due to a "frequency variation" in the national grid, leaving millions of people in large parts of the country, including capital Islamabad and financial hub Karachi, without electricity. The Ministry of Energy said the system of frequency of the national grid went down at 7.34 a.m. local time. "System maintenance work is progressing rapidly," it tweeted.

Energy Minister Khurram Dastgir said the restoration work was going on. "I can assure you that power will be fully restored across the country within the next 12 hours," he was quoted as saying by Geo News. Explaining the failure, he said the authorities shut down the power generation system at night due to lower demand in



All down: The Metro train service in Lahore was suspended following a power outage across Pakistan on Monday. AFP

winter to save fuel costs.

But when the systems were turned on in the morning, "frequency variation and voltage fluctuation were observed in the south of the country... somewhere between Dadu and Jamshoro" resulting in shutting down of power

generating units one by one, he said.

**No electricity**

People in Pakistan's financial capital Karachi woke up on Monday with no electricity available anywhere in the metropolis. According to details,

the major power breakdown also hit other cities but Karachi was the worst affected. In Peshawar, some people were reportedly unable to get drinking water as the pumps were powered by electricity.

It is not the first time that the country has faced such a crisis. In October 2022, Pakistan witnessed a 12-hour power outage due to technical glitches in the distribution system.

Pakistan is grappling with one of the country's worst economic crises in recent years amid dwindling foreign exchange reserves. The crisis forced the government earlier this month to order shopping malls and markets to close by 8:30 p.m. for energy conservation purposes.

The sorry state of the country's power sector is emblematic of its ailing economy. The power outages occur frequently due to lack of funds to upgrade aging infrastructure.

## Russia, NATO member Estonia expel ambassadors amid 'destroyed' ties

**Associated Press**  
MOSCOW

Russia and Estonia on Monday were expelling the ambassadors from each other's countries in a tit-for-tat move, saying that their diplomatic missions will be headed by *charges d'affaires*. The Russian Foreign Ministry summoned Estonian Ambassador Margus Laidre and ordered him to leave the country by February 7.

The statement issued by the Ministry said that Estonia's diplomatic representation from now on will be downgraded to a *charge d'affaires* that heads the European Union country's mission in Moscow.

The Ministry said that the move was made in retaliation for Estonia's "new



Tough days: Estonia's ambassador to Russia Margus Laidre leaving the Russian Foreign Ministry building in Moscow on Monday. AP

unfriendly step to radically reduce the size of the Russian Embassy in Tallinn.

In response, Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu said that the Russian ambassador will leave on February 7 too, in accordance with the principle of parity.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry earlier this month ordered Russia to reduce the number of its embassy staff to eight diplomats and 15 administrative, technical and service staff members in order to "reach parity in embassy staff" by February 1.

Estonia has reduced its bilateral relations with Moscow "to the absolute minimum" since the Kremlin sent troops into Ukraine, Reinsalu said in a statement on January 11. "Now we are setting a limit to the number of Russian diplomats working in Estonia in order to achieve parity. Today's step is in correlation with the low point of our relations in general," he said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said on Monday that "the Estonian leadership has purposefully destroyed the entire range of relations with Russia."

"Total Russophobia, the cultivation of hostility towards our country have been elevated by Tallinn to the rank of State policy," the statement read.

## Suspect in California killings found dead, motive unclear: police

**Associated Press**  
MONTEREY PARK

Authorities searched for a motive for the gunman who killed 10 people at a Los Angeles-area ballroom dance club during Lunar New Year celebrations, slayings that sent a wave of fear through Asian American communities and cast a shadow over festivities nationwide.

The suspect, 72-year-old Huu Can Tran, was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound on Sunday in the van that authorities say he used to flee after being prevented from attacking another dance hall. A man whose family runs the venue confronted the assailant in the lobby and wrested the gun from him, *The New York Times* reported.

The massacre in Monterey Park was the nation's fifth mass killing this month – and it struck one of California's largest celebrations of a holiday observed in many Asian cultures, dealing another blow to a community that has been the target of high-profile violence in recent years.

Very little is known about Tran or his connection to the targeted community and dance halls.

Public records show he once had addresses in Monterey Park and neighboring cities.

The suspect was carrying what Mr. Luna described as a semi-automatic pistol with an extended magazine, and a second handgun was discovered in the van where Tran died.

## Poland wants more tanks for Kyiv, asks for German consent

**Associated Press**  
WARSAW



A Leopard 2 battle tank.

building a coalition of nations ready to send the tanks to Ukraine.

Poland needs the consent of Germany to send them to a non-NATO country. But even if there is no permission from Germany, Warsaw will make its own decisions, the PM said.

Poland has become a leading advocate in the EU for giving Ukraine the military aid that could help it prevail over the Kremlin's invading forces.

**Policy speech**

In his policy speech opening this year's parliamentary session, Mr. Kishida said active diplomacy should be prioritised, but it

requires "defence power to back it up."

He said Japan's new security strategy is based on a realistic simulation "as we face the most severe and complex security environment since the end of the Second World War and a question if we can protect the people's lives in an emergency."

## Japan PM Kishida prioritises military build-up and reversal of low birth rate

**Associated Press**  
TOKYO

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Monday that Japan faces the severest security environment since the end of the Second World War and pledged to push a military build-up under a newly adopted security strategy, and tackle

rapidly declining births so the country can sustain national strength.

Mr. Kishida's government in December adopted key security and defence reforms, including a counterstrike capability that breaks from the country's exclusively self-defence-only postwar principle. Japan says the current

deployment of missile interceptors is insufficient to defend it from rapid weapons advancement in China and North Korea.

In his policy speech opening this year's parliamentary session, Mr. Kishida said active diplomacy should be prioritised, but it

requires "defence power to back it up."

He said Japan's new security strategy is based on a realistic simulation "as we face the most severe and complex security environment since the end of the Second World War and a question if we can protect the people's lives in an emergency."

**IN LOVING MEMORY**

**Kalivi Kodi**

February 2002 - January 2006

Remembering the sweet chirps of our beloved Jordon's Courser family, lovingly called Kalivi Kodi, on their 17<sup>th</sup> death anniversary. Lahari Sree along with other wildlife enthusiasts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana miss their little avian friends.

In loving memory of our beloved Sarjapur Trees.

They can chop you from the ground, but not from our hearts.

They were burnt alive in a sugarcane farm in Maharashtra. They were only two days old and were taken away from us too soon. Today, Samidh Phadale remembers them with tears and prayers.

Home to several creatures of the wild, the Sarjapur Trees, were killed in their prime. The members of Voice of Sarjapur grieve the painful loss of their dear tree friends with broken hearts.

He took his final breath on the night of December 06, 2022. A friend of the firefly family, he provided food, shelter and air to everyone who came to him. His presence will be deeply missed.

Bhuvan Singh Solanki informs the sad demise of Mr Jujube with a heavy heart. He was chopped to death at the tender age of 25. Bhuvan and his friends miss his presence.

## IN BRIEF



## Maruti recalls 11,177 units of Grand Vitara to fix brackets

Maruti Suzuki on Monday said it was recalling 11,177 units of its mid-sized SUV Grand Vitara to fix a possible defect in rear seat belt mounting brackets. The affected lot was manufactured between August 8, 2022 and November 15, 2022, the carmaker said in a regulatory filing. Vehicle owners will receive communication for replacement of the affected parts free of cost. PTI

## 'Tier II cities beat metros in term insurance product sales'

India's Tier II cities like Ludhiana, Jaipur, Patna and Pune beat metros in terms of buying term insurance or pure insurance products, as per a report. According to the India Protection Quotient survey (IPQ) commissioned by Max Life Insurance, awareness about term insurance products had increased post pandemic. There had been steady progress in preference of online channels to purchase term insurance, while agents remain the top channel of purchase with 2 out of 3 urban Indians opting for it, it said. PTI

## India Cements signs new wage pact with trade unions

India Cements Ltd. (ICL) has entered into four-year wage settlement with trade unions which will take effect from April 1, 2022. Each of the 500 workers, employed in the 10 cement plants of the firm, would get a total rise of ₹5,000 a month, the company said in a statement. Further, the agreement provides for revising the variable DA payable from ₹2.55 per point in CPI to ₹2.75 per point. This is expected to fetch an additional ₹5,000 per month per head at the end of the fourth year.

## Canara Bank's third-quarter net almost doubles

## The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

Canara Bank reported a 92% rise in net profit for the third quarter ended December to ₹2,881.5 crore from a year earlier.

Global business rose 13.6% to more than ₹20 lakh crore. The lender's net interest income grew 24% to ₹8,600 crore.

Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio slid to 5.89% (7.8%) and net NPAs to 1.96% (2.86%). Housing loans expanded 15.8% to ₹81,916 crore.

## LTIMindtree in big league post merger'

## Lalatendu Mishra

LTIMindtree is 'already in the big league' of Indian IT services players, COO and whole time director Nachiket Deshpande said.

"We are competing with giants such as TCS, Infosys and Cognizant in 8 out of 10 deals," Mr. Deshpande said in an interview.

"Another significant development is our BFSI services portfolio is now more than \$1 billion (as of 9MFY23) giving us the fifth-largest ranking in financial services among our Indian peer group," he added.

He said he was looking to deliver \$1 billion worth of revenue synergies over the next few years and enhancement of 200 basis-point profit margin synergies subsequently. He added that hiring was linked to business growth.

On potential recessions in the U.S. and Europe, the firm's biggest markets, he said in terms of clients, there was boardroom caution, a wait-and-watch stance and apprehension around how things pan out. However, clients were more careful about return on investments and there was sharper scrutiny here.

## KVB Q3 net rises 56% on net interest income

## The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.'s (KVB) standalone net profit for the quarter ended December rose 56% to ₹289 crore due to increase in net interest income and improvement in asset quality.

Total income rose 37% to ₹1,206 crore; net interest income improved 29% to ₹889 crore and other income to ₹317 crore (₹196 crore).

Net interest margin increased by 64 basis points to 4.32%, the lender said.

## Vistara records 'first-ever' net profit in December quarter

## Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

Full-service carrier Vistara on Monday said that it recorded its first-ever net profit, excluding unrealised foreign currency loss and non-operating income, for the quarter ended December, 2022.

The airline, which recently celebrated its eighth anniversary, said in a statement it was able to break even for the first time in the last quarter, and also crossed the ₹1-billion revenue mark and remained 'EBITDA positive' in the financial year 2023.

## TMB Q3 net surges 38% as interest income rises

## The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.'s third-quarter standalone net profit rose 38% to ₹280 crore due to increase in net interest income and improvement in asset quality, said MD S. Krishnan.

Net interest income increased to ₹534 crore from ₹453 crore. Net interest margin rose to 4.5% from 4.03%. Total income slid to ₹1,173 crore (₹1,213 crore), of which interest income was ₹1,012 crore and non-interest income ₹161 crore.

## Former Asian decathlon champion Sabir passes away

## Sports Bureau

KOCHI

Sabir Ali, the last Indian to win the decathlon gold at the Asian athletics championships (Tokyo, 1981), passed away in New Delhi on Sunday. He was 67.

Indians dominated Asian decathlon those days with Vijay Singh Chauhan (1973) and Suresh Babu (1975) winning the gold at the first two Asian championships.

And Sabir Ali's Tokyo Asian gold came with 7253 points. He received the Arjuna Award later that year.

He was also a multiple National champion in the decathlon and a World Railway Games medallist.



All-round athlete: Sabir was a multiple National champion.

## Gukesh, Adhiban win; Pragg suffers first loss

## TATA STEEL CHESS

## Sports Bureau

R. Praggnanandhaa's first loss coincided with D. Gukesh's first victory in the eighth round of the Masters section in the Tata Steel chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee on Sunday.

Praggnanandhaa lost to Romania's Richard Rapport in 40 moves, while Gukesh reached within one move of checkmating Parham Maghsoodloo when the Iranian gave up on the 49th move.

In the Challengers section, B. Adhiban posted his first victory after dismantling Brazil's Luis Supi in 49 moves.

## Priceless Gold lives up to the billing in the Qutab Shahi Million

HYDERABAD: Trainer Rajesh Narredu's Priceless Gold, ridden by Yash Narredu, snatched the verdict from Black Onyx in the Qutab Shahi Million, the feature event of Monday's (Jan. 23) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla, Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole rep. Poonawalla Racing &amp; Breeding Pvt. Ltd. &amp; Mr. Mukul Sonawala &amp; Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing &amp; Breeding LLP.

**1. BHUPALPALLY PLATE: ORIGINAL SIN** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Only The Brave (Santosh Raj) 2, Shadow Of The Moon (Kiran Naidu) 3 and Windsor (Afron Khan) 4. 3/4 and 10. (P.) SHP: 33, THP: 39, SHW: 32 and 10, FP: 194, Q: 117, Tanala: 740. Favourite: Barbet Owners: Kunwar Digvijay Singh Shekhwat & Mr. D.B. Poornima Chowdhury. Trainer: N. Ravinder.

**2. KING'S CROWN PLATE: BEDFORD** (Santosh Raj) 1, Ayr (Akshay Kumar) 2, Kingston (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Stunring Force (Sonu Kumar) 4. 1/4 and 2. Im, II, 20s. (P.) SHP: 33, THP: 54, SHW: 39 and 17, FP: 502, Q: 173, Tanala: 894. Favourite: N R I Ultrapower. Owners: Mr. Al Mungappan & Mr. Sultan Singh rep. Sonna Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: K. Sathesh.

**3. MEDCHAL PLATE: IVANHOE**

Narendra Vithaldas Shah. Trainer: N. Rawal.

(Kuldeep S) 1, Master Touch (Akshay Kumar) 2, Royal Pal (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Mireya (B. Nikhil) 4. 2, 3/4 and 4-1/2, Im, 26.69s. (P.) SHP: 10, 16 and 19 (P.) SHP: 41, THP: 50, SHW: 10 and 26, FP: 34, Q: 24, Tanala: 92. Favourite: Ivanhoe. Owner: Mr. Aditya P. Thackeray. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

**4. BRUPALPALLY PLATE: TRUE ICON** (B. Nikhil) 1, Barber (Kiran Naidu) 2, Strauss (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Thanks (Kuldeep S) 4. 8, 11 and 10. (P.) SHP: 26, THP: 39, SHW: 14 and 10, FP: 31, Q: 26, Tanala: 184. Favourite: Priceless Gold. Owners: Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla, Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole rep. Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. & Mr. Mukul Sonawala & Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breeding LLP. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

**5. BONZER CUP : ROLE MODEL** (B. Nikhil) 1, Superstellar (Kuldeep S)

2, Resurgence (Surya Prakash) 3 and Special And Thong (P. Ajeth Kumar) 4. 1/2 and 2-1/4 and 2-3/4, Im, 40.45s. (P.) SHP: 19, 13 and 12 (P.) SHP: 33, THP: 54, SHW: 39 and 17, FP: 502, Q: 173, Tanala: 894. Favourite: N R I Ultrapower. Owners: Mr. Al Mungappan & Mr. Sultan Singh rep. Sonna Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: K. Sathesh.

**6. QUTAB SHAHI MILLION: PRICE-**

## MARKETS

## MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	%CHANGE
Sensex	60,942	0.53
US Dollar	81.37	-0.19
Gold	56,840	-0.32
Brent oil	88.96	-

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	3436.35	-19.80
Adani Ports.	769.05	-5.40
Apollo Hospitals	4335.45	50.20
Asian Paints	2784.45	-3.35
Axis Bank	932.70	2.15
Bajaj Auto	3623.55	50.80
Bajaj FinServ	1332.70	-0.45
Bharti Airtel	772.70	8.25
BPLC	349.60	3.25
Britannia Ind	4337.85	18.90
Cipla	1062.55	9.10
Coal India	230.10	3.10
Divis Lab.	3385.70	42.55
Dr Reddy's Lab	4337.85	-12.75
Eicher Motors	3203.35	52.85
Grasim Ind.	1631.30	-24.05
HCL Tech	1121.20	13.40
HDFC	2741.90	25.95
HDFC Bank	1673.10	12.15
HDFC Life	589.20	-1.35
Hero MotoCorp	2774.60	28.15
Hindalco	494.20	4.25
Hindustan Unilever	2596.40	-47.65
ICICI Bank	871.70	1.35
IndusInd Bank	1204.70	2.25
Infosys	1548.00	22.45
ITC	337.75	3.15
JSW Steel	733.95	-7.50
Kotak Bank	1783.70	20.85
L&T	2233.50	-16.45
M&M	1328.45	-13.70
Maruti Suzuki	8417.10	-22.70
NestleIndia	1936.70	16.05
NTPC	166.85	-1.85
ONGC	152.35	0.75
PowerGrid Corp	225.10	1.85
Reliance Ind	2430.10	-12.35
SBI Life	1295.40	-0.70
State Bank	600.45	8.25
Sun Pharma	1049.30	18.95
Tata ConsumerPro-	742.45	4.00
Tata Motors	408.40	5.25
Tata Steel	122.00	-0.95
TCS	3414.90	51.80
Tech Mahindra	1065.30	18.80
Titan	2364.70	-6.60
UltraTech Cement	6849.75	-327.40
UPL	749.45	11.65
Wipro	407.00	3.85

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 23

	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.19	81.51
Euro	88.48	88.83
British Pound	100.41	100.82
Japanese Yen (100)	62.40	62.65
Chinese Yuan	11.97	12.02
Swiss Franc	88.24	88.60
Singapore Dollar	61.63	61.89
Canadian Dollar	60.78	61.03
Malaysian Ringgit	18.93	19.03

**ONE FOR THE ALBUM**

Rahul and Athiya tie the knot, share wedding photos



Bollywood actor Athiya Shetty and Indian cricketer K.L. Rahul on Monday tied the knot in an intimate ceremony. The two got married in the presence of close family members and friends, at Athiya's actor-father Suniel Shetty's farmhouse in Khandala, about 82km from Mumbai. They shared the wedding photos on Instagram.

**ROLICKING STAND**

**Smriti and Harmanpreet on song as India makes 167 against WI**



India, powered by opener Smriti Mandhana's unbeaten 74 (51b, 10x4, 1x6) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's 56 not out (35b, 8x4), posted a challenging score of 167 for two against West Indies in the women's T20I tri-series in East London on Monday. Smriti and Harmanpreet put on 115 for the unbroken third wicket.

**ELITE LIST**

**Suryakumar, Kohli and Hardik in ICC T20I team of the year**



Suryakumar Yadav, Virat Kohli and Hardik Pandya were on Monday picked in the ICC 'Men's T20I team of 2022'. The women's team has four Indians — Smriti Mandhana, Deepi Sharma, Richa Ghosh and Renuka Singh. Jos Buttler was named captain of the men's team while Sophie Devine will skipper the women's team.

**BELIEF**

**Djokovic feels he has the legs to go all the way at Melbourne Park**



Novak Djokovic, who overwhelmed Alex de Minaur to reach the quarterfinals for the 13th time at Melbourne Park, is confident of adding to his Grand Slam collection. "The way I played, the way I felt, gives me reason to believe that I can go all the way. I always believe I can, but the way my leg felt today, I feel positive," he said.

# Korea refuses to wilt under pressure, shoots out Argentina

Down by two goals with 13 minutes to go, the Koreans roar back into contention to make it 5-5 at the end of regulation time; goalkeeper Jaehyeon Kim emerges the hero with three remarkable saves in the shootout

**HOCKEY WORLD CUP**

**Uthra Ganesan**  
BHUBANESWAR

**K**orea dug deep into its reserves to become the last and the lowest-ranked side to reach the quarterfinals of the World Cup with a dramatic 3-2 shootout win in the crossover match against 2016 Olympic champion Argentina. The teams were tied 5-5 in regulation time in a seesaw game before the Koreans prevailed to keep the Asian challenge alive in the competition.

Having missed the previous edition and finishing 10th before that, Korea threw everything it had into the game, desperate to stay in the hunt.

With Argentina not conceding any quarter, the contest turned out to be one of the best in the tournament. Argentina looked determined but it had to contend with a nippy Korea that relied on counterattacks and managed to ac-



**Having the last laugh:** Korea's grit and determination came to the fore as it booked a quarterfinal meeting with Netherlands. BISWARANJAN ROUT

celerate every time it got the ball. Having run out of fuel towards the end in its previous matches, Korea caught Argentina by surprise with a clean defence and turning it quickly into attack. Argentina still took an early lead after a sloppy clearance by Korean goal-

keeper Jaehyeon Kim allowed Maico Casella to tap home in the eighth minute. Kim eventually became Korea's hero, bringing off three spectacular saves in the shootout to deny Argentina.

Korea kept up the pressure and the second quar-

ter saw a goal-fest with both teams scoring twice. Korea found the target in the 18th minute when Jungjun Lee passed to Taeil Hwang, who reverse passed it to an unmarked Sunghyun Kim. Two minutes later, Junwoo Jeong doubled the lead only for Nicolas Keenan to pull

Argentina level again, deflecting a free hit home. Nicolas della Torre made it 3-2 three minutes later.

The match continued to be in the balance and when Argentina took a two-goal lead with 13 minutes to go, it looked like Korea would falter again near the finish line. But Yong Nam Lee and his men had other ideas, pushing hard and earning two penalty corners, and converting both to make it even.

Korea's reward for the stunning win will be a clash for a semifinal spot against last edition's runner-up Netherlands on Wednesday. Argentina will travel to Rourkela and take on Chile in a classification match on Thursday.

**The result:** Korea 5 (Jonghyun Jang 2, Junwoo Jeong, Sunghyun Kim, Yong Nam Lee) drew with Argentina 5 (Nicolas Keenan 2, Nicolas della Torre 2, Maico Casella). Korea won 3-2 in shootout.

**Tuesday's matches (quarterfinals):** Australia vs Spain (4.30 p.m.), Belgium vs New Zealand (7 p.m.).

# Germany puts on a masterclass against France to seal a last-eight spot

**Aashin Prasad**  
BHUBANESWAR

Germany just needed a half to get the job done and book its place in the quarterfinals of the World Cup. On Monday, a ruthless Germany dismantled France in the 5-1 crossover stage match here at the Kalinga Stadium.

The match continued to be in the balance and when Argentina took a two-goal lead with 13 minutes to go, it looked like Korea would falter again near the finish line. But Yong Nam Lee and his men had other ideas, pushing hard and earning two penalty corners, and converting both to make it even.

Korea's reward for the stunning win will be a clash for a semifinal spot against last edition's runner-up Netherlands on Wednesday. Argentina will travel to Rourkela and take on Chile in a classification match on Thursday.

A mistrap from Victor Charlet led to the ball falling to an unmarked Marco Miltkau, who reverse-flicked it past the keeper.

Despite being a man down for a yellow card in the second quarter, Germany added a second goal. After winning possession in-



**Goal rush:** The Germans breached the French fortress at will, scoring five times. BISWARANJAN ROUT

side the own circle, Germany raced up to the other end in the space of four passes and 14 seconds, which ended with Niklas Wellen scoring from a ricochet.

Then inside two minutes, Mats Grambusch smashed home from a rebound, before Moritz Trompert cleverly deflected in a drag-flick from Tom Grambusch. Germany was 4-0 in 24 minutes.

While France didn't have a sniff in the first half — no shots on goal — it put up a better fight in the second. But it was a non-eventful affair with Germany appearing to approach

the game in autopilot mode. France had a strong finish to the fourth quarter with a flurry of penalty corners from which Francois Goyet converted one by diverting a Timothee Clement's drag-flick.

At the other end, Gonzalo Pelli struck a powerful flick from a PC that sounded the board to the delight of the spectators.

Germany will take on England in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

**The result:** Germany 5 (Marco Miltkau 14, Niklas Wellen 18, Mats Grambusch 23, Moritz Trompert 24, Gonzalo Peillat 59) bt France 1 (Francois Goyet 57).

## India may test its bench-strength



**Focused:** Shardul and Rohit at a training session. R.V. MOORTHY

## 'We have to prioritise white-ball tournaments'

**Amol Karhadkar**  
INDORE

On a day when Virat Kohli was picked in the ICC T20I Team of 2022, India head coach Rahul Dravid stressed that Kohli's exclusion from the two T20I series this month was to keep him fresh for the forthcoming Test battles against Australia.

"With the amount of cricket we are playing — with the four-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy very important from the World Test Championship final qualification perspective — there are certain white-ball tournaments we have to prioritise," Dravid said on Monday.

"The priority after the last T20 World Cup is these six (ODI) games and Virat has played all of them. He will get a bit of a break along with Rohit (Sharma) and they'll come refreshed on Feb. 2. We have a good week's camp before we play Australia. So it's about priorities at certain stages."

India has planned a preparatory camp in Nagpur from Feb. 2 ahead of the first Test there from Feb. 9. The camp will clash with the Ranji Trophy quarterfinals which begin on Jan. 31. While Dravid clarified that none of India's Test squad members will be released for the quarterfinals, he kept a



**Getting a grip on it:** Dravid, seen with Hardik, feels injury and workload management are two different things. R.V. MOORTHY

window open for the reserves to be released for the semifinal and final, if required.

"The quarterfinal is on the 31st and our build-up for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy is exactly at the same time. Obviously, in a lead-up to a big series like that, you are not going to be able to release any players (for the quarterfinals). But once the series starts, if an opportunity presents itself where someone is not playing and is required for the semifinal or final, we will certainly look at it," Dravid said.

"We are quite keen to call a few (additional) guys for our preparatory camp in the lead-up and we have already agreed with the selectors that we will not be touching anyone who will be playing in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinals."

Despite a growing clamour on workload management not applying for the IPL, Dravid said the fit Indian players cannot be stopped from playing in the league.

"Injury management and workload management are two completely different things. We have to keep balancing the two," Dravid said.

"For the IPL, our medical team is constantly in touch with the NCA and the franchises. We see if there are any issues, connect with them and see what's happening. If any of the big players are injured or if there is any concern, of course, the BCCI has a right to pull them out. But if they are fit, we do release them for the IPL because it is a very big tournament for the BCCI and us (the team) as well."

## Ruthless Djokovic, Sabalenka sweep into the quarterfinals

**AUSTRALIAN OPEN**

**Agence France-Presse**  
MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic surged into the Australian Open quarterfinals with his "best match of this year" on Monday, while Aryna Sabalenka was an equally ruthless winner.

After a series of shocks at Melbourne Park, normal order was more or less restored on day eight, except for fourth seed Caroline Garcia bowing out under the weight of expectation.

Djokovic demolished Alex de Minaur for the loss of just five games to sweep into the last eight and step up his bid for a 10th Melbourne crown, and recording 22nd major title in all.

He will meet fifth seed Andrey Rublev for a semifinal berth after the Russian toppled Danish teenager Holger Rune in a thrilling five-set clash also at Rod Laver Arena.

The Serb's 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 triumph over 22nd-seeded home hope de Minaur was an ominous statement of intent. Significantly, his troublesome left hamstring appeared much improved.

Rublev admitted he was "lucky" after saving two match points against Rune, in energy-sapping heat.

He described beating the 19-year-old as "not like a rollercoaster, it's like they

**The day in numbers**

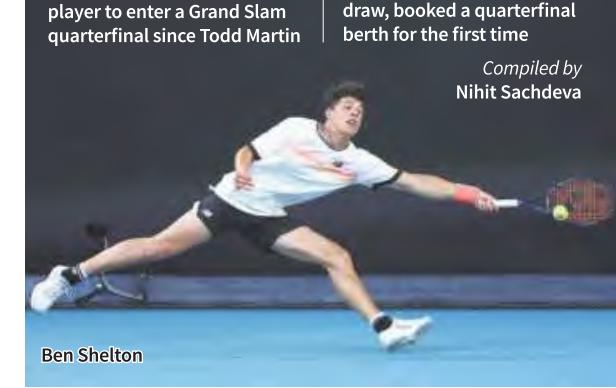
**Three American men**  
reached the last-eight stage at the same Slam for the first time since the 2005 US Open (Ginepri, Agassi and Blake).

**16** Sabalenka, who is on an eight-match winning streak, has won 16 successive sets this season

**89** Shelton's world ranking, making him the lowest-ranked American player to enter a Grand Slam quarterfinal since Todd Martin

**30** Linette, figuring in her 30th Grand Slam main draw, booked a quarterfinal berth for the first time

Compiled by Nihit Sachdeva



put a gun to your head. A rollercoaster is easier."

In the women's draw, Garcia became the latest top-10 seed to fall, with a shock defeat to Magda Linette, ranked 45 in the world.

Linette faces Karolina Pliskova, who romped past China's Zhang Shuai 6-0, 6-4.

Sabalenka defeated Belinda Bencic 7-5, 6-2 to set up a last-eight clash against unseeded Donna Vekic, who beat 17-year-old Linda Fruhwirtova in three sets.

**THE RESULTS**

**Fourth round: Men:** 5-Rublev (Rus) bt 9-Rune (Den) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(4); 4-Djokovic (Srb) bt 22-de Minaur (Aus) 6-2, 6-1, 6-2; 6-7(4), 7-6(4), 6-2; 7-Tommy Paul (USA) bt 4-Bautista (Esp) 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.

**Women:** 30-Pliskova (Cze) bt 23-Zhang Shuai (Chn) 6-0, 6-4; Linette (Pol) bt 4-Garcia (Fra) 7-6(3), 6-4; 5-Sabalenka (Bel) bt 12-Bencic (Sui) 7-5, 6-2; Vekic (Cro) bt Fruhwirtova (Cze) 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

**Mixed doubles (Second round):** Sania & Bopanna bt Behar (Uru) & Ninomiya (Jpn) 6-4, 7-6(9).

**NZ IN INDIA**

**Amol Karhadkar**  
INDORE

Bowlers' envy, batters' paradise.

That's the reputation the Holkar Stadium has built for itself over the last decade, thanks to a small outfield and a flat bed for most of the international games it has hosted. That the venue has witnessed an ODI double hundred and the joint-fastest T20I century is testimony to it.

**Jovial mood**

No wonder then that India head coach Rahul Dravid — in a jovial mood on his return to the city of his birth — joked ahead of India's third ODI against New Zealand that the bowlers would want to run away from the stadium.

While the Black Caps will be desperate to prove

their worth in Kane Williamson's absence, India will be hoping that captain Rohit Sharma continues his good work from Raipur.

Rohit will be eager to mark the 10th anniversary of his elevation as regular India opener (he had opened thrice in South Africa in January 2011) with a three-figure knock.

It will be interesting to see if India tests its bench-strength in the dead-rubber.

While all-rounder Hardik Pandya and pacer Mohammed Siraj are likely to be rested, the Indors will be hoping that hometown hero Rajat Patidar makes his India debut though it looks unlikely.

One local will, however, be on the field right through the game. Umpire Nitin Menon will officiate for the first time in an international on his home turf.

Match starts at 1.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



## Jehan joins MP Motorsport for 2023 F2 season

Jehan Daruvala will race for reigning Formula 2 champion MP Motorsport of Netherlands, as he returns to the Formula One feeder series for a fourth season in 2023. The 24-year-old will drive alongside Norwegian Dennis Hauger, his Prema Racing teammate from last year. Jehan will combine his F2 campaign with his Formula E role with Indian manufacturer Mahindra Racing, who announced him as a reserve driver in November. The announcement means that there will be two Indians on the F2 grid in 2023 with Kush Maini already announced as a driver for Campos Racing.

## Samriti Punyani knocks out fifth seed

**JHAKJAR:** Qualifier Samriti Punyani beat fifth seed Ayushi Singh 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the first round of the ₹100,000 AITA women's tennis tournament at the Joygaon Academy on Monday.

**The results (first round):** Himanshi Singh bt Chahat Duhani 6-1, 6-0; Arsheen Sappal bt Shika Choudhary 4-6, 6-0, 6-4; Bhumiya Rohilla bt Sanjami Arora 6-4, 6-3; Medhavi Singh bt Jasmine Rawat 6-2, 6-2; Rachita Talwar bt Shatakshi Darekar 6-2, 6-0; Bhumika Tripathi bt Kiran Rajput 6-1, 6-4; Ananya Dhankhar bt Shreya Kumar 6-2, 6-4; Samriti Punyani bt Ayushi Singh 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; Himadri Kashyap bt Kanupriya Rajawat 6-1, 6-2; Diya Tyagi bt Tamanna Panar 2-6, 7-6(8), 7-5; Manshi Singh bt Khushleen Kaur 6-0, 6-0; Kavya Khrivar bt Shikha Tyagi 6-0, 6-0; Yashika bt Ritu Rai 6-4, 6-4; Shambhavi Rawat bt Vaary Shah 4-6, 6-0 6-4; Breshna Khan bt Kanika Prapia 6-2, 6-1; Sachi Sharma bt Ishita Jadhav 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.



## Henderson wins LPGA Tournament of Champions

Brooke Henderson clinched a wire-to-wire four-shot victory at the LPGA Tour's season-opening Tournament of Champions in Orlando, Florida on Sunday. The 25-year-old Canadian, who entered the final round with a commanding three-shot lead, maintained her composure to seal the 13th LPGA victory of her career in convincing style. Sweden's Maja Stark finished tied for second place along with England's Charley Hull. "It's just been an incredible week and a great way to start the new year," Henderson said after the win.

## LIVE TELECAST

**Australian Open:** Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.  
**Ranji Trophy:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.  
**India vs New Zealand:** 3rd ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.  
**Hockey World Cup:** SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 4.30 & 7 p.m.  
**I-League:** Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.  
**Bundesliga:** Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.15 a.m. (Wednesday)

## Prisha moves into the second round

**ITF JUNIORS**

**Sports Bureau**  
INDORE

Prisha Shinde beat fourth seed Pavitra Parikh 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the girls' first round of the ITF junior tennis tournament at the Indore Tennis Club on Monday. In another match, Aishwarya Jadhav beat sixth seed Niayati Kukreti in straight sets. **The results (first round):** Boys: Hitesh Chauhan bt Sathyajit Nair 6-1, 6-2; Mayank Sharma bt Nikil Dsouza 6-4, 6-3; Debasis Sahoo bt Manvendar Rakhecha 6-0, 6-3. Jaden Tan (Ina) bt Samarth Sahita 6-2, 6-3; Jaishnav Shinde bt Viswasenan Navaneethan 6-1, 6-2; Tejas Ahuja bt Pranav Korade 6-0, 6-3; Shanker Heisnam bt

## Hyderabad eager to put up an improved performance against Delhi

Hosts, fighting to avoid relegation, need to rally around the standout players if they are to take on the visitors looking to finish their season on a high

## RANJI TROPHY

V. V. Subrahmanyam  
HYDERABAD

Faced with the threat of relegation, bottom-placed Hyderabad should look for an all-round improvement when it takes on an upbeat Delhi, fresh from its win over Mumbai in the previous game, in the four-day Ranji Trophy Elite Group B match at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium (Uppal) here on Tuesday.

Hyderabad has just one point from six games with one draw and five losses while Delhi has 11 points from the same number of matches with one win, two losses and three draws.

The fact that 26 players represented Hyderabad in Ranji this season and 11 of them were debutants



**Mainstay:** Tanmay Agarwal would hope other batters would contribute against Delhi. G. RAMAKRISHNA

should reflect that there is something seriously wrong with the two-time champion.

In batting, captain Tanmay Agarwal (528 runs from six games), Rohit Rayudu (390 runs from six

games) continue to be the big hope even as the rest of the batting was woefully short of expectations consistently.

In bowling, the only silver lining has been the pace duo of all-rounder T.

Ravi Teja (18) and Kartikeya Kay (23 wickets) but again the back-up bowlers - be it spin or first-change - were terribly disappointing.

On the other hand, even Delhi seemed to have redeemed some pride before

## RANJI TROPHY SCHEDULE

## Elite (Round seven):

**Group A:** Bengal (32 points) vs. Odisha (8), Kolkata; Haryana (12) vs. Uttarakhand (26), Lahli; Himachal Pradesh (20) vs. Uttar Pradesh (12), Nadaun; Baroda (14) vs. Nagaland (2), Vadodara.

**Group B:** Tamil Nadu (15) vs. Saurashtra (26), Chennai; Mumbai (23) vs. Maharashtra (25), Mumbai; Andhra (19) vs. Assam (11), Vizianagaram; Hyderabad (1) vs. Delhi (11), Hyderabad.

**Group C:** Jharkhand (23) vs. Karnataka (29), Jamshedpur;

Rajasthan (20) vs. Services (7), Jodhpur; Pondicherry (6) vs. Kerala (20), Puducherry; Chhattisgarh (13) vs. Goa (18), Raipur.

**Group D:** Madhya Pradesh (32) vs. Tripura (8), Indore; Punjab (26) vs. Vidarbha (19), Mohali; Gujarat (14) vs. Railways (15), Ahmedabad; Chandigarh (6) vs. Jammu & Kashmir (7), Chandigarh.

The Plate final between Bihar and Manipur will be played from January 25 at Patna.

the final game here.

The most consistent batter has been opener Dhruv Shorey (806 runs) followed by Vaibhav Rawal (396), whose 114 against Mumbai proved to be a match-winning knock, and the lower-order batter Himmat Singh (362 runs).

However, bowling attack looks better off with

the pace trio of Harshit Rana, Pranshu Vijayran, Divij Mehra, whose five for 30 against Mumbai in only his second Ranji match proved to be decisive, while off-break bowler Hrithik Shome and left-arm spinner Yogesh Sharma lend variety as Delhi should look to finish off the season on a high.

## The top priority is my fitness, says Jadeja

S. Dipak Ragav  
CHENNAI

**Back in the swing:** Jadeja, who has been out of action for nearly four months, will lead Saurashtra in the Ranji Trophy. R. RAGU

Ravindra Jadeja will take the field in a competitive match for the first time in nearly five months when he leads Saurashtra against Tamil Nadu in the final group encounter of the Ranji Trophy here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium starting on Tuesday.

The India all-rounder was sidelined from the game after suffering a knee injury (ligament tear) during the Asia Cup in August 2022 and underwent surgery, which has kept him out of action since then.

It will be an important test for the all-rounder as he hopes to use the next four days to assess his match fitness ahead of the four-match Test series against Australia next month.

**Very excited**  
"Feeling good to be back on the field. I am very excited and looking forward to this game. Hopefully, it will come good as a team and as an individual," Jadeja told reporters on Monday.

"My priority is to get on the field and be fit 100%, so yeah, that is my top priority. Once I am 100 per cent fit, I will work on my skills,

whether batting or bowling, but the top priority is my fitness," he added.

The 34-year-old revealed he had been batting and bowling at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru for the last 20 days but added, "The match scenario is different and I want one game before the Australia series. So that is why I am here."

When asked if he has had any discomfort since he resumed training, the southpaw said, "Not really, but when you play competitive cricket after five months, you don't feel confident initially, but as you progress, you get better."

Even as he has become integral to India's squad across all formats, Jadeja has recently had to deal with quite a few injury setbacks.

When asked how it affected him, the all-rounder was philosophical in saying, "Nobody wants to get injured at their peak, but still, you know it is part of the game, and you must keep that in mind. You have to be prepared as there is no guarantee that one can't get injured while playing cricket."

On Monday, Jadeja batted for more than 20 minutes, bowled for a similar amount of time, and said he would gradually increase his workload with the ball during the match depending on how his leg feels.

## Jalaj Saxena – odd man out in an elite company

M.R. Praveen Chandran  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

**A class apart:** Jalaj Saxena joins elite group of cricketers to have scored 6000 runs and taken 400 wickets. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As the players headed to the pavilion for lunch during the Kerala-Services Ranji Trophy match at the KCA-St. Xavier's College Ground earlier this month, Jalaj Saxena ran towards the makeshift gallery in the stadium.

A few moments earlier, Jalaj had taken his 400th First Class wicket when he dismissed Pukit Narang and headed to the gallery to break the news to his parents - Ghanashyam Saxena and Manju Saxena - who were, for the first time, watching their son play for his adopted State.

"We weren't aware of his landmark and we came to know of it only when he told us during the lunch break. It is good to see him performing well for Kerala. We are happy for him," said Ghanashyam Saxena.

The 36-year-old all-rounder joined an elite company of cricketers who had completed a minimum of 6,000 runs and taken 400 wickets in First Class cricket. But Jalaj was the odd man out, the only uncapped player in the group which included legends like Kapil Dev, C.K. Nayudu and Lala Amarnath. Jalaj demolished Servic-

es with his career-best figures of eight for 36 which has become a favourite hunting ground for him.

"I have very fond memories of this ground. I love bowling on this wicket and it will always have a special place in my heart," he said.

Jalaj, who joined Kerala at the start of 2016-17 season, has consistently finished with more than 40 wickets in all seasons except in the truncated season last year when Kerala played only three group matches. Jalaj is happy with his performance for Kerala and said he was grateful to his teammates for helping him adapt to a

culture which was alien to him.

"I should thank my teammates who were very helpful to me. It was very difficult for me initially. The food, the culture was different but my teammates made me feel at home. Now Kerala is like a second home for me."

Though disappointed at his non-selection to the Indian team, the dream is very much alive for him. "Really grateful to cross 400+ wickets and 6,000+ runs. I hope I won't remain uncapped forever. The dream is still alive," he tweeted shortly after reaching the landmark.

## Anantjeet tops second skeet trial

## SHOOTING

## Sports Bureau

35-29, after having topped qualification with 119.

National champion M. A. Hashmi Chauhan placed third ahead of Areeba Khan, Sanjana Sood, Darshna Rathore, Zahra Mufaddal Desesawa and Kartiki Singh Shaktawat failed to get past the semifinals.

**The results:** Skeet: Men: 1. Anantjeet Singh Naruka 28 (30) 118; 2. Mairaj Ahmad Khan 27 (28) 118; 3. Parampal Singh Gurun 17 (27) 120; 4. Mohd. Sheeraz Sheikh 15 (26) 119.

**Junior men:** 1. Harmeet Singh Lally 117; 2. Bhavtegh Singh Gill 116; 3. Rituraj Singh Bundela 116.

**Women:** 1. Ganemat Sekhon 35 (30) 119; 2. Raiza Dhillon 29 (23) 111; 3. M. A. Hashmi Chauhan 24 (25) 117; 4. Areeba Khan 14 (21) 114.

**Junior women:** 1. Sanjana Sood 115; 2. Zahra Mufaddal Desesawa 114; 3. Raiza Dhillon 111.

## Real beats Bilbao to stay on Barcelona's tail

## EURO LEAGUES

## Agence France-Presse

BILBAO

Karim Benzema and Toni Kroos' goals kept Real Madrid on Barcelona's tail in LaLiga with a 2-0 win against Athletic Bilbao on Sunday.

After the Catalans had beaten Getafe 1-0, champion Madrid won a tight clash at the San Mames to remain three points behind its rival.

**Important results:** LaLiga: Elche 1 (Carmona 67) drew with Osasuna 1 (Avila 20); Barcelona 1 (Pedri 35) bt Getafe 0; Athletic Bilbao 0 lost to Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 24, Kroos 90).

**Serie A:** Juventus 3 (Di Maria 25-pen, Milik 34, Danilo 65) drew with Atalanta 3 (Lookman 5, Maehle 46).

**Bundesliga:** Borussia M'Gladbach 2 (Stindl 82, 90+3) lost to Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Bakker 21, Adli 43, Amiri 67); Borussia Dortmund 4 (Bellngham 29, Schlotterbeck 42, Byone-Gittens 75, Reyna 78) bt Augsburg 3 (Maier 40, Demirovic 45+1, Colina 76).

## Kerala women steamroller Meghalaya

## JR. NATL. BASKETBALL

## Sports Bureau

BENGALURU

Kerala women thrashed Meghalaya 133-29 at the 72nd junior National Basketball Championships here on Monday.

**The results:** Men: Rajasthan 97 (C. Ayush 20, H. Akshit 16) bt Odisha 67 (K.P. Sovan 17, S.K. Fayaz 14); Chandigarh 80 (Ravinder Singh 18, Gaurav Kumar Singh 17, Deepak 13, Udit Ravi 10).

Kerala 70 (Jordan Cherian Eapen 24, Adarsh S. Kappen 15); Mizoram 88 (Emmanuel V.L. Awmpui 33, Lalruatkima 21, Lalrinhlua 13) bt Uttarakhand 73 (Hadik Sharma 20, Priyanshu Chand 17).

Tamil Nadu 105 (Subinvel 22, S. Ajay 15, V. Sharan 11) bt Delhi 54 (Paramjeet Singh 12, Siddant Tomar 12, Aashis 10);

Maharashtra 76 (Dev Premi 23, Shivraj Patel 17) bt Manipur 68 (Newton Singh 19, H. Rishikanta Sharma 13, Muthu Sanchendra 10).

Andhra Pradesh 118 (Gurucharan 24, Swarka Natha Reddy 19, Akhil Kumar 11) bt Assam 57 (Bikash Kumar Rai 19, Dilshan Anwar 17).

**Women:** Maharashtra 76 (Aanya Bhaskar 31, Ricca Ravi 21, Bhumiika Sarje 18) bt Andhra Pradesh 68 (Hemalatha 20, Varsha 18, Pallavi 17); Kerala 133 (Ruth Anna Blessen