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AHMEDABAD
16th Feb, 8:30 AM

CHANDIGARH
19th Jan, 5 PM

PUNE
21st Jan, 8 AM

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15th Feb, 7:30 AM, 5 PM

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18th Jan, 5 PM

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DELHI
10 जनवरी, 9 AM

JAIPUR
15 फरवरी, 4 PM

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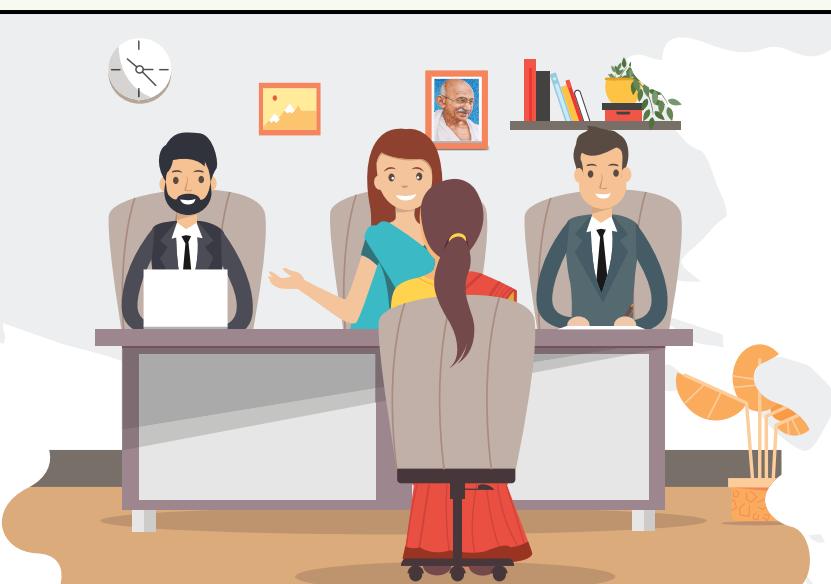
Interaction with Previous
toppers and Serving
bureaucrats



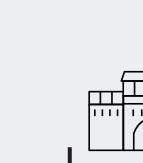
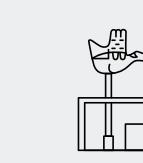
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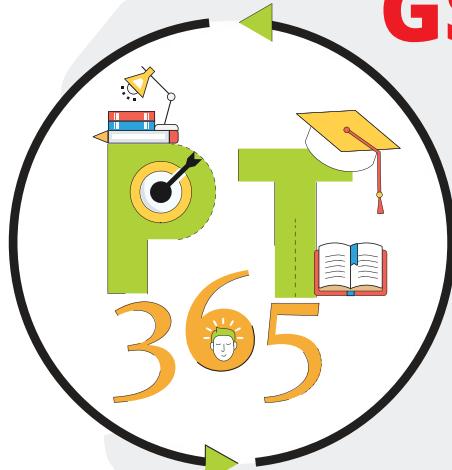




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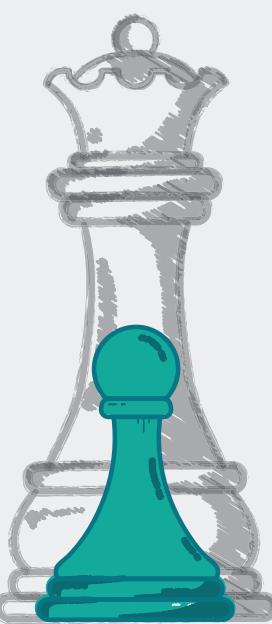
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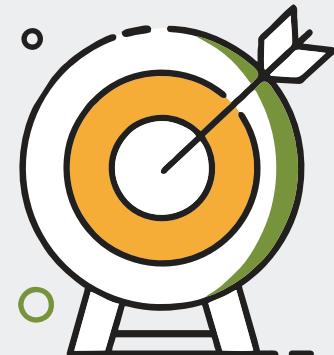
6th Nov | 5 PM

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सामान्य अध्ययन 2023: 22 जनवरी**

**for GS Prelims 2024: 22 Jan
सामान्य अध्ययन 2024: 5 फरवरी**



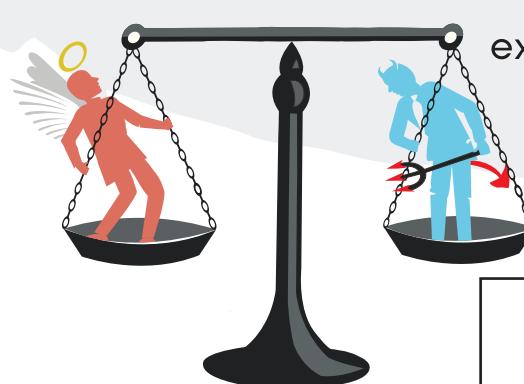
- ▶ Sociology ▶ Philosophy
- ▶ PS & IR ▶ Anthropology
- ▶ Essay

22 January

**for GS Mains 2023: 22 Jan
सामान्य अध्ययन 2023: 22 जनवरी**

**for GS Mains 2024: 22 Jan
सामान्य अध्ययन 2024: 5 फरवरी**

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4th Nov | 1 PM



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JOINT SITTING

India has a stable and fearless govt.: Murmu

NEWS » PAGE 11

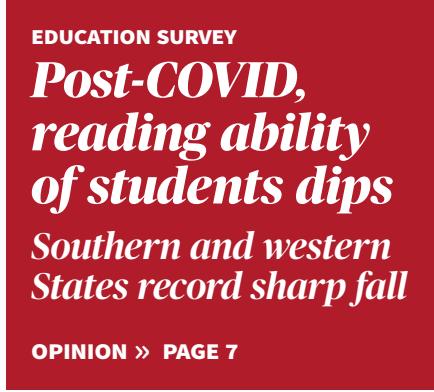


SPIRALLING ROW
Adoor quits as
film institute
chairman

SOUTH » PAGE 5



MOSQUE BLAST
Pak. suicide bombing
death toll rises to 100
WORLD » PAGE 13



EDUCATION SURVEY
Post-COVID,
reading ability
of students dips

Southern and western
States record sharp fall

OPINION » PAGE 7



THE FINAL BATTLE
India, New Zealand
meet in third T20I
SPORT » PAGE 15

IN BRIEF



Shanti Bhushan,
former Law
Minister, no more

NEW DELHI
Former Law Minister and senior advocate Shanti Bhushan passed away on Tuesday. He was 97. » Page 12

Teachers' trip to
Finland: Sisodia
writes to L-G

NEW DELHI
Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia on Tuesday wrote to L-G V.K. Sasena asking him to immediately approve the proposal to send Delhi government teachers to Finland for training. » Page 2

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

GDP to grow 6.5% in 2023-24: Survey

'Pandemic-induced blues are over, India on a stronger wicket now'

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Painting an exuberant picture of the Indian economy's prospects thanks to "New Age" reforms undertaken since 2014, the Economic Survey tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on Tuesday asserted that not only were the pandemic-induced blues over, but the outlook for the years ahead was also rosier than in the pre-COVID years.

Though global uncertainties are rife and the world economy is slowing, the Survey exuded confidence that India's GDP would grow 6.5% in 2023-24, after an estimated 7% this year, "supported by solid domestic demand and a pickup in capital investment".

"The Indian economy in 2022-23 has nearly 'recouped' what was lost, 're-

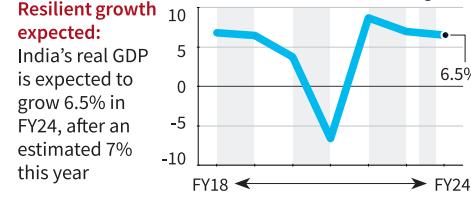


Sure footing: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman interacts with V. Anantha Nageswaran on Tuesday. ANI

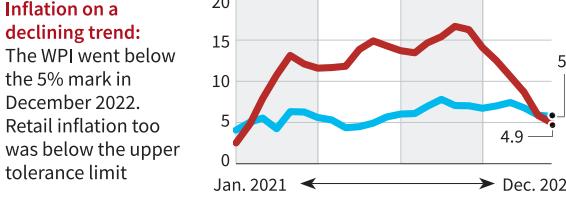
Need to stay vigilant on inflation and current account deficit, says CEA

Eyeing a durable recovery

The Economic Survey expects India's economic recovery to be resilient in the coming financial year, aided by a steady decline in inflation



'Solid domestic demand and a pickup in capital investment buoyed growth'



Growth is picking up across different sectors — credit growth to MSMEs, large industry, services and non-food sectors are growing at more than double digit rates and even NBFCs' credit disbursal is rising. — V. ANANTHA NAGESWARAN, CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER

newed' what had paused, and 're-energised' what had slowed during the pandemic and since the conflict in Europe," the Survey averred.

Uncertain times
The final growth outcome for 2023-24 could be in the range of 6% to 6.8%, depending on the trajectory of global economic and political developments.

"Some of you may think the range is asymmetric in nature, but that is deliberate because there is still uncertainty. We have many known unknowns and unknown unknowns," remarked Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran.

While the Survey expects inflation — a bugbear for the economy throughout this year — to be "well-

behaved" in 2023-24, the CEA acknowledged there were upside risks to commodity prices from external factors such as China rapidly restarting economic activity.

Inflation no deterrent
The central bank's estimate of 6.8% retail inflation for 2022-23 is outside its target range, but "at the same time, it is not high

enough to deter private consumption and also not so low as to weaken the inducement to invest," the Survey said. "We expect [that] if the global economy slows down as the IMF and many people project, then commodity prices should retreat on the back of the monetary tightening... As of now, the United States economy looks set to avoid a full-fledged for-

mal recession. And therefore, this January, already we have seen crude oil prices and industrial metal prices are higher than they were at the end of December," the CEA noted.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
THE SURVEY THAT WASN'T
» PAGE 6
MORE REPORTS
» PAGES 11 & 14

₹1.56 lakh cr.
GST mop-up
in Jan. second
highest so far

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues in January touched nearly ₹1.56 lakh crore by Tuesday evening, marking the second highest monthly collections recorded since the launch of the indirect tax regime in July 2017.

January's GST kitty, which is likely to be revised upwards, is 10.6% higher than a year ago and 4.3% over December's collections, marking the 11th month in a row that revenues were over ₹1.4 lakh crore. The highest revenues so far under the GST system were recorded in April 2022, when tax inflows were ₹1,67,540 crore.

The Finance Ministry attributed the numbers to better compliance in the filing of returns.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

A.P. capital will be shifted to Vizag in a few months: Jagan

G.V.R. Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday said the State capital would be shifted to Visakhapatnam.

He made the remark in New Delhi at a curtain-raiser to the Global Investors Summit, scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam in March. "I am here to invite you to Visakhapatnam, which will be our capital. I will also shift to Vizag in the months to come. I invite you and your colleagues to see for yourself how easy it is to do business in Andhra Pradesh."

His statement assumes significance in the wake of multiple petitions on the capital issue pending in the Supreme Court. The State



Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

had moved the top court after the High Court rejected the three-capital plan of the Jagan regime. The HC had also directed that Amaravati be developed as the State capital, as proposed by the former Chandrababu Naidu government.

The Supreme Court was to hear the capital cases on Tuesday. The cases, however, have not reached the Division Bench before which they were listed.

Bangladeshis' enter Meghalaya polls as parties target TMC

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The Bangladeshi issue, a staple of elections in Assam, has "infiltrated" poll-bound Meghalaya.

The National People's Party (NPP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) began targeting the Trinamool Congress (TMC) after it was first off the blocks by announcing candidates for 55 of the 60 Assembly seats in the February 27 polls.

The two parties first branded the Trinamool as a party of the Bengalis, a community often at the receiving end of ethnic violence. The narrative about the TMC changed to a party of "outsiders", and then to one that "has an agenda to fill Meghalaya with ille-

gal immigrants" from Bangladesh, with which the State shares a 443-km border.

Hitting the campaign trail, CM Conrad K. Sangma and other NPP leaders have turned the heat on the TMC. "We will save Meghalaya from illegal infiltration, from the Bangladeshis that the TMC is trying to bring in," NPP spokesperson Bajop Pynrope said.

The TMC responded by accusing the NPP of paving the way for "another set" of Bangladeshis — the persecuted religious minorities — by supporting the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2019. "It was not the TMC but the NPP that voted for the CAA in Parliament," said TMC's Fernandez S. Dkhar.

Adani's FPO fully subscribed asHNIs offset retail wariness

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The ₹20,000-crore follow-on public offer from Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL) was fully subscribed on the last day of the record share sale on Tuesday, after high net worth individuals (HNIs) and institutional investors bid strongly and more than made up for a poor to tepid response from retail investors and employees.

The successful conclusion of the Adani Group flagship company's FPO will come as a major relief to its promoters led by India's richest individual Gautam Adani in the wake



Mutual funds completely avoided the share sale. AFP

of a U.S.-based short-seller's allegations of accounting irregularities and stock manipulation at the group, which led to a rout in the conglomerate's shares.

The FPO finally received bids for 1.12 times the 4.55 crore shares on offer, according to the BSE data.

While qualified institutional bidders (QIBs) led by FIIs sought 1.26 times the shares offered to them as a category, non-institutional investors (NIIs) bid for 3.32 times the stock reserved for them as a class. NIIs who placed bids exceeding ₹10 lakh including HNIs, sought to buy 4.97 times the shares offered to them.

Retail individual investors bid for just a little more than one-tenth (0.12) the number of shares offered to them and employees bid for 55% of the shares reserved for them.

AEL shares rose 3.35% on the BSE on Tuesday to close at ₹2,975 apiece.

14 killed in fire at multi-storey building in Jharkhand

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

At least 14 people were killed and 18 injured in a fire that broke out at a multi-storey building in Dhanbad town of Jharkhand on Tuesday evening.

The fire broke out at the Aashirwad Tower building in the Jorhatpuk area near the Shakti temple.

"The cause of fire is yet to be known," Senior Superintendent of Police, Dhanbad, Sanjiv Kumar said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

G20
Jaipur 2023 INDIA

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IN BRIEF



JNU renews security firm's contract despite opposition

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Tuesday said it has renewed the contract of Cyclops Security, the firm whose staff has been accused of manhandling student protesters and committing theft on the campus. The JNU Teachers' Association (JNTA) and several student bodies have demanded that the firm be replaced in light of several thefts having been reported in recent years. Cyclops Security has been in charge of the varsity's security since the time of the previous Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar. Following the 2020 clashes on the campus, the agency was accused of colluding with ABVP by allowing them to enter the university and attack staff and students. However, the security firm was not dismissed. PTI

Roads around Pragati Maidan to get facelift for G-20 summit

The Delhi government will redevelop Mathura Road and give a new look to the stretch around the ITO complex ahead of the G-20 Summit. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday approved a project worth ₹17.5 crore for the beautification and strengthening of Mathura Road, Bhairon Marg and Ring Road around the ITO complex. Mr. Sisodia said that along with the resurfacing of the identified roads, plantation of trees, beautification of footpaths and improvement of drainage will also be done. He said that hosting the G-20 summit was a matter of pride for the Capital. "The Delhi government is working in mission mode under the leadership of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The work of strengthening and beautification of these roads will be completed by March," he added. PTI

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Tender No. LHEP-PCD-270, Estimated cost- ₹ 4,11,65,919.34 Exclusive of GST. Cost of tender Document: ₹ 3,900/- (Tender cost ₹ 5000/- + GST ₹ 300/-). Earnest Money: ₹ 8,23,320/- (Date of Availability/Downloading of tender document: 30.01.2023 (10:00 hrs), to 20.02.2023 (20:00 hrs). Last date of submission/uploading of bid: 21.02.2023 (13:00 hrs). Date of opening of bid: 21.02.2023 (14:30 hrs). Completion period: 18 months.
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TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following properties mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Tender-cum-Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of ₹ 27,96,056/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Ninety Six Thousand and Fifty Six only) as on 22-01-2023 together with further interest to be charged from 23-01-2023 onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the Borrowers / Guarantors No.1) M/s. Delhi Sales Corporation, At M-5A-5M Block, DILSHAD Garden, Delhi - 110095. No.2) Mr. Vipin Jaiswal, S/o. Shri Hari Kishan Jaiswal, At B-1/15, S-2, DLF Extension-2, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 203204. Also 3) Mr. Vipin Jaiswal, S/o. Shri Hari Kishan Jaiswal, At Q-61, DLF Extension-2, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 203204. Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. Vipin Jaiswal, S/o. Shri Hari Kishan Jaiswal)

Residential Flat bearing No.S-2, Second Floor (Super Area 650 sq.ft.) with Roof Rights of built on property bearing B-1/15 (measuring 173.33 sq.m.). DLF DILSHAD Garden Extension No. II, Ghaziabad (UP). Boundaries: East: Property No.B-1/22, West: Entrance of the Flat/ Common Staircase/ Flat No.S-1 (Front Side), North: Property No.B-1/14, South: Property No.B-1/16.

Reserve Price : ₹ 22,00,00/-

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AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale

10-03-2023

Venue

City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-
Mayur Vihar Branch, C-53, Ground Floor, Shashi
Garden, Phase I, Mayur Vihar, Delhi - 110091.
Telephone No.011-22755089, Cell No.9312282476.

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-Mayur Vihar Branch, C-53, Ground Floor, Shashi Garden, Phase I, Mayur Vihar, Delhi - 110091. (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact : Telephone No.011-22755089, Cell No.9312282476. (5) The properties are sold "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there-is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened on the same date of the intention of the bidders at 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges / fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 24-01-2023

Authorised Officer

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (B) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District,
Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287,
Telephone No.0435-240232, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: www.cityunionbank.com

Sisodia writes to Saxena, reminds him to clear file on teachers' Finland visit

Raj Niwas officials say 6,112 teachers were appointed in 4 months to address 'skyrocketing' vacancies in Delhi govt. schools after L-G's 'nudge'; Kejriwal too requests Saxena to let teachers travel abroad

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday wrote to Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena asking him to immediately approve the proposal to send Delhi government teachers to Finland for training. The Deputy CM said that the file, which Mr. Saxena had twice returned to the Delhi government, had been sent to Raj Niwas for the third time on January 20.

While the L-G did not comment on why the file hasn't been cleared yet, a Raj Niwas official remarked upon the "grim state of affairs" in the Delhi government schools, where teachers' vacancies were "skyrocketing". The official added that over 6,000 teachers were appointed during the last four months by the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) after 'constant nudging' by the L-G. Mr. Saxena held a meeting on the recruitment of Delhi government teachers on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Deputy CM have repeatedly attacked the L-G over his de-



War of words: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy have attacked Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena over his decision not to clear Delhi government proposal to train its teachers abroad. FILE PHOTO

cision to return the Delhi government proposal, terming it an attack on Delhi's education model. On January 16, the CM led a march of his MLAs to Raj Niwas over the issue.

In a recent letter to the CM, Mr. Saxena clarified that he had not rejected the proposal and questioned whether a five-day trip to Finland would serve any purpose of substantive training.

CM also tweets
Mr. Sisodia said the training of 30 teachers, due to

go to Finland in March 2023, "was on the verge of cancellation".

Mr. Kejriwal also posted a tweet urging the L-G to "allow our teachers to go abroad for training. Hon'ble LG had himself said that he is not against it".

While Raj Niwas did not respond on the issue of teachers' training, its officials said 6,112 teachers had been appointed in the Delhi government schools in the last four months.

The L-G House officials added that in a meeting held in September last

year, Mr. Saxena found 24,003 vacant teachers' posts in the Delhi government schools.

The officials said this number had been brought down to 17,891 due to Mr. Saxena's efforts.

"The present grim state of affairs in the Delhi government schools, with vacancies skyrocketing, resulted because requisition for regular recruitment of teachers was not made during the last seven years of the AAP government," officials at Raj Niwas also said.

3 months after acquittal in Chhawla case, man arrested for murder

Mehul Malpani
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a man for allegedly killing an autorickshaw driver, nearly three months after the Supreme Court acquitted him in a 2012 gang rape and murder case.

him," the officer added

On February 9, 2012, after the victim left her office in Gurugram's Cyber Hub, she was allegedly abducted by the three accused from near her residence in Delhi's Qutub Vihar.

Three days later, the Haryana police found her mutilated body in a field in Rewari. The accused were soon arrested and charged under sections of the IPC related to gang rape, murder, kidnapping and unnatural sex.

On November 7, the apex court acquitted Rahul, Ravi Kumar and Vinod due to "lack of clinching evidence and glaring lapses in the trial". The three men had filed a petition in the SC in 2015 challenging their conviction. They had been convicted and sentenced to death by a sessions court in 2014. The same year, the HC had upheld the verdict of the lower court.

On November 21, Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena approved the filing of a review petition in the SC, challenging its decision to acquit the three men. However, according to the victim's father, the petition is yet to be accepted by the top court.

Class XII boy stabbed to death in fight outside school

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Class XII student was allegedly stabbed to death outside the school where he studied in Kalkaji, the police said on Tuesday.

An officer said the victim has been identified as Mohan. "The boy was stabbed during a quarrel between two groups of students. He was taken to a hospital but succumbed to his injuries," the officer said, adding, "One accused minor has been identified. We are looking for him."

The submission came in an affidavit in which the Centre endorsed a petition filed in the High Court by lawyer Dharmesh Sharma, whose school was burnt down in the 2020 northeast Delhi riots. The Centre also said that the extra-judicial tribunal should be restrained in future from giving any fact-finding reports touching upon the subject matter of an FIR or proceedings pending before a criminal court.

The submission came in an affidavit in which the Centre endorsed a petition filed in the High Court by lawyer Dharmesh Sharma, whose school was burnt down in the 2020 northeast Delhi riots. The petition sought to declare fact-finding reports by extra-

Declare all reports by Delhi Minorities Commission void

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

judicial bodies, such as the DMC, on the riots, as having no standing in law and removing them from the public domain.

The fact-finding report of the DMC pointed fingers at leaders of the BJP for "inciting" people through speeches during the Assembly election. The BJP disputed the findings of the DMC report, accusing the minorities panel of levelling baseless allegations against it.

The Centre told the Delhi High Court that certain individuals, private organisations and NGOs operating in the country with "vested interests" were spreading false narratives by projecting certain categories of crime with "political or communal flavour".

The court transferred the matter to another Bench, which is already seized of several petitions on the same controversy.

Mercury dips again



Clear road ahead: The Capital woke up to a chilly morning on Tuesday, as the minimum temperature settled at 9.9 degrees Celsius as against 10.2 degrees Celsius a day earlier. Tuesday's air quality index (AQI) improved to 'moderate' category from the 'poor' category air recorded a day earlier. The relative humidity in the city was 100%. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

File on date for mayoral polls reaches L-G

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The office of the Lieutenant-Governor has received the file on the proposed dates for the mayoral polls in the Capital and a decision is awaited, and a decision is awaited,

said official sources.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has proposed February 10 as the date to reconvene the House meeting, which will also see elections to the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, while the Delhi go-

vernment has suggested February 3, 4 and 6 as the options. Meanwhile, MCD officials are unsure whether the exercise will be completed, as the previous two sessions were adjourned due to clashes between councillors.

35-year-old woman shot near Meera Bagh traffic signal; police scour CCTV footage for leads

Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

The police are scanning CCTV footage for leads in the murder investigation of a 35-year-old woman who was shot by an unidentified person near a traffic signal in west Delhi's Meera Bagh on Monday.

A senior police officer on Tuesday said that Jyoti, a delivery partner working for e-commerce website Flipkart, was brought to Sehgal Neo Hospital in Paschim Vihar by passers-by with a gunshot wound in her abdomen.

a scooter on Outer Ring Road from Vikas Puri towards Peeragarhi. She was shot when she reached Metro pillar no. 73," the officer said.

The police are also probing whether she had a fallout with someone.

'Had started new job'

Jyoti's husband Deepak told *The Hindu* that she had joined Flipkart about two months ago for a monthly salary of around ₹2,000.

"She would go to work around 1.30 p.m. and be home by 6.30 p.m. She used to work as a domestic help, but left that job for better prospects. Both of us worked hard to support our family. She wanted our children to become engi-

neers," said the 38-year-old, who lives in a two-room house in Nangli's Nihal Vihar.

Recalling the last conversation with her mother, Riya, 16, said, "She used to come home tired, and on that day she called me at 6 p.m. and asked me to make tea for her. An hour later, she was shot dead."

"She would usually call me before coming home. I thought she was stuck in traffic. I never imagined such a thing would happen," lamented Riya, the eldest of the couple's three children.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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Sector-65, Gurugram-122101, Haryana.
CIN: U70109HR2021PTC097704;
www.uttrinaprojects.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Uttrina Infraprojects Pvt. Ltd. (in short "Company") has applied for setting up of an Affordable Residential Plotted Colony under DDJAY over an area admeasuring 55.72396 acres in Sector- 37, Panipat (after part migration from licence no. 06 of 2010 granted for setting up of Residential Plotted Colony over an area measuring 314.808 acres in the revenue estate of village Kabri & Taraf Insar, Sector-36, 37, 38 & 39, Panipat, Haryana).

Whereas, the Letter of Intent for grant of licence for development of Affordable Residential Plotted Colony under DDJAY (after part migration from licence no. 06 of 2010 granted for setting up of Residential Plotted Colony) vide memo no. LC-5004-JE(MK)/2023/2698 dated 31.01.2023 and In-principle approval for Transfer of part licence and change of developer from Ambience Pvt. Ltd. to Uttrina Infraprojects Pvt. Ltd. in licence no. 06 of 2010 has been granted by the Office of Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana (in short "DCTP") vide memo no. LC-1456/JE(MK)/2023/2212 dated 24.01.2023.

Whereas, as per condition no. 8 of the above said Letter of Intent, DCTP has directed the Company to seek objections/suggestions from allottees/ stakeholders, if any, regarding change of developer and migration of land measuring 314.808 acres of parent licence no. 06 of 2010 as per the provisions of policy dated 25.01.2021 read with the policy dated 18.02.2016 as a pre-condition before granting final approval for change of developer and grant of licence for Affordable Residential Plotted colony under DDJAY.

For this purpose, a copy of the said Letter of Intent dated 31.01.2023, the provisional layout plan of proposed DDJAY Colony admeasuring 55.72396 acres vide drawing no. 8954 dated 30.01.2023, a composite layout plan vide drawing no. 8955 dated 30.01.2023 of parent licence no. 06 of 2010 measuring 314.808 acres (showing proposed migration to 4 colonies) and copy of In-principle approval for Change of Developer and Transfer of part licence are available for perusal on: (a) company's website www.uttrinaprojects.com, (b) in the office of undersigned at 6th Floor, M3M Tee Point, North Block, Sector-65, Gurugram-122101, Haryana and (c) at the project site office in Sector-37, Panipat and (d) in the office of Senior Town Planner, Rohtak.

Allottees/ stakeholders, if any, having any objections/suggestions regarding change of developer and proposed migration of land measuring 314.808 acres of parent licence no. 06 of 2010 in favour of Uttrina Infraprojects Pvt. Ltd. may file his/ her/ their/ its objections in the office of the Senior Town Planner, Rohtak and in the office of the undersigned within 30 days of publication of this notice i.e. upto 02.03.2023, failing which it shall be presumed that there are no objections to the proposed change of developer and migration of land. Place: Gurugram.

Praveen Arora, Authorized Signatory

Date: 01.02.2023

www.uttrinaprojects.com

CM YK

IN BRIEF



HC calls for final report in illegal ivory possession case

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday called for the final report in the illegal ivory possession case involving actor Mohan and others from the Perumbavoor Judicial First Class Magistrate Court. The actor contended that the possession of the ivory tusks had been legalised as he was issued a proper ownership certificate.

208 students in A.P. fall sick; food poisoning suspected

At least 208 students at a social welfare girls hostel at Sattenapalli mandal in Palnadu district of Andhra Pradesh fell sick on Monday. Over 60 students have been admitted to Sattenapalli government hospital, while seven have been shifted to the Government General Hospital in Guntur. Many students suffered from fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain and headache, said G. Shobha Rani, DMHO. Based on the symptoms, the DMHO said it seems like they have suffered from food poisoning, adding that the reasons for falling sick could be ascertained only after laboratory reports are out.

Plant gutted on Amara Raja premises in Andhra Pradesh

A fire broke out in one of the manufacturing units of Amara Raja Batteries Limited (ARBL) on its Nunegungalpalli campus in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh on Monday evening. Though there were no casualties, the industrial equipment in the tubular battery plant was gutted in the blaze that lasted till 4 a.m. Eight fire brigade teams from Chittoor were rushed to the campus to bring the fire under control. The cause of fire is yet to be ascertained.

Bird's-eye view



A view of Visakhapatnam, set to be the new Andhra Pradesh capital, as announced by the Chief Minister on Tuesday. K.R. DEEPAK

Income Tax officials search Vasudha Pharma offices

The Hindu Bureau

HYDERABAD

The Income Tax officials on Tuesday searched the premises belonging to Vasudha Pharma Chemical Ltd. in Hyderabad. Six teams of I-T officials conducted searches at 50 places in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh with regard to alleged diversion of company's funds.

The searches began early in the morning at the company headquarters in Vengal Rao Nagar.

Searches were also conducted at the residences of CEO M.V. Rama Raju, and executive directors M.A.S. Raju and M. Anand along with other top management of Vasudha Pharma.

Jarkiholi indulging in low-level politics, cheap barbs: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

A day after former Minister and BJP MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi sought a CBI probe into the alleged involvement of KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar in the release of a sex CD two years ago, KPCC spokesperson Ramesh Babu on Tuesday said Mr. Jarkiholi was indulging in "cheap barbs and low-level politics" to settle scores against the Congress leaders.

Mr. Jarkiholi was forced to quit in March 2021 as the State's Water Resources Minister after the alleged sex CD, featuring him and a woman, was aired on local television channels. Mr. Jarkiholi has since been trying to get reinducted into the Cabinet without avail.

The release of the CD resulted in Mr. Jarkiholi quitting his post.

Mr. Jarkiholi levelled baseless charges against Mr. Shivakumar and MLA Lakshmi Hebbalkar to

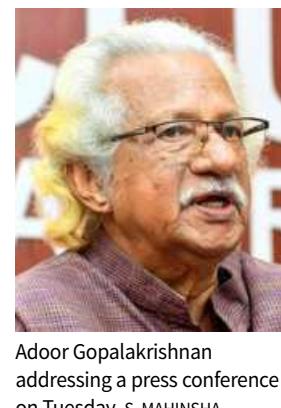
Adoor resigns as chairman of film institute in Kerala

K.R. Narayanan film institute has been at the centre of a storm following a protest movement by students demanding the resignation of director Shankar Mohan for alleged caste discrimination

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Bringing the curtains down on a long-drawn-out season of controversy at the K.R. Narayanan National Institute of Visual Science and Arts, Kottayam, filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan stepped down as its chairman. The institute has been at the centre of a storm following a protest movement by students demanding the resignation of its director, Shankar Mohan, for alleged caste discrimination.

Addressing a meet-the-press event here on Tuesday, Mr. Gopalakrishnan accused certain vested interests of instigating the



Adoor Gopalakrishnan addressing a press conference on Tuesday. S. MAHINSHA

students to protest against Mr. Mohan, who had resigned last week.

The filmmaker said he had a long conversation with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan after submitting his resignation. He also released a five-page

statement in which he lashed out at the inquiry commission appointed by the government, accusing it of not contacting him or Mr. Mohan and submitting a report.

The institute has already been facing an unprecedented crisis with eight of its employees tendering their resignation *en masse* in solidarity with the outgoing director.

Filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli, academic council chairman, also submitted his resignation. Meanwhile, Higher Education Minister R. Bindu seemed to side with the findings of the inquiry commission and said the commission was appointed with Mr. Gopalakrishnan's appro-

val, and its members would not have any intention to wilfully create trouble for the director or the chairman.

They would have submitted the report after understanding all the issues, she said.

However, Mr. Gopalakrishnan demanded an investigation by a high-level police team to uncover the conspiracy behind the protests. He heaped praise on Mr. Mohan, whom he said had an exemplary record of over four decades during which he headed several film institutes and helmed various film festivals. Baseless allegations were raised against him to insult and sent him away, said Mr. Gopalakrishnan.

Take back both my posts, Kushwaha tells CM Nitish Kumar

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Unhappy with the response of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar that he has given a lot of respect to Upendra Kushwaha, the rebel Janata Dal (United) leader said on Tuesday that the post of Parliamentary Board chairman given to him was a mere *jhunjhunwa* (a child's rattle).

Mr. Kushwaha, who had returned to JD(U) after merging his Rashtriya Lok Samata Party with it, also termed the post of MLC as a *lollipop* and asked Mr. Kumar to take it back. He reiterated that he will not leave the party until he gets his share.

"Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has said that he gave me lot of respect by making me chairman of



Upendra Kushwaha

the Parliamentary Board of JD(U) and MLC. No doubt it was given the post, but it has no power. I cannot even nominate a member in the committee," Mr. Kushwaha told reporters at his official residence in Patna.

Clarifies on 'share'
He asked Mr. Kumar to take back both his posts. Clarifying on his "share", the leader said he meant the hard work he has done to build the party and develop it for a long time.

Only Family Courts can issue *Khula* certificates to Muslim women: HC

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Muslim women can approach only Family Courts and not self-declared private bodies such as a Shariat Council consisting of a few members of a Jamaath, in order to seek *Khula* (divorce), the Madras High Court has held. It has ruled that *Khula* certificates issued by private bodies are

invalid in law.

Justice C. Saravanan ordered this, while quashing a *Khula* certificate issued by the Shariat Council of Tamil Nadu Towheed Jamaath at Mannady in Chennai. The judge directed the estranged couple to approach either the Tamil Nadu Legal Services Authority or a Family Court to resolve their disputes.

The direction was is-

sued while allowing a 2019 writ petition filed by a man to quash the *Khula* certificate obtained by his wife from the Shariat Council in 2017. He contended that the council, registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act of 1975, had no authority to issue such certificates.

The petitioner also told the court that he had filed a petition for restitution of

conjugal rights in 2017 and obtained an *ex parte* decree too. Since the couple had a baby boy in 2015 after their marriage in 2013, he had filed a petition under the Guardians and Wards Act of 1890 too, and obtained favourable orders.

At present, a petition for executing the decree was pending before an Additional Family Court.

Jai Jai Maharashtra' State song now

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

The Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government on Tuesday decided to adopt 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha' as the State song.

The decision to adopt the song, which had been on the cards for some time, was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Shinde.

The song will be official-

ly adopted on February 19, the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

The song, translated into English as 'Glory to Maharashtra', was composed by Marathi poet Raja Badhe and sung by renowned folk artiste Krishnarao Ganpatrao Sable, affectionately known as 'Shahir' Sable. The decision to adopt a State song was made as part of the *Azadi ka Amit Mhotsav* in October last year.

IIT-Bombay gets notice over lack of mental health support for SC/ST students

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Months after it launched an investigation into the lack of mental health support for SC/ST students within the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on Tuesday issued a three-day ultimatum to the Director of IIT-Bombay, seeking a detailed report on what action the institute had taken to address the issue.

The ST Commission, in the notice issued to Subhasis Chaudhuri, said if the report was not submitted in the stipulated time, it might go on to exercise its



IIT-Bombay Director Subhasis Chaudhuri. FILE PHOTO

powers as civil court to summon any and all officials concerned, with regard to this matter.

The NCST took up the matter for investigation in June last year, after a complaint from the Ambedkar Periyar Phule Study Circle in IIT-Bombay raised issues over the lack of SC/ST

counsellors in the Student Wellness Centre of the

campus, and the head counsellor publicly holding anti-reservation sentiments.

The students attached a Facebook post of the head counsellor from 2015, where she said she was signing a public petition to remove caste-based reservations, while questioning the merit of the students who entered elite institutes through reservation.

According to the complaint, the issue at hand was public and available for viewing until last year.

The complaint added that such posts made students feel intimidated and uncomfortable in seeking mental health counselling from the centre, because a

large chunk of the discrimination they faced on campus was due to anti-reservation sentiments.

The students alleged that the administration had "chosen to ignore" their complaints against the head counsellor.

After taking up the case, the NCST had also issued a notice to the Ministry of Education in November last year.

The Study Circle said the existing counsellors "are not sensitised to understand the social realities of caste that affect students of SC/ST communities, rendering them inadequate to offer support or, at times, aggravating students' troubles".

Snakes claim more human lives than wild elephants, says Kerala Forest Department

K.S. Sudhi

KOCHI

Snakes continue to take the life of human beings mostly in cases of human-wildlife conflicts in Kerala.

Each year, serpents kill at least double the number of humans than those getting killed in encounters with wild elephants, according to the latest data of the Forest Department. The past year was no exception as 50 people were killed in snakebites whereas wild elephants were accountable for 27 deaths during the year.

The year 2020-21 wit-

nessed 52 deaths due to snakebites whereas wild elephants were accountable for 27 deaths during the year.

The data compiled by forest officials indicate that snakes top the list of killers. Steps for scientific handling of snakes and rescue operations for victims are undertaken by the department.

People falling prey to wild elephant attacks is still a hard reality, say officials. Challenging the popular theories of population explosion of tiger and elephants in Kerala forests, officials say the population of these two species continues to be stable.

The elephant population was estimated to be

5,706 in 2017 against 6,177 of 2012. The latest wild elephant population will be known when the quinquennial estimation will be carried out this year.

The tiger population estimation held in 2018 had put the count of the big cats in the range of 166 to 190 against 119 to 150 in 2014. The latest tiger tally

is expected this year.

The quantum of compensation disbursed on account of the loss sustained in human-wildlife conflicts appears to be fluctuating over the years. While ₹10.18 crore was disbursed in 2017-2018, it increased to ₹11.15 crore next fiscal, and dropped to ₹9.30 crore in 2019-2020. Last year, ₹10.44 crore was provided as solatium.

The State government had earlier toyed with the idea of introducing birth control methods for controlling the wild elephant population. A suggestion to seek the permission of the Centre for culling tigers had invited the wrath of conservationists though some eminent ecologists had supported the idea.

Year	Snake	Elephant	Wild boar	Gaur	Tiger	Leopard	Others	Total
2016-17	88	12	4	0	0	0	0	104
2017-18	92	21	3	1	2	0	0	119
2018-19	123	17	5	0	0	1	1	146
2019-20	71	13	3	0	2	0	3	92
2020-21	52	27	8	0	1	0	0	88
2021-22	50	25	7	5	0	0	1	88
Total	476	115	30	6	5	0	5	637

CM YK



Policy folly

Pakistan needs a paradigm shift in its approach to terrorism

When the Taliban captured Kabul in August 2021, Imran Khan, then Prime Minister of Pakistan, said Afghanistan had "broken the shackles of slavery". Pakistan, which had harboured the Taliban leadership, was largely seen as one of the victors of the Afghan civil war. But the celebratory mood faded as the Taliban's triumph also emboldened the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the Pakistani version of the Sunni Islamist insurgency. Since then, Pakistan has witnessed a rise in terrorist attacks, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa bordering Afghanistan. Monday's blast in a mosque in Peshawar's highly fortified Police Line area, claiming at least 100 lives, was the deadliest in Pakistan in years and a sharp reminder of how its strategy of backing the "good Taliban" and fighting the "bad Taliban" has backfired. A TTP faction initially claimed responsibility, but a spokesperson denied any role. This demonstrates the divisions within the group rather than raising doubts about its involvement. The blast bears the hallmarks of a TTP attack – it took place in its stronghold and was targeted at security personnel. And no other group has claimed responsibility.

The TTP and the Afghan Taliban may be organisationally different, but they are ideologically brothers. What the TTP wants to do in Pakistan is what the Taliban have managed to do in Afghanistan. After the 2014 Peshawar school bombing, which killed over 150 people, mostly children, the Pakistani Army had cracked down on the group. But the Afghan Taliban's return to power changed the dynamics of insurgency in the border region. Mr. Khan adopted a policy of engagement towards the TTP. The Afghan Taliban hosted talks between the TTP and Pakistan which led to a ceasefire. But the year-long truce collapsed in November last year. Many believe that the TTP, which used the ceasefire to rearm and reorganise itself, is now spreading terror with greater fire-power. The Peshawar blast has come at a time of continuing political instability, with Mr. Khan leading a relentless campaign against the government, Pakistan's currency tanking, its foreign reserves falling, inflation soaring and the power situation remaining grim. Unable to pay its debts, the government is in talks with the IMF for a bailout package. And now, there is a security challenge. Pakistan should realise that its policy of selectively fighting and selectively harbouring terrorism and extremism has done it more harm than good. It needs a paradigm shift in its approach towards terrorism, while, more urgently, amassing its resources and going after the TTP, which is posing the biggest internal security threat to the Pakistani state.

Youth and pedigree

Germany relied on experience and resilience to win the Hockey World Cup

Germany's connection with Bhubaneswar deepened last Sunday when the 2002 and 2006 champion won its third men's Hockey World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium. Incidentally, Germany had claimed its last major title, the 2014 Champions Trophy, at Odisha's capital – the modern part of the city which was designed by German architect Otto Konigsberger in 1946. The Die Honnans equalled Australia and the Netherlands' triple crowns and remained one behind Pakistan. Germany, which had qualified for the World Cup by being runner-up in the Euro hockey championships and had lost to India in the Tokyo Olympics bronze medal match in 2021, was not among the favourites. It relied on its innate grit and resilience to script come-from-behind wins against England in the quarterfinals, the mighty Australia in the semifinals and 2018 edition's champion Belgium in the final. Two of these, including the one in the summit clash, came through penalty shootouts. With a fine mix of promise and pedigree, also comprising seven players – including 'Player of the final' and 'Best player' and 'Best Forward' of the tournament Niklas Wellen – from the 2014 Champions Trophy winning side, Germany looked a cohesive unit. Drag-flicker Gonzalo Peillat, who played for Argentina in 2018, contributed significantly by scoring important goals in German colours.

While Belgium's dream of retaining its champion's tag was shattered, Australia's aim to win a record-equalling fourth gold received a setback as it returned empty handed after 1998. The Netherlands settled for a consolation bronze. The European nations' domination continued but their Asian counterparts disappointed. South Korea, the best Asian side, took the eighth place. India, joint ninth with Argentina, recorded its lowest finish in the four World Cups it hosted. It resulted in the exit of chief coach Graham Reid, who had led India to a historic bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympics. Overall, the impeccably staged World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, which boasts of the largest hockey stadium in terms of seating capacity, turned out to be a close affair with 11 of 44 matches either finishing as draws or going into shootouts. An average of 5.66 goals per match was the highest ever in a men's World Cup. The successful conduct of the event, featuring packed houses for many games, has enhanced India's reputation as an organizer of elite competitions and set a benchmark for Belgium and the Netherlands, the joint hosts of the 2026 men and women World Cups. At home, Hockey India, led by former captain Dilip Tirkey, should capitalise on the atmosphere created by this iconic event to rejuvenate the sport.

It is generally acknowledged that the Budget of 1991 which was presented by the then Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, is one of Indian economic history's landmark events. The Budget is still widely lauded by neo-classical economic commentators because it marked a structural shift in India's economy away from the hands of the government to the hands of private enterprise, and embraced free trade. That was the prevailing wisdom then, dubbed as the 'Washington Consensus'.

Three decades later, many developed economies, including America, Britain and Germany, are now reversing course to economic nationalism and increasing the role of government in their economy through industrial policy, ostensibly as a response to China's economic might and a weaponisation of trade. This is a profound shift in economic thought – and perhaps the greatest symbolic victory for China's economic model – that has forced the 'Washington Consensus' champions to back-pedal.

A disappointment

In this context, what should India's economic strategy be? Should India too revert to increased state control of the economy through an active industrial policy? In which case, should India exercise greater control over the exchange rate of the rupee? And impose trade restrictions? The Russia-Ukraine conflict has had enormous geo-economic consequences by recreating a stark bi-polar world order of a China/Russia bloc vis-à-vis western bloc of nations. How will India's economy be impacted by this, especially as we seem to have harked back to bi-lateral currency arrangements with Russia for trade, abandoning the dollar? These are all questions that are immensely important and imminently urgent, calling for serious discussion and debate among policy thinkers and makers.

The Economic Survey presented by the Chief Economic Adviser a day before the Union Budget has typically been the medium to raise issues for public discussion and ponder over such strategic economic matters. At least, that has been the case over the past decade or so. Surveys of the previous years had put out various ideas and issues such as universal basic income, economic



Praveen Chakravarty

is a political economist and Chairman, Data Analytics for the Congress party

The Survey of 2022-23 is, sadly, more a dry compilation of data to substantiate the government's economic performance, than the ideal space to discuss some of the serious economic issues of the day

divergence among States, steps to improve property tax revenues using satellite technology, new ways to calculate inflation using the Indian thali, estimating internal migration of people and so on. Many of these may not have even been fully fleshed out or well-researched policy ideas, but at least served as an intellectual public good by triggering a debate and forcing policy influencers to think about these issues.

Disappointingly, the Economic Survey of 2022-23 did not provoke any such deliberation or discussion. It is a rather dry compilation of data to substantiate the Narendra Modi government's economic performance. The Economic Survey has 66 tables and 246 charts with cherry-picked data points (e.g. fig. II.8) that seek to portray a stellar image of the government's economic management and blame the previous regime for all ills, which is perhaps an occupational hazard and an inevitability in the current climate of politics and government. But the Survey had some new and interesting data – on the housing market, digital infrastructure, etc. – and putting out such copious amounts of economic data in the public domain in itself is a yeoman service to be appreciated.

Unlike previous years, this year's Survey has only one volume and also a separate 'Highlights' volume that lays out the key messages creatively and simplistically for a larger audience. The broad story is that the Indian economy has recovered from the novel coronavirus pandemic but is still at the mercy of global geo-political developments; and so the Economic Survey has been honestly cautious about future growth and inflation. Unsurprisingly, it has painted a rosy picture of both Good and Services Tax (apparently because it has improved tax buoyancy) and of the corporate tax cuts of 2019 (because it seemingly helped clean up bloated corporate balance sheets). The chapter on the social sector has delved deeper than previous surveys have done into issues of employment, rural wages, demand under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and other important human capital topics supplemented with vast amounts of data. But an analytical discussion on the employment intensity of contemporary economic growth models and ideas to boost job creation is missing.

Instead, the chapter inexplicably concludes that the 'PM's Minimum government Maximum governance vision will hold the key to equitable economic growth', sounding like a Bharatiya Janata Party manifesto.

A mirror of the government's line

The Survey rightly exults over the increase in government capital expenditure from 12% of total expenditure in 2014 to 19% now. With much global uncertainty, tepid corporate investment and precarious asset markets, the emphasis on public capital expenditure to boost the economy is prudent and wise. On private sector investment, it waxes eloquent about manufacturing and Production Linked Incentive schemes with grandiose but unsubstantiated claims of attracting ₹3 lakh crore in capital investment and generating six million new jobs in the next five years.

Like the government of the day, the Economic Survey also suffers from the 'take credit for the rains but blame nature for the drought' malaise when, for all the 'Make in India' hype, manufacturing gross value added (GVA) grew only at 4% (real) even before the pandemic hit, which it blames on corporate 'indigestion' from too much debt accumulated during the previous regime.

Yet, it is neither unreasonable nor unfair to have expected a little more intellectual acuity into some of the pressing economic issues of trade, industrial policy, capital account and inequity that the whole world is ruminating over now. More so because the Chief Economic Adviser is eminently qualified and wise, who would have thought deeply and formed an opinion about the direction that India should take in the current crossroads of economic strategy.

The Economic Survey is really the only medium in the country for a rigorous, thoughtful and nuanced discussion of new economic ideas. Perhaps it was a deliberate and intentional move to stick to data and facts to provide a report card of the government's economic performance, and not a doctoral thesis on the economic road map to prompt discussion in the public sphere, like the previous surveys. Regardless, it is always easier to be a commentator than a player, albeit less fun and impactful.

The Economic Survey that wasn't

Solar energy is not the best option for India

The Hindu's editorial, "Energy conundrum" (December 15, 2022), expressing caution about the country's bubbling enthusiasm in the climate change agenda by going the whole hog on solar energy is timely but spartan, and needs amplification. Apart from the external pressure that is pushing India more and more into the so-called carbon limiting renewable energy path, the Prime Minister's own enthusiasm and support and a simple understanding that solar energy is a free gift from the sun have made identifying what is good for the country difficult. Shorn of misperceptions and ill-conceived pressures, we can conclude that solar energy is not the best option for India and that **we are better off in just relying on large hydro and coal**. Now, what are the misconceptions?

One argument put forth in favour of solar power is that the **levelised cost of power is coming down and is close to that of coal**. There are two flaws here.

The first is the wrong comparison of solar power with coal electricity at the load centre, instead of at the pithed, which costs about half that of the load centre. According to the Central Electricity Authority, which was once the final arbiter in electricity matters, **moving electricity through high voltage wires is cheaper than moving coal** – and that is the reason for starting the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (now NTPC Limited) during K.C. Pant's time.

The second flaw is not comparing like with like. **Solar electricity is intermittent and coal electricity is continuous**. So, you have to add the cost of storage by battery. Protagonists of solar power will want us to add the environmental cost of carbon to coal – for its greenhouse gas

V. Ranganathan
is an energy economist

emissions – but now the carbon market has crashed and is in that state for years; one does not have any objection to add its market price. **The shadow price or true economic value of coal is even lower than its market price**, since the cost of labour in mining carries a shadow price of zero (they being unskilled workers who would be unemployed otherwise).

Coal, solar and some calculations
Some enterprising researchers (E. Somanathan of the ISI *et al.*) have quantified the cost of carbon emission in terms of deaths due to particle (PM_{2.5}) pollution. Implicitly, they agree not to consider the greenhouse gases cost of coal, because it is a global issue, but want to include the particulate emission cost of carbon, which is a local issue. Here, the number of deaths is multiplied by a figure for the value of statistical life, calculated by asking potential victims "how much would you like to pay to avoid an increase in probability by 10% of your death due to pollution?"; they have arrived at a figure of ₹1 crore. The comparable figure in the United States is ₹1.8 crore. To start with, who gets such high compensation anyway? The victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy got a pittance compared to this figure. Taking this value of statistical life, they have added ₹1.64 per kWh of electricity to the carbon cost alone. Taken along with coal to load centre at a price of ₹44 per tonne and capital costs of coal plants at 8 cents to 12 cents per kWh for new power plants with low capacity utilisation factor (which is never the case with coal, as they are operated nearer the base load with high plant load factors), coal-based electricity is categorically made unviable.

Thus, solar energy is made financially viable by misguiding the people by leaving out storage battery cost; handicapping it with subsidies and concessions that are front loaded by the government, and forcing it on the industry and hapless discoms through state policy. That this is thrust down the throats of client discoms and industry is clear from the slow progress so far, the programme missing its target by 40%-50%, and discoms renegeing on their 25-year power purchase agreements, on seeing lower and lower prices in later bids for others.

In support of hydropower
There seems to be competition, egged on by the West, between India and China, as to who does more renewable energy. We can do more renewable energy in large hydro, which is both low carbon and least cost. India has utilised only about 15% of its hydro potential whereas the U.S. and Europe have utilised 90% and 98% of their potential, respectively. The extent of utilisation of hydro potential seems to be an index of civilisational development and evolution. While China relies on renewable energy, it banks more on coal and hydro. The Three Gorges project on the Yangtze is the world's biggest hydro electric project. In India, powerful environmentalists stop large hydro projects in their tracks. One major reason for the sickness in the power sector is due to the focus on renewable energy in a big way. It is a pity that the NTPC which was a model thermal power producer meant to produce coal-based electricity from pithead, is doing unrelated diversification into renewables, which is not its core competence. The only place where solar power is viable in India is its use in water heating, and even that is because of increasing block tariffs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A millet revolution
In a calorie-centric country, where two major cereals form the staple for almost 95% of the population, this is probably the right juncture to tap the benefits offered by millets (Editorial page, "Tasks for India's millet revolution", January 31). A millet consumption revolution has to reach every corner of the country where the emphasis has to be on the Public Distribution System in association with the Food Corporation of India and other allied agencies helping in this mission. People should also commit themselves to millet usage and have at least one meal a day made up of millets.

Satish Reddy Kanaganti, Tippurthi, Nalgonda, Telangana

The 'Feast of millets' hosted

in December 2022 in Parliament House was a welcome sign of a changing attitude towards nutrition. The younger generation must be made aware of the nutritional and therapeutic values of millets.

Varughese C. Thomas, Kuttipuram, Thiruvalla, Kerala

Millets at one point of time were considered to be a tribal food, consumed only by "backward" tribals. But once scientists pointed out the nutritional benefits, they became a "superfood" instantly.

Ananya Dash, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Despite the general success of the Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra, much needs to be done on the political front. Parties, individuals

and forces committed to the values of the Constitution, secularism, 'left of centre' policies and those who feel a revulsion over attempts to mix religion and politics and practise divisive politics, vengeance, violence and hatred have all to be united. Any follow-up version of the yatra has to reach out to local and specific political forces and individuals to accomplish this.

M.V. Sridhara, Mysuru

The Congress's Rahul Gandhi may have completed his 135-day long marathon walk, but the fact is the Congress is being hampered by infighting in almost all States. The party needs to iron out its differences with other political parties ready to join forces with it to win the battle in 2024. It is a daunting proposition but not impossible to achieve.

M. Somasekhar Prasad, Hyderabad

Mr. Gandhi should have had the grace to thank the government for ensuring that his walk ended without any untoward event, especially in Kashmir.

P. Ganeshan, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu

Group and charges
The report of the U.S.-based agency, Hindenburg, on the Indian conglomerate in the news can neither be accepted as the gospel truth nor dismissed as an allegation with an ulterior motive. In parallel, there is also a foreign broadcasting corporation raking up a closed chapter, i.e., the Gujarat riots, despite the

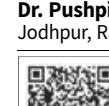
country's leader having been given a clean chit by the highest court. It is difficult to dismiss the impression gaining currency that there could be a hidden agenda behind the BBC documentary and the Hindenburg report. Only a probe by an expert committee under the supervision of the top court can bring out the truth in the Hindenburg report versus the group's dealings. The onus is also on the group to prove the adage, Caesar's wife must be above suspicion.

S. Seshadri, Chennai

Indian hockey
The Indian men's hockey team's early exit from the Hockey World Cup is a rude reality check after the high podium finish at Tokyo

Olympics. Germany, Australia and Belgium employ the services of mental conditioning coaches – of value when a team finds itself in tight situations in knock-out matches. These changes must be incorporated at junior and sub-junior levels since youngsters are more compliant and responsive. Field hockey has become an intensely fast-paced game, and India runs the risk of returning to the days when it vied for the lower ranks in a world tournament.

Dr. Pushpinder S. Khera, Jodhpur, Rajasthan



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

M ND-NDE

The quest for hope in Myanmar

Myanmar today remains pessimistic about its future. Exactly two years ago, the military staged yet another coup, snatching power from the elected leaders. It derailed the limited democracy of the previous decade, violating the 2008 constitution which the generals had given to the people.

The situation today

The period since February 1, 2021 has been a long nightmare. There are three camps now in Myanmar: the military, which wields power in major towns; the opposition named the National Unity Government (NUG) and its partners, which call the shots in the countryside; and the ethnic groups on the geographic periphery, which are divided into those which are pro-military, pro-NUG, or neutral.

Peaceful protests of the early post-coup months gave way to violent resistance, with frequent clashes occurring in many parts from the west to the east and the heartland. Insecurity is widespread. The deep divide is seen in the air force bombing the citizens and the people's militias killing government soldiers and policemen. Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party scored a decisive victory in the 2020 elections, is now 77 and is serving a 33-year-long prison sentence in solitary confinement. The military and the NUG have termed each other as "terrorists", thus ruling out dialogue. Without dialogue and the will to compromise, there can be no reconciliation.

Meanwhile, the economy traverses a difficult terrain, marked by a sharp decline in GDP, and a massive rise in poverty, unemployment and inflation. The currency is in free fall. Myanmar thus finds itself mired in a total impasse today.

Many Burmese people tend to place their hopes on some miraculous assistance from the outside world. Unfortunately, the international community stands



Rajiv Bhatia

is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House and a former Ambassador to Myanmar

The period since the 2021 coup has been a nightmare: society is deeply divided, the economy is in free fall, and Aung San Suu Kyi is serving a long prison term

fractured while coping with the crisis in Myanmar.

To the West, it is a clear-cut case of a repressive and power-hungry army suppressing the people, depriving them of their democratic rights. The western nations react through condemnation at the United Nations, targeted sanctions against the junta, and generous material assistance to the opposition. On December 21, 2022, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2669, expressing deep concern about the situation and urging the release of all political prisoners. It attracted no veto, only abstentions by China, Russia, and India. But even with such rare unity, the UN has failed to move the military, known for its stubbornness and inflexibility.

The UN is supportive of ASEAN, ever keen to play a mediator's role in Myanmar. But the Myanmar government refuses to cooperate with ASEAN. In April 2021, Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing accepted ASEAN's 'Five-Point Consensus' formula as a way out, but later he resiled from it, refusing to make any concessions to the opposition. The ASEAN persists, but only in form. This is because behind its façade of unity lies serious differences between the anti-military group (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei) and the pro-military group (Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia). A near-miracle was expected from the new chair, Indonesia.

However, Jakarta realises its

limitations and believes that the

problem lies within, which

Myanmar's political class itself will

have to resolve.

China and Russia are busy forging close cooperation with the government. China has extensive interests ranging from the strategic to economic domains. It dislikes instability, but has enough partners enabling it to keep consolidating its position.

Shunned by the West due to the

war in Ukraine, Russia has found a

willing partner in Myanmar's

generals who need Russian arms, training and political support. The more the West pressures the junta, the tighter becomes the latter's embrace of Beijing and Moscow.

India's dilemma

As the world's largest democracy, India desires a stable and prosperous Myanmar where democracy flourishes. But realpolitik comes in the way. New Delhi follows the policy of dealing with the government of the day. Hence it does business with the generals, much to the NUG's discomfiture. Besides, India has solid security and economic interests. It needs assistance to tackle the Indian Insurgent Groups sheltered in Myanmar; its mega infrastructure projects aimed at the people's welfare require the authorities' cooperation; and it is resolved to stay in competition with China for influence in Myanmar.

India's Myanmar experts are hardly helping matters by being divided and offering contradictory advice. One group wants the Modi government to stay the course. The other advocates a studied opening towards the NUG and the ethnic groups. This camp even wants India to play a mediator's role in the imbroglio. New Delhi has never attempted this before and is unlikely to consider it now. India's options are limited. It knows that the root causes of the political problem lie in Myanmar's soil. The responsibility for finding a solution, therefore, rests with its leadership.

The big question now is whether the military can hold elections in August. Forget 'free and fair' elections. The sheer logistics of holding elections pose a serious challenge given the opposition's plans to disrupt them. Even if elections are held, they are unlikely to win credibility or legitimacy at home or abroad. If the military defers them indefinitely, it would signal the country's return to square one.

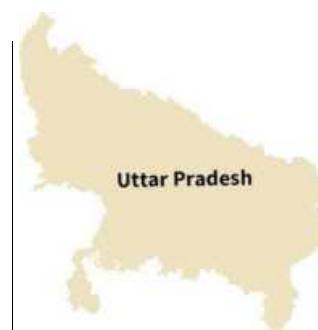
I wish I could spot some light at the end of the tunnel.

A walk that could herald change

Takeaways from the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Uttar Pradesh

STATE OF PLAY

Anuj Kumar
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After spurning the Congress's invite to participate in the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav attended the Bharat Rashtra Samithi's recent show of strength in Telangana indicating that his party is keen on an opposition front without the Congress.

Mr. Yadav's attendance in Khammam district in Telangana came after he said, in response to a question on his participation in the Uttar Pradesh leg of yatra, that the BJP and the Congress are the same, while the SP's ideology is different. Many people felt that it was immature of Mr. Yadav to have shut the door on a yatra that was aimed at uniting people and parties against the BJP. His subsequent letter to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in which Mr. Yadav wrote that he hoped that the yatra would achieve its goal, sounded more like an afterthought and only created ambivalence about the party's next move.

Recently, on a visit to Uttarakhand, the SP president laid out his terms for an alliance. If someone asks him for seats in Uttar Pradesh, he said, he would seek constituencies in Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh. This 'someone' could only be the Congress.

More than ideology, what seems to be playing on Mr. Yadav's mind is the past. He has not forgotten the 2017 Assembly elections when he joined hands with Mr. Gandhi; the result was disastrous. Moreover, regional parties that emerged out of Mandal politics in the cow belt continue to carry an anti-Congress senti-

ment and believe that the Grand Old Party will self-resurrect at their cost.

However, the shift in stance can create more fissures in the SP's alliance with the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) in the state. After the alliance lost Om Prakash Rajbhar to the BJP, it appears that the RLD, which is in an alliance with the Congress in Rajasthan, is negotiating with the national party in U.P. and Haryana too. During the U.P. leg of the yatra, RLD president Chaudhary Jayant Singh chose to be on vacation, but his presence could be felt in the massive show of support by the RLD cadre for Mr. Gandhi. By keeping his options open, Mr. Singh wants to bargain hard for seats with the SP, which he could not do in the Assembly polls.

With the Congress, the RLD could revive its old demand of reservation for Jats in central government jobs in U.P. It could use this as an antidote to the BJP's communal card in the sugar cane belt. A Jat-Muslim-Gurjar combination could then be a decisive factor during elections. It was during the last leg of the Manmohan Singh government that the Jats of U.P. were given reservation, but it was struck down by the Supreme Court after the BJP emerged victorious in 2014.

After the U.P. Assembly polls last year, a section of Muslims felt that they had supported the SP, which tactically remained silent on the com-

munity's issues, and would now like to vote for the Congress during the Lok Sabha polls provided it shows some fighting spirit. At that time, Mr. Gandhi was taking on the Modi government online. Now, he is on the ground talking about opening shops of love and peace in a market of hate. If the Muslim votes shift to the Congress, it could become a headache for the SP.

The Congress kept reminding journalists during the yatra that it is not in U.P. to undercut its ideological partners, but only to focus on pan-Indian issues such as communal discord, unemployment and inflation. Yet, Mr. Gandhi chose to hold a big rally in Panipat, Haryana, which shares its boundaries and demographic profile with West U.P., and discuss reservation for the Other Backward Classes (OBC), which his father did not support in Parliament. With select groups, he talked about the Minimum Support Price and the impact of the Agniveer scheme. It was not just the larger-than-life cut-outs of Mr. Gandhi chewing sugar cane that attracted attention but also the banners that advertised the OBC Morna of the party.

With Yogendra Yadav and Rakesh Tikait joining the yatra in Haryana, the event appeared like a mobile version of the farmers' protests on the Delhi border against the farm laws in 2020-21. And when former State Congress president and grassroots leader Ajay Kumar Lallu said that the ripples of the yatra would be felt in eastern U.P. as well, the political ambition of the yatra could no longer be denied.

However, for now, the yatra can be considered as just one political step in a state which has the highest number of Lok Sabha seats.

Post-COVID, reading ability of students worsened more than math skills

The reading abilities of school students in Gujarat were impacted the most

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese
& Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The Data Point published on January 23 showed that the math skills of rural schoolchildren in the southern and western States were impacted most due to COVID-19. However, further reading of the Annual Status of Education Report (2022), based on which the story was written, shows that the reading abilities of rural schoolchildren were impacted even more than math skills.

In 15 of the 27 States for which relevant data were available, the share of students in Class VIII who could carry out division problems decreased in 2022 compared to 2018. In 19 States, the share of them who could read Standard II-level text decreased in 2022 compared to 2018. Thus, the adverse impact of COVID-19 on reading abilities was seen in more States.

Moreover, the decline in the share of students who could read such texts was steep in most States. Across India, the share of Class VIII students who could read Standard II-level text decreased by 3.5% points in 2022 compared to 2018, whereas those who could solve division problems in fact increased by 0.6% points.

Chart 1 shows the share of Class VIII students who could read Standard II-level text in 2022. Each circle corresponds to a State. The farther a circle to the right, the higher the share of students who could read the text. **Chart 2** shows the same for 2018.

In Gujarat, only 52% of students in Class VIII were able to read Standard II-level text in 2022, the lowest among all the States. In 2022, among the southern States, the share of such students was above the national average only in Kerala, whereas in 2018, the share of such students was higher than the national average in three southern States – Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pra-

adesh and Kerala – as well as in Gujarat. On the other hand, except Jammu and Kashmir, the share of such students was higher than the national average in all the other northern States in both years.

Chart 3 shows the percentage of Class VIII children who were able to read Standard II-level text in 2022 and the change in percentage points from 2018. The States above the zero mark saw an increase in the share of such children. At least one State from the northern, eastern, central and north-eastern regions are part of this group. The States below the zero mark saw a decrease – all the southern and western States are part of this group. This shows that the pandemic had a disproportionately higher adverse impact on the reading abilities of children in the southern and western States.

Moreover, the decline in reading abilities was sharper in the southern and western States. In Gujarat, the share of students who could read Standard II-level text declined by 20.9% points in 2022 compared to 2018. In Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, it declined by more than 10% points. In all the other States where the share decreased, the decline was within 10% points, except Sikkim.

Chart 4 shows the change in the share of Class VIII children who were able to read Standard II-level text in 2022 compared to 2018 (vertical axis). It also shows the change in the share of Class VIII children who were able to solve division problems in 2022 compared to 2018 (horizontal axis). In Gujarat, math skills dipped by 3.8% points, compared to the 20.9% point dip in reading abilities. In all the western and southern States, except Maharashtra, the decline in reading abilities was more than that in math skills. In fact, in Andhra, while the share of students who could perform division increased, the share of those who could read text decreased.

With inputs from Gautam Doshi

The writing is on the wall

The charts are based on data collated from the Annual Status of Education Report (Rural), based on a survey conducted between September and November 2022



Chart 1 | The % of Class VIII students who could read Standard II-level text in 2022. (NE: Northeast)

Chart 2 | The % of Class VIII students who could read Standard II-level text in 2018

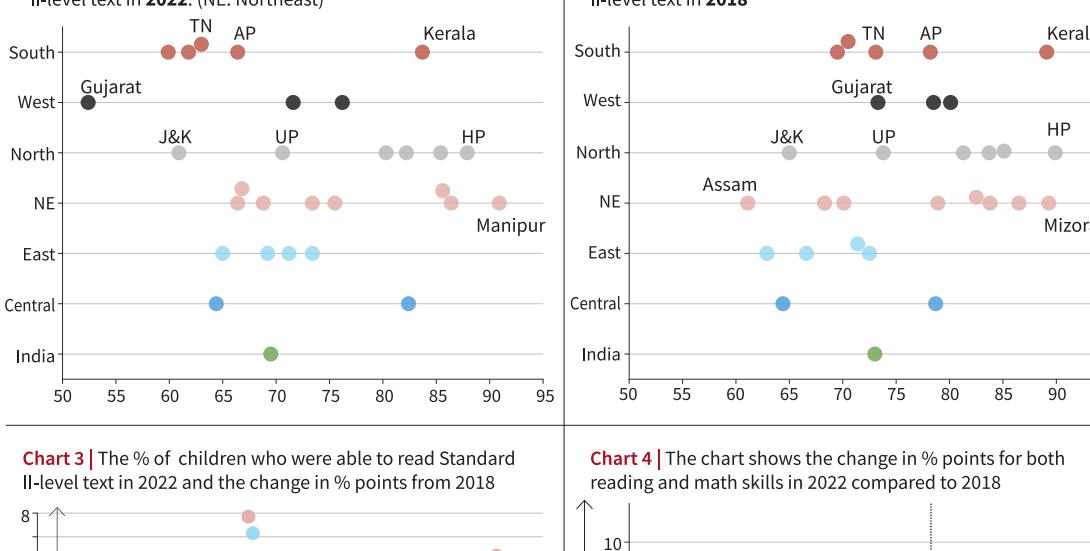


Chart 3 | The % of children who were able to read Standard II-level text in 2022 and the change in % points from 2018

Chart 4 | The chart shows the change in % points for both reading and math skills in 2022 compared to 2018

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 1, 1973

Display of TV set made in Tamil Nadu

Madras, Jan. 31: The first television receiver set, manufactured in Tamil Nadu, was displayed to an audience at a function at the Gymkhana Club yesterday. The set had been produced by BLRS, Madurai, one of the three units in the small-scale sector in Tamil Nadu licensed to manufacture TV sets. The other two units - Krish Electronics and Hi-Beam Electronics of Madras- together with the Madurai unit had formed a consortium under the name, Tristar Electronics, to pool their resources and reap the advantages of bulk purchase and common marketing. Mr. Ramanathan Krishnan, tennis player, Mr. A.N. Srinivasa Rao, a small-scale industrialist and Mr. S. Balu of Madurai, representing the three units, told pressmen that each unit had a capacity of 2,500 sets a year, all to be marketed under the brand name 'Krish TV'. Their total capacity would soon go up to 15,000. The consortium members have individual agreements with the Standard Electronic Research Laboratories (SERL), Bombay, for technical know-how for the manufacture of TV receivers on the basis of the present license. Mr. H.S. Bhatty, Managing Director of SERL, was introduced to pressmen by Mr. M.S. Parthasarathy, President of the Federation of Small Industries in India.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 1, 1923

Indians in Kenya

London, Jan 31: In the course of a leading article the "Times" upholds the right of white settlers in Kenya to insist on the maintenance of order safeguarding their own future and also the future of the colony. It states that there is no desire on the part of the people of the Empire to shirk the implied consequences of the resolution of the Imperial Conference on the subject but it is time that Indians ceased to regard the settlement of Indian subjects within the Empire as a legitimate grievance. The paper declares that the implication is not necessarily one of inferiority but of difference. Concluding, the "Times" says that a satisfactory settlement would seem to imply the granting of Indians adequate representation in the dimension of affairs without holding out the prospect that the future of East Africa will fall under their control.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Sugar production to fall in the 2022-23 marketing year

5 The percentage by which India's sugar production is estimated to fall during the 2022-23 marketing year ending September to 340 lakh tonnes as more quantity of sugarcane juice is being diverted for production of ethanol, according to industry body ISMA. The blending of ethanol with petrol stood at 10% the previous year and is expected to increase to 12% in 2022-23. PTI

Norway's wealth fund records massive losses; cites volatile markets

164 In \$ billion, the loss recorded by Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the largest since its creation, citing volatile markets. The return on investment was -14.1%. Set up in the late 1990s, the Norwegian Government Pension Fund, known as the oil fund, is one of the world's largest investors with shares in more than 9,000 companies in 70 countries. AFP

IMF approves billion-dollar support loan for Bangladesh

4.7 In \$ billion, the support loan package for Bangladesh signed off by the International Monetary Fund to help it cope with soaring energy and food costs that have sparked huge protests. Nationwide blackouts of up to 13 hours a day hit the electricity grid last year and the government extended food relief for households. AFP

Government to privatise a host of other CPSEs

4.07 In ₹ lakh crore, the amount realised as disinvestment proceeds in the past nine years, according to the Economic Survey. In the current fiscal, out of the budgeted amount of ₹65,000 crore, 48% or over ₹31,000 crore has been collected as of January 18. The government is working on privatising other central public sector enterprises. PTI

Demat accounts rise, but incremental additions on a decline

10.6 In crore, the number of demat accounts in November 2022, a sharp rise of 39% on yearly basis, according to the Economic Survey 2022-23. However, the addition of demat accounts have been on a decline during FY23 relative to FY22, because of the increased volatility in the secondary market. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The funding and demand for MGNREGA

How has budget allocation for the rural employment scheme changed over the years? How many people are demanding work under the scheme? Is the guarantee of 100 days of employment being met? What are the other challenges facing the scheme's implementation?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:

The Economic Survey 2022-23 presented on January 31, a day ahead of the Budget, showed that 6.49 crore households demanded work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Of these, 6.48 crore households were offered employment by the government and 5.7 crore actually availed it. The survey credited the scheme on having a positive impact on income per household, agricultural productivity, and production-related expenditure. It added that this helped with "income diversification and infusing resilience into rural livelihoods".

How important is MGNREGA to rural employment?

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was passed in 2005 and aimed at enhancing the livelihood security of households in rural areas. Under it, the MGNREGS is a demand-driven scheme that guarantees 100 days of unskilled work per year for every rural household that wants it, covering all districts in the country except those with a 100% urban population. There are currently 15.51 crore active workers enrolled under the scheme. The types of projects undertaken for employment generation under MGNREGA include those related to water conservation, land development, construction, agriculture and allied works.

Under the scheme, if work is not provided within 15 days from when it is demanded, the worker has to be given a daily unemployment allowance. Additionally, the wages of unskilled workers also have to be paid within 15 days and in case of a delay, the Centre has to compensate them. Beyond being a form of insurance or safety net for the country's poorest rural households, the scheme proved to be beneficial not just for rural workers but migrant labourers as well especially during the COVID-19 pandemic which saw large-scale reverse migration.

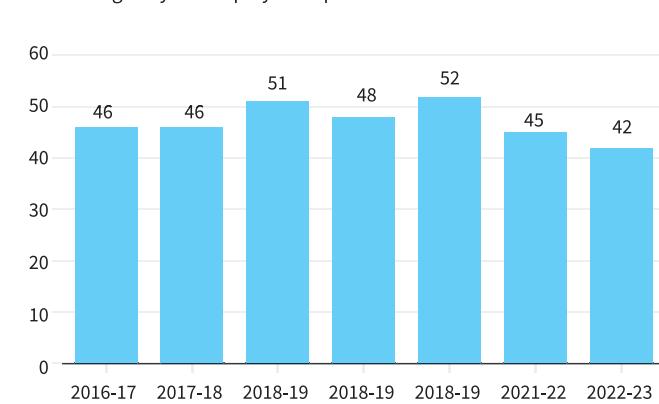
During the first COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, when the scheme was ramped up, and given its highest-ever budget of ₹1.11 lakh crore, it provided a critical lifeline for a record 11 crore workers. Studies gave empirical evidence that wages earned under MGNREGA helped compensate somewhat between 20% to 80% of the income loss incurred because of the lockdown. This is reflected in the fact that the demand for work under MGNREGA spiked to record-high levels during the pandemic years. About 8.55 crore households demanded MGNREGA work in 2020-21, followed by 8.05 crore in 2021-22, compared to a total of 6.16 crore households asking for work in the pre-pandemic year 2019-20.

While Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session in December 2022 that the demand for jobs under MGNREGA has been declining in the recent past, the new economic survey data revealed that as of January 24 this year, 6.49 crore households had already demanded work under the scheme with two more months till the financial year ends. Notably, this demand-side figure is still larger than pre-pandemic levels, which indicates that despite the lifting of pandemic curbs and changes in migration trends, rural households are still demanding work under the scheme. Besides, the pandemic-induced demand surge notwithstanding, the Ministry of Rural Development informed Parliament in August last year work that demand under

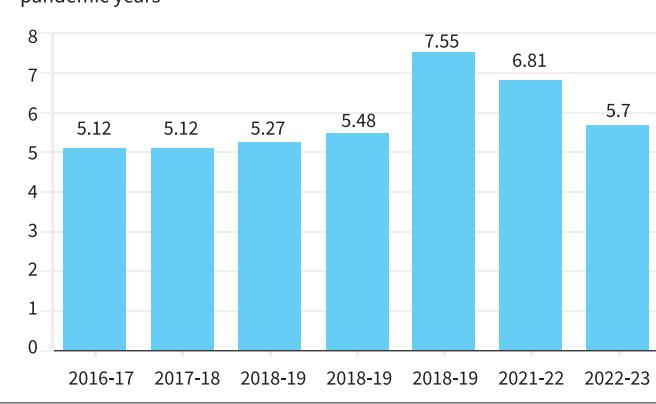
A truly demand driven scheme

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a demand-driven scheme that guarantees 100 days of unskilled work per year for every rural household that wants to avail it, covering all districts in the country except those with a 100% urban population

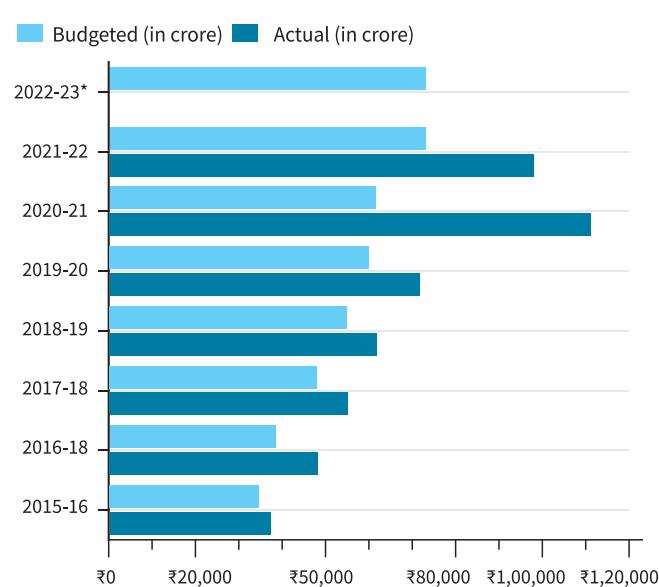
The average days of employment per household under the scheme



The number of households in crore which availed (not just demanded) work under the scheme. The number increased significantly during the pandemic years



The budget allocation for the scheme. The allocated amount has exceeded budgeted amounts across the years pointing to greater demand



MGNREGS has doubled in the last seven years, that is, 3.07 crore households demanded work in May 2022 compared to 1.64 in the same month in 2015.

How has the Centre's allocation for MGNREGS changed over the years?

Budgetary allocations to the flagship scheme have increased successively since 2013 from ₹32,992 crore in the 2013-14 Union Budget to ₹73,000 crore in 2021-22. However, in recent years, the actual expenditure on the scheme has successively been higher than the amount allocated to it at the budget stage. For instance, in 2021-22, while ₹73,000 crore was allocated to MGNREGS, supplementary allocations made later pushed up the revised estimates to ₹98,000 crore, as funds had run out in the middle of the year. Even so, the Central government once again allocated ₹73,000 crore (25% lower than the previous year's revised estimate) for the scheme in budget 2022-23, then seeking an additional ₹45,000 crore as supplementary grants in the Winter Session in December.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development last year questioned the rationale behind the Centre's budgetary allocations to MGNREGA. Pointing out that despite the total expenditure on the scheme in 2020-21 being around ₹1,11,170.86 crore, the panel found it "perplexing" that the budget estimate (BE) for 2021-22 was just ₹73,000 crore. It also flagged the substantial hike in allocation at the revised estimates stage in order to augment the initial sum each year. Advocacy group NREGA Sangharsh Morcha noted

that "every year, about 80-90% of the budget gets exhausted within the first six months", leading to a slowdown of work on the ground and a delay in wage payments to workers.

What are the challenges to its implementation?

While the scheme guarantees 100 days of employment per household per year, an analysis by PRS Legislative Research shows that since 2016-17, on average, less than 10% of the households completed 100 days of wage employment. Besides, the average days of employment provided per household under the MGNREGS fell to a five-year low this financial year. As of January 20 this year, the average days of employment provided per household is just 42 days, while it was 50 days in 2021-22, 52 days in 2020-21, 48 days in 2019-20 and 51 days in 2018-19. While a full 100 days of employment has not been provided per year, the Parliament Committee and activist groups have strongly recommended an increase in the number of guaranteed days of work per household from 100 to 150 so that rural populations have a safety net for a longer period in the year.

Notably, Peoples' Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG) and the NREGA Sangharsh Morcha said in a joint statement on Tuesday, that if the government intends to provide legally guaranteed 100 days of work per household for at least those that worked in the scheme in the current financial year, that minimum budget for it in the upcoming financial year 2023-24 should be at least ₹2.72 lakh crore.

Another issue that continues to hamper

THE GIST

The Economic Survey 2022-23 showed that 6.49 crore households demanded work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The survey credited the scheme on having a positive impact on income per household, agricultural productivity, and production-related expenditure.

During the first COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, when the scheme was given its highest-ever budget of ₹1.11 lakh crore, it provided a critical lifeline for a record 11 crore workers. This is reflected in the fact that the demand for work under MGNREGA spiked to record-high levels during the pandemic years. About 8.55 crore households demanded MGNREGA work in 2020-21.

While the scheme guarantees 100 days of employment per household per year, an analysis by PRS Legislative Research shows that since 2016-17, on average, less than 10% of the households completed 100 days of wage employment. Another issue that continues to hamper the scheme's proper implementation is the delay in wage payments.

the scheme's proper implementation is the delay in wage payments. As per data released by the Centre, it owed ₹4,700 crore in MGNREGA wages to 18 States as of December 14, 2022, when just three months remained for the financial year to end. Notably, in 2016, the Supreme Court of India directed the government to ensure that wages were paid on time, calling the act of making workers wait for wages for months equal to "forced labour". Additionally, as of December 14, the government also owed ₹5,450 crore worth of material costs (for MGNREGA projects) to 19 States. Furthermore, the delay in material costs, has a domino impact on the MGNREGA work, since a delay in payment breaks the supply chain. Because of the prolonged delays in payments, vendors are reluctant to supply materials for any new work. Another concern pointed out by a panel of the Rural Development Ministry is that the minimum wage rate under MGNREGS is fixed by the Centre on the basis of the Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers. It noted that the type of work done by agricultural labourers and MGNREGS workers was different, suggesting that minimum wage be decided vis-à-vis the Consumer Price Index-Rural, which it said was more recent and provided for higher expenditure on education and medical care.

Fake job cards, widespread corruption, late uploading of muster rolls, and inconsistent payment of unemployment allowance are some of the other issues hampering the implementation of MGNREGA, the Parliamentary Committee pointed out last year.

KEYWORD



ISTOCKPHOTO

Alienation: the separation of labour from the product, process, humanity, society

Some would say that the concept of alienation, as envisaged by Karl Marx, has fallen out of fashion in social and political philosophy. Yet others continue to use it to understand, debate and critique society from a contemporary viewpoint

Radhika Santhanam

The idea of 'alienation' by Karl Marx is one of the most widely discussed concepts in social, political and economic theory. It is an idea that a young Marx developed out of his study of Friedrich Hegel. Marx first explained the concept of alienation in *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts* and later elaborated on it in his seminal work, *Capital*.

According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, alienation refers to a person's "withdrawal or separation from an object or position of former attachment" or, in the case of property, "a conveyance of property to another." In Marxist understanding, alienation refers to a feeling of separation from one's own labour and the loss of power over it.

Forms of alienation

Marx discussed four forms of alienation. Let us use the example of workers at an iPhone factory to explain each of these forms.

Workers in such factories work long hours to produce high-end, expensive phones, which they can by no means afford, and over which they have no ownership or control. The phones are created for the capitalist, and are merely produced for exchange value. Thus, the first form of alienation is what Marx calls the alienation from the product of labour. As the product is immediately possessed and controlled by someone else, it assumes a power of its own. In modern times, where manufacturing is highly specialised and segmented, workers are often not even aware of what they are producing, since the production process is highly segmented.

The second is what he calls alienation from the process of labour. Workers in iPhone factories reportedly work long hours, in poor conditions and for low wages. They perform repetitive tasks. The more the workers produce, the more productive power there is for someone else to own and control. Where does all the work go? While the work sustains the worker, a lot of it goes into reproducing the means of production, on behalf of the

owners and their power.

In the process, Marx argued, workers become miserable. He wrote: "The worker becomes an ever-cheaper commodity the more goods he creates. He does not develop freely his mental and physical energies but is physically exhausted and mentally debased. The worker, therefore, feels himself at home only during his leisure time, whereas at work he feels homeless. His work is not voluntary but imposed, forced labour." Thus, the third form is alienation from humanity.

Individuals perform these mundane tasks and act less and less like human beings, and more and more like machines. As illustrated in an article in *The Guardian*, a worker at an iPhone factory said that 1,700 iPhones passed through her hands every day; she was in charge of wiping a special polish on the display. In such a scenario, according to Marx, man loses what he calls "species-being," or what makes man human and different from other species through his productive activity. Workers also slowly start becoming competitive as they do not want to lose their jobs. The job is so arduous that they live away from their families as they are not able to find other, better-paying jobs.

While iPhones are produced at different factories in China nowadays, for a long time, they were largely assembled at Foxconn's 1.4 square-mile flagship plant just outside Shenzhen. The sprawling premises, according to *The Guardian* article, alone housed some 4,50,000 workers. In 2010, reports emerged that many of the workers died by suicide and had attempted suicide due to the brutal working conditions. A CBS news report said of one of the workers Yu: "Her roommates also were from different parts of China, so there were significant linguistic barriers. Those might have been overcome with time – except there was no time. The factory was, she said, a massive place of strangers." This illustrates Marx's fourth form of alienation: alienation from society.

In this manner, the process of alienation of workers – from the product, the process, from themselves and their

abilities, and from others – is complete.

Other perspectives on alienation

Other writers have interpreted alienation in a more social-psychological sense to mean powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, self-estrangement and social isolation (Krahn and Lowe). There may be various causes for these forms of alienation such as bureaucracy and organisational structures, lack of ownership, social disorganisation or poor management, or technology. Most of these approaches refer to alienation as a loss of control, the lack of meaning, and the difficulty of self-expression in work.

Some authors consider assembly-line workers to have the greatest sense of alienation, with workers such as physicians, teachers, or other professionals feeling least alienated. "Alienation is likely to be lowest in organisational setting where members have control, meaning, and opportunities for self-fulfilment in their roles." (Hagedorn). This latter use of alienation is somewhat different than that of Marx, in that the solution to this form of alienation is to make work more meaningful. This is a more reformist view, whereas Marx considered it necessary to abolish private property and change social and economic structures.

Alienation is also used sometimes in a political sense with alienation of the electorate being the reason for disaffection with political parties or policies.

Criticisms

There have been many criticisms of Marx's idea of alienation. First, later thinkers have said that Marx's explanation was not worked out in terms of its implications and how it might be eliminated. The solution of communism has not occurred, and does not seem a likely prospect in the near future.

Second, while Marx's approach to the study of alienation helps us understand the labour market as well as its living and working conditions, all of these have changed considerably since his time. Today, there are labour laws in place everywhere. While one could argue that

the Foxconn example is from today's times, it can equally be argued that it was because of the backlash that the company was forced to respond saying it would replace some of the jobs with robots. Also, the poor conditions are felt by some workers, not all. As there is greater division of labour, the effects of labour are faced differently by different segments and is dependent on the countries they live in.

Third, another common criticism of Marxism is that it focuses solely on class, ignoring other forms of segregation. Marx saw the roots of alienation only in exchange of labour and private property. But similar feelings of alienation may be related to ethnicity or race (say, if Black people are not hired), region (people from Western Canada often say that they have been excluded from mainstream politics), caste (upper castes are reportedly preferred in some roles in private companies) and gender (women have often reported that they have not received promotions and wages the way men do) that are not directly tied to production. Social relations, and not just working conditions, too can lead to alienation.

Fourth, since the term alienation is so popular, it is loaded with meaning and is often used in subjective experiences of estrangement. This, Ricoeur (1968) argued, dilutes its scientific and analytical potential. Fifth, it is criticised (by Althusser, for example, in 2005) for its essentialism. Can man be his true, authentic self without, or independent of, his relationships with others, as Marx argued? Later theorists say this is unlikely. Althusser also argued that Marx's earlier texts were different epistemologically from his later texts. He and later theorists also said Marx's idea of alienation is underdeveloped and tentative. Sixth, it suffers from the danger of paternalism. It assumes that there is a human good that may overrule people's own experiences and desires (Jaeggi, 2014). The topic of alienation, it is often said, has fallen out of fashion in social and political philosophy. But yet others continue to understand, debate and critique it from a contemporary viewpoint.

THE DAILY QUIZ

The Union Budget is presented on February 1, so that it could be materialised before the beginning of the new financial year. Here is a quiz on the budget

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
Morarji Desai has presented the highest number of budgets. How many? After Desai's resignation, the then Prime Minister of India took over the Ministry of Finance. This person broke the glass ceiling by achieving a feat. Name the Prime Minister and the achievement.

QUESTION 2
He was an Indian civil servant who played a major role in issues related to internal and national security in the first years after independence. He served as the Finance Minister from 1977 to 1979. He presented the shortest budget speech for the interim budget of 1977. Identify the Minister.

QUESTION 3
Until 1999, the Budget was presented at a different time. When was it? Which Finance

Minister first changed this tradition by presenting it at 11 am?

QUESTION 4

This budget was presented every year a few days before the Union Budget, till 2016. The Modi government on September 21, 2016, approved the merger of this budget and general budgets for next year, ending a 92-year-old practice. Which budget was this? Who presented this budget for the last time?

QUESTION 5

The printing of budget documents start roughly one week ahead of presenting in Parliament with another customary ceremony. What is the ceremony called?

QUESTION 6

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman broke the tradition of Babi-Khata (a ledger wrapped in red cloth). The Minister replaced this tradition with what move in 2021?



Visual question:

Identify this person. What is he remembered for?

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

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This black comedy thriller directed by this individual went on to win both the Palme d'Or and the Academy award for Best Picture. **Ans: Parasite; Bong Joon Ho**

2. What is the Gunpowder plot? **Ans: It was a plot to blow up Parliament and the king over his refusal to grant more religious toleration to Catholics.**

3. This internationally renowned soft-drink brand began operating in India in 1956. **Ans: Coca-Cola**

4. In 1999, India and Pakistan played a Test match in this venue which ultimately resulted in heartbreak for the former. The match is remembered for Sachin Tendulkar's magnificent 136. **Ans: MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai**

5. This actress made her debut in a Mani Ratnam film and has acted in two Telugu movies –

Premante Idera and *Raja Kumarudu*. **Ans: Preity Zinta**

Visual: This iconic garden was recently rechristened.

Ans: Mughal Gardens renamed to Amrit Udayan

Early Birds: C. Saravanan| Bhanu Priya Ashok|



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Mr. B. Abdul Salam of Payangadi, Kerala, wants to know the difference between 'demolish' and 'destroy'."

"When you demolish something, you tear it down. You demolish something solid."

The house was demolished last week.

Demolition is a deliberate human act. Destruction can be either human or non-human.

He set fire to the house and destroyed it.

The recent floods in A.P. destroyed a number of villages.

Both 'destroy' and 'demolish' can be used figuratively. 'She demolished his arguments' means 'She defeated him in his arguments'. It is also used informally to mean 'to eat up, gobble up, devour'.

He was very hungry. He demolished a plate of idlis.

When you demolish something, you reduce it to ruins.

His theory was demolished by the expert.

His hopes were destroyed.

Don't destroy the letters.

Demolition is opposed to construction; destruction to creation."

"Several readers want to know whether it is correct to use the word 'ton' for a century in cricket."

"It is correct. 'Ton' has several meanings. When it is used in the plural it means 'a great quantity'.

He has tons of money.

It also means 'a great weight'.

The suitcase weighs a ton.

Other meanings are: £100, 100 mph, a century in cricket.

Timely ton by Kapil.

'Ton-up boys' are motorcyclists who drive at great speed.

He was caught by the police when he was doing a ton on his motorcycle.

"Mr. K. Rama Rao Bhonsle of Bangalore wants to know the pronunciation of 'protege'."

"The 'o' in the word is pronounced like the 'o' in 'got'. Some pronounce it like the 'o' in 'boat', 'bone' and 'tone'. This is also acceptable. The first 'e' is pronounced like the 'e' in 'set' and 'bet'. The final 'e' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'fate' and 'late'. The 'g' in the word is pronounced like the 's' in 'measure' and 'pleasure'. 'Protege' means 'a person to whom another gives protection and help'. He is patronised by another."

You don't have to worry about Krishna. He is the protege of a Central Minister.

Word of the day

Attrition:

erosion by friction; the wearing down of rock particles by friction due to water, wind or ice; sorrow for sin arising from fear of damnation; a wearing down to weaken or destroy; the act of rubbing together; wearing something down by friction

Synonyms:

detrition, abrasion, corrosion, contrition

Usage:

The recent pushback makes it seem that this will not just be a war of attrition.

Pronunciation:

bit.ly/attritionpro

International Phonetic Alphabet:

/ə'trɪʃn/

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

From Page One

Economy to grow 6.5% in 2023-24, says Survey

Monetary and fiscal authorities will need to stay proactive and vigilant on inflation as well as the worsening current account deficit front, the Survey noted, flagging multiple risks for the latter, including slowing exports, a rising import bill due to strong domestic demand and commodity prices still being above pre-conflict levels, referring to the Russia-Ukraine war.

"Should the current account deficit widen further, the currency may come under depreciation pressure," it said. Entrenched inflation may prolong the monetary tightening cycle and keep borrowing costs "higher for longer", the Survey admitted, but even a low global growth scenario will present two silver linings for India - low oil prices and a better current account deficit situation. "Noting that 'successive shocks' over recent years, such as the ILFS collapse, the COVID-19 pandemic and the supply chain shocks in 2022, have led to a lag in the growth effects of sweeping reforms across multiple dimensions carried out between 2014 and 2022," the CEA said.

He compared this to the lag effects seen on growth post-2003, from reforms carried out by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government between 1998 and 2002.

Stressing that India is prepared to "grow at its potential once the one-off shocks recede", the Survey said that the financial cycle was poised to turn upward after a long period of balance sheet repair in the financial and corporate sector.

Over the medium term, the Survey suggests that the growth rate could be around 6.5%, with a potential to go up to 7% and 8%, subject to macroeconomic stabilisation, restoring fiscal consolidation and continuing the thrust on infrastructure building as well as reforms such as encouraging women's employment and dismantling what Mr. Nageswaran termed 'LIC (License, Inspection and Compliance)' regimes across Central, State and local government levels.

"...Even without export growth kicking in, we can strive for and be able to achieve 8% growth, if on top of the reforms already done, several other additional dimensions are addressed as well. But the reason we shouldn't be looking at 8% or 9% growth at this point is the difference from the first decade of the millennium, when the global economy was booming. Now it is not, in spite of the aggressive unconventional monetary easing in the developed world," the CEA pointed out.

To a query on whether the reforms and "successive shocks" to the economy referred to by the Survey, included the impact of demonetisation on the informal sector in November 2016, he said there were academic studies that showed that the impact of the note ban, if any, was 'fleeting'.

₹1.56 lakh cr. GST mop-up in January

Between April 2022 and January 2023, GST revenues are 24% higher than a year ago, with goods imports yielding 29% more GST revenue and domestic transactions (including import of services) rising 22%. "This is for the third time in the current financial year, GST collection has crossed the ₹1.50 lakh crore mark," the Finance Ministry said, adding that e-way bills generated during December 2022, to which January's revenues pertained, hit a record 8.3 crore.

The Ministry said the higher numbers were due to "various policy changes introduced during the course of the year to improve compliance", noting that the number of people filing GST returns has improved significantly over the years.

"In the quarter October-December 2022, total 2.42 crore GST returns were filed till end of next month as compared to 2.19 crore in the same quarter in the last year," it said.

Gross GST revenues collected in January till 5 p.m. on Tuesday stood at ₹1,55,922 crore, of which Central GST (CGST) accounted for ₹28,963 crore, State GST (SGST) for ₹36,730 crore, and Integrated GST of ₹79,599 crore (including ₹37,118 crore collected on import of goods). GST Compensation Cess yielded ₹10,630 crore, including ₹768 crore on import of goods.

"The Government has settled ₹38,507 crore to CGST and ₹32,624 crore to SGST from the Integrated GST as regular settlement. The total revenue of Centre and the States in January after regular settlement is ₹67,470 crore for CGST and ₹69,354 crore for the SGST," the Ministry said.

14 killed in fire at building in Jharkhand

The deceased are 10 women, three children and a man who had gathered to attend a wedding. Dhanbad Deputy Commissioner Sandeep Singh said the rescue operation was going on.

An eyewitness, Poonam Devi, told presspersons, "We had come to the marriage ceremony of one of our relatives and suddenly there was commotion that fire has broken out in the building. When we tried to go outside, there was smoke all around but someone dragged us out and we were rescued". She had come from Patna to attend the wedding of a relative.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren expressed grief over the incident. "The loss of lives in the fire is deeply saddening. All efforts are being taken to provide immediate medical support to those injured," he said in a tweet.

Several State BJP leaders too expressed their grief over the incident.

Be secular, SC on plea on party names with overtones of faith

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would consider sending to a Constitution Bench a petition seeking the cancellation of names and symbols of political parties which have religious connotations.

The court cautioned the petitioner, a former Uttar Pradesh Shia Waqf Board chairman who converted to Hinduism, to be "secular" and not target a particular minority community. "Do not select a particular religion," Justice M.R. Shah addressed senior advocate Gaurav Bhatia, who was appearing for the petitioner.

Questions about the "secularity" of the petition filed by Wasim Ahmed Rizvi cropped up during the court hearing after the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and the Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) objected that he had

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will consider sending the petition to a Constitution Bench

only listed their names in his petition as parties with religious connotations.

Appearing before a Bench, senior advocate Dushyant Dave and advocate Haris Beeran, for the IUML, asked why parties such as the Shiv Sena, the Hindu Jagran Manch and the Shiromani Akali Dal were not named in the petition. "Don't go against a particular community... You (petitioner) are highlighting only the Muslim parties," Mr. Dave said.

The Election Commission (EC), in an earlier affidavit, did not agree with the plea to cancel the symbols allotted to political parties with religious connotations. It said such a move would be "legally untenable".

Mr. Mehta said the Bill presented a "comprehensive legal framework for digital data protection in India". He said the government "intended" to intro-

duce the Bill in Parliament in the second half from February 13. He argued that any assistance given to the court now before the Bill matured into an Act in Parliament would be "speculative" and "academic".

"But your submissions only suggest an anticipated collision... The Bill is yet to be introduced in Parliament," Justice Aniruddha Bose observed orally.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for WhatsApp, said a nine-judge Bench of the Supreme Court in the K.S. Puttaswamy



QQ The Bill presents a comprehensive legal framework for digital data protection in India... any action now will be speculative, academic

TUSHAR MEHTA

Solicitor-General

Divan, appearing for the petitioners, submitted that the introduction of a Bill itself should not defer the taking up of this case. He said the petitions seek the direction that personal data cannot be shared with the Facebook group of companies.

"We seek a declaration to that effect. We want an opt-out option and there should be a meaningful option. That option is not available to Indian users. There is a public interest element to this," Mr. Divan said.

The apex court was hearing the plea filed by two students, Karmanya Singh Sareen and Shreya Sethi, challenging the contract entered into between the two companies to provide access to calls, photographs, texts, videos and documents shared by users as a violation of their privacy and free speech.

Don't take up Data Bill till House debates it: Centre

Supreme Court says it would examine if it should wait for Parliament's decision or hear pleas; new online Data Protection Bill is scheduled to be introduced in the second half of the Budget Session

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would examine whether it should wait for Parliament's decision on a new online Data Protection Bill scheduled to be introduced in the second half of the Budget Session or go ahead and hear a bunch of petitions challenging WhatsApp's policy to share users' data with Facebook group of companies.

Appearing before a Constitution Bench led by Justice K.M. Joseph, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said the court should not allow any discussion on the Bill until Parliament first debates it.

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duce the Bill in Parliament in the second half from February 13. He argued that any assistance given to the court now before the Bill matured into an Act in Parliament would be "speculative" and "academic".

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my verdict has said it would be better for the court to deal with a problem after Parliament formulated the law especially when non-state actors were involved.

Mr. Mehta asked whether it would be justified in the court "pre-empting" parliamentary debates on the Bill.

"Are you saying that we cannot even look at the Bill? It becomes the property of Parliament only after it is introduced there," Justice Bose said.

Senior advocate Shyam

Collegium recommends two more new judges for Supreme Court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The five-member Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, on Tuesday recommended to the government the names of Rajesh Bindal and Aravind Kumar, Chief Justices of the Allahabad and Gujarat High Courts, respectively, for appointment as judges in the top court.

The court has seven vacancies now. It has a sanctioned judicial strength of 34. The collegium's December 13 recommendation on Justices Pankaj Mital, Sanjay Karol, P.V. Sanjay Kumar and Ahsanuddin Amanullah is still pending with the government.

"Where are the judges... let us wait for some more judges," Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud was heard telling a lawyer who had



Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Aravind Kumar

sought an early hearing of his case during the mentioning hour on Tuesday.

In its four-page resolution, the collegium has given no room for the government to tinker with seniority among the seven judges by bifurcating their names or by appointing one over the other.

December resolution "The names recommended earlier by the collegium by its resolution dated De-

ember 13, 2022 shall have precedence over the two names [Justices Bindal and Kumar] recommended presently for appointment to the Supreme Court. Therefore, the appointments of five judges recommended on December 13, 2022 should be notified separately and earlier in point of time before the two judges recommended by this resolution," the five-member collegium said categorically.

While the resolution of the collegium with regard to the appointment of Justice Bindal was "unanimous", Justice Joseph was of the opinion that Justice Aravind Kumar could be considered at a later stage.

On the choice of Justice Bindal, the collegium reasoned that he was number two in the all-India seniority of High Court judges and was the senior-most judge from the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

"While recommending his name, the collegium has taken into consideration the fact that the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which is one of the largest High Courts with a sanctioned strength of 85 judges, is not adequately represented on the Bench of the Supreme Court. The High Court of Punjab and Haryana is a common High Court for two States," the collegium noted.

EPFO circular soon on procedures for using higher pension option

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is likely to publish a circular soon on the procedures for exercising option for higher pension as part of implementing the November 4 order of the Supreme Court on the matter.

The EPFO's website will also have a window for its members to upload the joint option with employers. Considering a recent verdict of the Madras High Court, the subscribers can also submit the joint options offline too.

Sources in the EPFO told *The Hindu* that existing employees who are members of the Employees' Pension Scheme and those who retired after September 1, 2014 and not submitted joint option under paragraph 11(3) of the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) will impact thousands of pensioners.

Countering this, an official said only a verification process will make it clear about the number of pensioners who would be affected by the decision.

The EPFO may also

SC had given four months' time to eligible employees to submit options for higher pension

Pensioners' organisations had alleged that the EPFO's decision to recover higher pension from those employees who had retired before September 1, 2014 and not submitted joint option under paragraph 11(3) of the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) will impact thousands of pensioners.

Countering this, an official said only a verification process will make it clear about the number of pensioners who would be affected by the decision.

The EPFO may also

DMK, CPI(M) demand withdrawal of circulars on higher pension

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The DMK and the CPI(M) have demanded the withdrawal of two circulars issued by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in late December and January on the issue of payments of higher pensions.

M. Shanmugam, DMK MP and general secretary of the Labour Progressive Federation (LPF), told *The Hindu* that the circulars had only "created confusion" among workers as they were "drafted in haste" and did not provide any details regarding benefits that a pensioner would get. "They have also not made it clear whether one will get a higher pension or not," he said.

Contending that the circulars had reflected an "antagonistic attitude" of the PF authorities towards labour welfare, Mr. Shanmugam, also the secretary of the PF Employees' Union in Chennai, argued that the talk of recovery, as

mentioned in the second circular, appeared to send out a message to pensioners that the authorities were "out to penalise them" for having approached the courts.

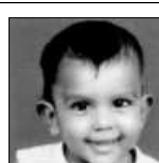
He urged the Centre to call all trade unions for a discussion on the matter before framing any scheme for the implementation of the judgement.

In a letter written a few days ago to Union Minister for Labour Bhupender Yadav, CPI(M) MP John Brittas confined himself to the second circular of the EPFO which, he held, was "formulated on fallacious grounds and distorted interpretation" of the order.

The position, as spelt out in the order, was that the court had neither commanded stoppage of the payment of higher pensions to the pre-2014 retirees nor had it permitted recovery. The move to reopen cases of the already-sanctioned higher pension "would obviously result in the defiance of the laws of limitation," he said.

SC to hear in March pleas on electoral bond scheme

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would start hearing from the third week of March petitions challenging the constitutionality of the electoral bonds scheme. A Bench separated the challenge to the scheme from other petitions seeking a direction to bring political parties within the ambit of the Right to Information Act and those questioning the legality of amendments in the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). The court said it would fix the other petitions in April.



APPEAL
Aari Ravish, is 1 year suffering from Gaucher Disease. His family is extremely poor and cannot afford the huge expenditure of Rs 16,00,000/- to undergo Allogeneic Bone Marrow Transplantation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital, Madurai. He needs your blessings and support.

Amounts sent through Ch/D/NET Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60162010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) are exempted under IT section 56(2)(b). All correspondence do through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. G/F, 1 Cordele Apartments, O.N.R. 13, N.O. 29, Pyrora, Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. E. Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com. Website: [www.welfaresyndicate.org](http://www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org).

Congress questions growth claims in Survey

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday reacted to the Economic Survey for 2023 and asserted that "bluster and lofty" words would not make an "unwell economy well".

In a statement, Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh questioned even the revised growth claims for 2023-24 by citing the gap between estimates and the actual growth figures of the past.

Mr. Vallabh said that the Economic Survey of 2022 predicted a GDP growth rate of 8.8.5% for year 2022-23. But the actual figure was around 7%.

With the Survey predicting a growth rate between 6% and 6.8%, the actual growth rate could be 5.44%, he said. "So, 6.1% GDP growth is the new normal. At this growth, we will achieve GDP of \$5 Trillion by 2029," Mr. Vallabh said.

In a series of tweets, Randeep Singh Surjewala said the four drivers of the economy – consumption, exports, manufacturing and private investment – remain largely unaddressed in the Survey.

Decisive government working with lofty ambitions: President

Murmu touches upon multiple government schemes, says the programmes were conceived taking all sections of society together; she lauds various steps by the government such as the dilution of Article 370 to crackdown on terrorism.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu said here on Tuesday that the "biggest change" in the nine years since a government led by Narendra Modi assumed office at the Centre in 2014 was that "every Indian's confidence is at its peak and the world's outlook towards India has changed".

In her maiden address to the joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament, Ms. Murmu said "India has a government which is stable, fearless, decisive and working with lofty ambitions", a "government which respects the honest", and works with speed and scale.

"Through this session, I express my gratitude to the people of the country for electing a stable government for two consecutive terms. My decisive government has always kept the country's interest paramount and shown the will-power to completely trans-



Cutting a path: President Droupadi Murmu, with Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, arrives in Parliament on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

form the policies and strategies when required. From surgical strike to a firm crackdown on terrorism, from a befitting response to every misadventure from LoC to LAC, from abrogation of Article 370 to triple talaq, my government has been recognised as a decisive government," she said.

Ms. Murmu went into the details of government

programmes, saying they were conceived by taking all sections of society together. From the government's flagship *Har Ghar Jal* (tap water connections to all households) to the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (income support programme for farmers) to India assuming the G-20 Presidency this year, President Murmu spoke in detail on all.

"My government has chosen the path of consolidating heritage and giving priority to development. On one side, Ayodhya Dham is being developed and on the other side, a modern Parliament is being constructed. While the redevelopment of Kedarnath Dham and the development of the Kashi Vishwanath Dham corridor and Mahakal Project are

completed, simultaneously medical colleges are being made in every district," President Murmu said.

A significant part of her speech was dedicated to government policies related to women's empowerment. Quoting Kuntala Kumari Sabat, an Odia poet, President Murmu said that in *Utkal Bharti*, the poet declared about 100 years ago that the woman of the country was not inferior to anybody.

"Women's empowerment has been at the core of all schemes introduced by my government. Today, we are seeing the success of *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*," she said.

The Bharata Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) boycotted the address, though Congress parliamentary leader Sonia Gandhi was in attendance. BRS leader Keshava Rao said the boycott was to "bring attention" to a "democratic protest" against the "failures of the Narendra Modi government".

He cited "credible voic-

PM says 'credible voices' from 'the world of economy' had brought positive thoughts ahead of the session

es" from "the world of economy", and said that these had brought positive thoughts ahead of the session. He was perhaps referring to a tweet by Gita Gopinath, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund, on Tuesday morning, with data showing that India would remain the world's fastest growing large economy in 2023 and 2024.

Matter of pride
He said that President Murmu's maiden address to the joint sitting was a matter of pride with respect to the Constitution and for women's empowerment that a daughter of India's tribal community was taking her place at the top.

Another strike with regard to women's empowerment was that Ms. Sitharaman would be presenting the Budget again on Wednesday, he said.

'Out-of-pocket health spending still high, despite govt. chipping in'

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

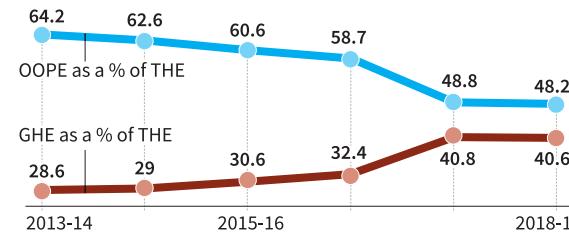
Almost half of all health spending in India is still paid by patients themselves directly at the point of treatment, though out-of-pocket expenditure has dropped as the government's share of spending on health went up significantly after 2013-14, the Economic Survey 2022-23 says.

The share of government in the total health expenditure was just 28.6% in the financial year 2013-14, but rose to 40.6% by 2018-19, the latest year for which data are available. There was a concomitant decline in out-of-pocket expenditure from 64.2% in 2013-14 to 48.2% in 2018-19.

Out-of-pocket expenditure is the money paid by households at the point of receiving health care. This occurs when services are neither provided free of

Health spending

The chart shows government health expenditure (GHE) and out-of-pocket expenditure (OOP) as a share of total health expenditure (THE). OOP still remains high



cost through a government health facility, nor is the individual covered under any public or private insurance or social protection scheme.

Govt. hikes spending
For 2018-19, India's total health expenditure was estimated at ₹5,96,440 crore, which is 3.2% of the GDP and ₹4,470 per capita. This includes current and capital expenditures incurred by the government and private sources, including

external funds. Government health expenditure for that year amounted to 40.6% of the total, while out-of-pocket expenditure remained marginally higher at 48.2%. In States such as Uttar Pradesh, the out-of-pocket estimates were as high as 71.3%.

It has been recommended several times that government's health expenditure be raised from the existing 1.2% to 2.5% of the GDP by 2025. The Survey states that Central and

State governments' budgeted expenditure on the health sector reached 2.1% of the GDP in the Budget estimates for 2022-23 and 2.2% in the revised estimates for 2021-22, an increase from 1.6% in 2020-21.

Falling short

Under the Health Ministry's largest cashless health insurance scheme – the Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana – approximately 21.9 crore beneficiaries have been verified, including 3 crore beneficiaries verified using State IT systems. This is less than 50% of the targeted approximately 50 crore beneficiaries under the scheme. "As of January 4, approximately 4.3 crore hospital admissions, amounting to ₹50,409 crore, have also been authorised under the scheme through a network of over 26,055 hospitals," the Survey added.

"Based on international shipbuilding statistics, if one takes a conservative Marginal Consumption to

the national GDP of 0.45 for the shipbuilding sector, the investment multiplier would be approximately 1.82. For example, an injection of approximately ₹1.5 lakh crore in naval shipbuilding projects would accrue a circulation of ₹2.73 lakh crore in the shipbuilding sector due to the multiplier effect," the survey said.

Shipbuilding industry can bolster 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', says Survey

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With an employment multiplier of 6.48, shipbuilding can generate jobs in remote, coastal and rural areas

GDP Ratio (MCGR) of 0.45 for the shipbuilding sector, the investment multiplier would be approximately 1.82. For example, an injection of approximately ₹1.5 lakh crore in naval shipbuilding projects would accrue a circulation of ₹2.73 lakh crore in the shipbuilding sector due to the multiplier effect," the survey said.

In this regard, the survey said that a study undertaken by the Indian Navy for the construction of seven P-17A frigates reveals that around three-fourths of the total project cost of warships is invested back into the Indian economy. This investment is ploughed back into the

economy through indigenous sourcing of raw materials, development of equipment and systems installed onboard ships and other manpower services, it stated.

Stating that the Navy's shipbuilding projects currently in progress at various Indian shipyards are poised to provide the requisite impetus to the industry, the survey noted that, as of date, more than 130 warships have been constructed at Indian shipyards, and currently, 41 of 43 ships and submarines are being constructed at various public and private sector shipyards in India.

The report also pointed to shipbuilding's links to other ancillary industries, including steel, engineering equipment, port infrastructure, trade and shipping services, which have the potential to create a collaborative production ecosystem.

India needs access to global finance to achieve climate obligations on emissions

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

For India to meet its international "obligations" on curtailing greenhouse gas emissions, it must have access to "on-time" climate finance, technology, and access to critical minerals. Advanced economies ought to set examples of policy and "behavioural changes" that work in their countries and only then could they be emulated in developing countries, the Economic Survey said on Tuesday in a dedicated chapter on climate change.

"Even if India has so far undertaken climate actions on its own, the heightened expectations of further large-scale climate measures have to be equated with the enhanced initiatives by developed countries in terms of pro-

Advanced economies should set examples of policy and behavioural changes to be implemented in developing countries

dressing climate change, namely, climate justice and Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), a campaign led by the Prime Minister and now adopted across government.

Climate justice says that few rich countries are largely responsible for the cumulative carbon emissions in the atmosphere and therefore must proportionately spend much more to subsidise energy projects in developing countries.

"Despite the adverse impacts of COVID-19 on the economy, India has enhanced its climate ambition manifold and embarked on a long-term strategy towards a Low GHG (greenhouse gas) Emission Development Strategy by adopting a multi-pronged approach," the report noted.

The perspective aligns with India's policies on ad-

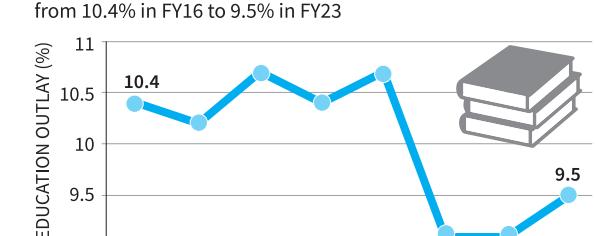
Share of education in budgetary allocations has fallen over the past seven years: Survey

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

Lower spending

The chart shows the budgetary allocation for education as a percentage of total expenditure. Allocation for the sector declined from 10.4% in FY16 to 9.5% in FY23



stagnant in the following year, before being raised to 9.5% in the budgetary estimates for 2022-23. As a share of the GDP, the budgetary allocation for education saw a minimal gain of 0.1 percentage points, from 2.8% to 2.9% during the seven-year period.

Dropouts increase
Though school dropout rates have improved since 2013-14, there has been

following year, but rose to 3% in 2021-22, only marginally lower than the 3.1% level seen in 2013-14. In the secondary classes, however, the situation has steadily improved, with the dropout rate falling from 16.1% in 2019-20 to 14% the following year and 12.6% last year.

Between 2013-14 and 2021-22, the total number of schools declined from 15.2 lakh to 14.9 lakh, with primary and upper primary schools seeing a reduction of one lakh schools to 11.9 lakh, though the number of secondary and senior secondary schools rose by 60,000 to a total of 2.3 lakh.

Higher education
As far as higher education is concerned, the number of medical colleges in the country increased from 387 in 2014 to 648 in 2022, and the number of MBBS

seats have increased from 51,348 to 96,077. The number of Indian Institutes of Technology rose from 16 to 23 between 2014 and 2022 and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) from 13 to 20.

The strength of Indian Institutes of Information Technology was 25 in 2022 against nine in 2014. In 2014, there were 723 Universities in the country, and the number has increased to 1,113.

The total enrolment in higher education has increased to nearly 4.1 crore in financial year 2020-21 from 3.9 crore in 2019-20. Since 2014-15, there has been an increase of around 72 lakh or 21% in enrolment, while distance education has also grown at a similar rate of 20%. In 2021-22, distance education saw a 7% growth over the previous year, with 45.7 lakh enrolling.

IN BRIEF



Asaram Bapu gets life imprisonment in rape case

A Gandhinagar sessions court on Tuesday sentenced self-styled godman Asaram Bapu to life imprisonment in connection with a 2013 rape case filed by a victim who stayed at his ashram in Gujarat. The court has also imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on him. During the hearing on the quantum of the sentence, the prosecution submitted that Asaram Bapu was a "habitual offender", and sought life imprisonment for him along with a heavy fine. It may be recalled that the victim's younger sister was raped and illegally confined by Asaram's son Narayan Sai. Sai was sentenced to life imprisonment in April 2019 in the rape case filed against him by his former disciple in 2013.

Any attempt to saffronise Visva-Bharati will be resisted

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said she would resist any attempt at saffronisation of Visva-Bharati University. The Chief Minister held meetings with a section of teachers, students and officials of the university at Santiniketan during the day. "I do not want to interfere in the affairs of Visva-Bharati but if someone wants to bulldoze the students, teachers and employees for attempts of saffronisation, I will resist even if I am the only person doing so," Ms. Banerjee said. The Chief Minister also accused the university administration of suspending teachers and harassing students.

Jharsuguda SP shifted over Odisha Minister's murder

The Odisha government on Tuesday shifted the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Jharsuguda district after an assistant sub-inspector of police murdered Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kisore Das. Rahul Jain, SP, and his deputy, Gupteswar Bhoi, Subdivisional Police Officer, were transferred to the State Police Headquarters. Meanwhile, the Crime Branch, which is probing the case, said, "Examination of the spot and witnesses is continuing. Another team is camping at the native village of accused ASI Gopal Krishna Das. The examination of his family members and villagers is under way."

Poster over Ramcharitmanas row at SP headquarters

Amid the controversy in Uttar Pradesh over comments on the *Ramcharitmanas*, a huge poster came up outside the Samajwadi Party (SP) State headquarters on Tuesday with slogan "Gar se kaho hum Shudra hain" (say with pride we are untouchables). The poster was installed by Uttam Prakash Singh Patel, who claims to be the general secretary of Akhil Bharatiya Kurmi Mahasabha in Mumbai. It was put up after the SP president Akhilesh Yadav said that BJP leaders consider him to be a Shudra. "BJP people consider Dalits as Shudra. They consider us backwards (Other Backward Classes or OBC) and Dalits as Shudra (untouchable)," Mr. Yadav had said.

Doval, Sullivan hold tech talks in U.S.; Jaishankar meets Nuland in Delhi

At talks in Delhi and Washington, Indian and U.S. officials set the stage for three Modi-Biden meetings this year, at the G-7 and Quad meets this summer, followed by the September G-20 summit in India; NSA attends USIBC event in Washington

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval met with his U.S. counterpart, Jake Sullivan, and other senior officials in Washington on Tuesday during the inaugural Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) dialogue, which was announced last year.

The iCET, launched during the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joseph Biden at the Quad meeting in Tokyo last May, is being run by the National Security Councils of the two countries.

The meetings in Washington coincided with the visit of U.S. Undersecretary of State Victoria Nuland to Delhi on Tuesday, where she met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and



Growing together: NSA Ajit Doval attending the first iCET meeting in Washington on Tuesday. ANI

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra in interactions that will set the stage for visits by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in March followed by Mr. Biden in September, both for G-20 events.

Focus on South Asia
"Good talk on the Indian Subcontinent, the Indo-Pacific and the many con-

vergences in our relationship," Mr. Jaishankar tweeted.

After foreign office consultations with Mr. Kwatra, Ms. Nuland said the talks had focused on "deepening the U.S.-India strategic relationship in 2023", adding that the U.S. looked forward to collaborating on global challenges, including at the G-20. Ms.

Nuland flew to Delhi from Kathmandu where she met Nepal Prime Minister Prachanda and his Cabinet members.

In a statement issued after the meeting, the External Affairs Ministry said that both sides had focused on regional developments in "South Asia, Indian Ocean Region and the Indo-Pacific".

They "took stock of a number of initiatives and frameworks that reflect common strategic interests" including the Quad, I2U2, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness Initiative, and also discussed India's G-20 Presidency this year.

Help with alternatives

The Ministry did not respond to queries on whether Ms. Nuland, who has been at the forefront of the

U.S. response to Russia over the Ukraine conflict, raised the issue during her meetings.

Ms. Nuland had told U.S. lawmakers at a Senate Foreign Relations briefing ahead of her visit that part of her role was to "help India with alternatives" to the "60 years of entanglement" with Russia, referring to India's military and energy dependence on Russian supplies.

Removing barriers

In Washington, Mr. Doval participated with Mr. Sullivan in a special event hosted by the U.S. India Business Council (USIBC) ahead of the iCET's inaugural meeting on Monday. The iCET is expected to focus on how to remove barriers in technology transfers and co-production in the areas of critical and emerging technologies.

Air India case: Delhi court grants bail to Mishra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi's Patiala House Court on Tuesday granted bail to Shankar Mishra, who is accused of urinating on an elderly woman on an Air India flight in November 2022.

Additional Sessions Judge Harjot Singh Bhalla, while granting the bail, maintained that there were contradictions in the statements of the victim and witnesses, and added that as the investigation in the case was already over, the accused was no longer required in custody at least for inquiry purpose.

The judge said the accused could be released on bail after he furnishes a bail bond of ₹1 lakh with one surety of like amount. Commenting on the flight risk of the accused, the judge said he was asked to join the probe at a very short notice and hence it could not be said that he intended to flee.

'SC verdict on adultery will not affect court martial'

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench on Tuesday clarified that a Supreme Court judgment of 2018 decriminalising adultery will not affect statutory court martial proceedings against armed forces personnel charged with "unbecoming conduct" and acts committed in violation of "good and discipline".

The five-judge Bench, led by Justice K.M. Joseph, observed in an order that the court, in 2018, had not at all been concerned with the law concerning the armed forces.

Additional Solicitor-General Madhavi Divan, appearing for the government, submitted that the 2018 verdict was being repeatedly cited by parties to stall court martial proceedings and subsequent appeals against dismissal before the armed forces tribunal.

She submitted that provisions regarding conduct of armed forces personnel was gender-neutral, unlike Section 497 (adultery) of the Indian Penal Code, which was struck down.

Shanti Bhushan, former Law Minister and backer of 'Basic Structure', dies

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

Former Law Minister and senior advocate Shanti Bhushan passed away on Tuesday. He was 97.

He always stood for truth as a Law Minister in the Morarji Desai Cabinet between 1977 and 1979 and as a senior advocate who fought alongside his son and civil rights lawyer, Prashant Bhushan, for judicial accountability and transparency.

In his memoir, *Courting Destiny*, Mr. Bhushan quotes the cricketing legend Don Bradman to say that one can successfully combine the values of dignity, integrity, courage and modesty with pride, ambition and competitiveness.

The fierce integrity of Mr. Bhushan came to the fore when he stood up to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and successfully got her disbarred for election malpractices – an event which culminated in the Emergency. Mr. Bhushan's argument that "every Constitution has some basic features which make it unique and give it an identity".

He later wrote that "if some amendment changed



Shanti Bhushan

democratic Constitution into a dictatorial one, naming the dictator and giving the dictator power to name a successor, it cannot be perceived as an amended Constitution of India".

Rule of law

In the *habeas corpus* case, when Opposition leaders were detained during the Emergency, he defended the rule of law. His main argument in the case was that the rule of law always protected the liberty of citizens and they could be deprived of their liberties of free speech and right to life only in accordance with law.

As Law Minister, Mr. Bhushan introduced the 44th Constitution Amendment to save the Basic Structure of the Constitution and uphold the power of judicial review of laws curtailed by the controversial 42nd Amendment introduced during the Emergency.

He joined the BJP in 1980 but resigned from the party six years later. He was a founding member of the Aam Aadmi Party.

Participation level of women in workforce concerning: Murmu

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Low workforce participation of women has been a major hindrance in the overall development of the country, President Droupadi Murmu said on Tuesday.

"India is the fifth largest economy in the world and now moving towards becoming a five trillion dollar economy. A more active role of women would be helpful in achieving this goal," she said at the 31st Foundation Day celebration of the National Commission for Women (NCW) here.

The President said that women's empowerment was not just an issue of social justice but also crucial for economic development.

Gender ratio concerns
Expressing concern over the skewed gender ratio in many parts of the country, Ms. Murmu said instances of female foeticide are being reported in well-educated sections of the country.

She stressed that only by improving the status of women, the country would be able to make overall progress.

The President said that a need has arisen for the creation of a separate commission

but of the whole society to change this situation. While ensuring gender justice, the country had to make its development equitable.

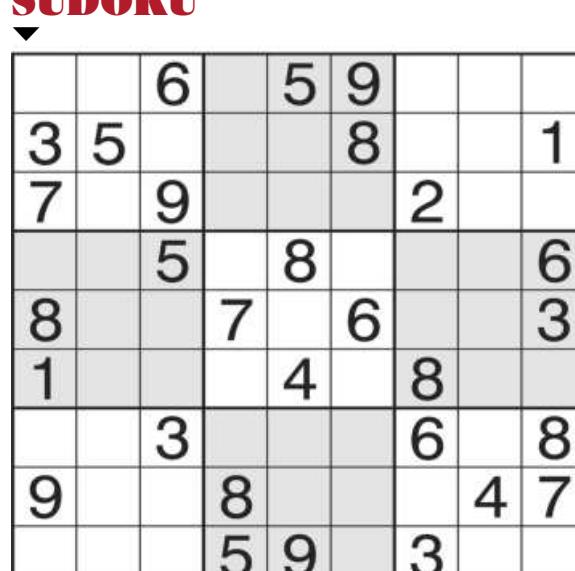
"Our development will be called development in true sense only when the status of women is equal to that of men," Ms. Murmu said.

Separate commission
The President said that a need had arisen for the creation of a separate commission for women.

Though "our sisters and daughters are flying in space and giving leadership in the armed forces, on the other hand they are becoming victims of domestic violence and facing discrimination and harassment at workplace".

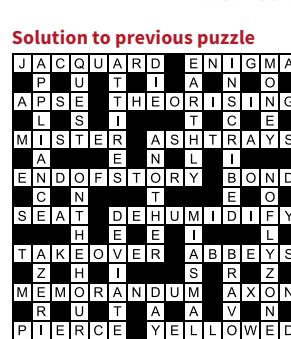
She stressed that only by improving the status of women, the country would be able to make overall progress.

SUDOKU

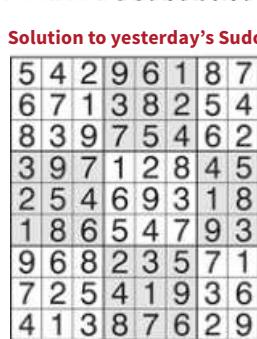


DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

Morals from the Ramayana

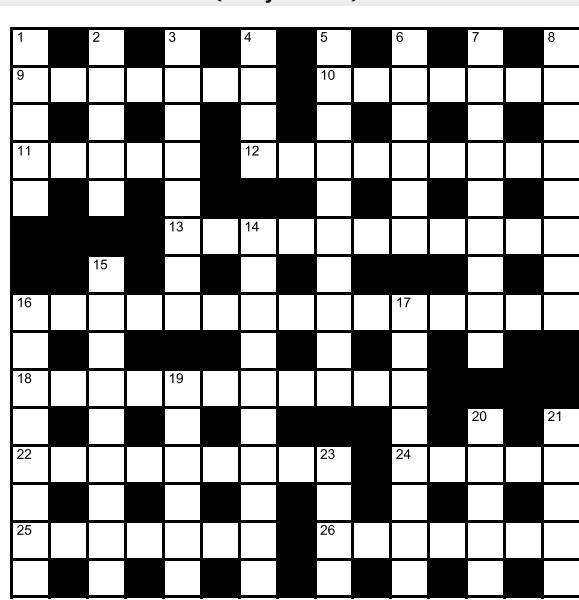
Rama and his brothers had revealed different morals through their conduct and behaviour. The meaning of Satrughna is one who has conquered his enemies. Satrughna had never taken part in any battle. But how could he have won? Sri Periyavachan Pillai says, "Satrughna: Nithya Satrughna:", that is he had won his faculties. Only those who don't control their faculties will succumb to lusty desires and anger. By this they develop two types of disease. One is called Vyadhi – disease to physical body and the other Aadhi – disease or disturbance to mind. Bharatha had revealed three concepts. First he refused to accept the kingdom and established his dharma. Second his devotion to Rama was abound and immeasurable. He had brought the sandals of Rama and worshipped every day. Third he had shunned the royal life in the palace and led a simple life at Nandigram like a sage. This shows his steadfastness. Lakshmana did not know anything except serving his elder brother and had never transgressed the words of his brother. Lord as Sri Rama had displayed perfectly the role of a son to his father. Rama was not excited when Dasaratha told him about the coronation. He had neither said yes nor no to express his consent.

A wrong choice in choosing our friend will end up in ruins is revealed through Kaikeyi. Though Kaikeyi was good and kind-hearted by nature, she was spoiled by Kooni. Because Kaikeyi told about the two boons that she had got from Dasaratha when she helped him in a war, Kooni prompted and reminded her to ask Dasaratha. This shows that we should not divulge our family secrets to others, said Sri Hariji in a discourse.

TH CROSSWORD

13777

(set by Karaoke)



Across

- 9 A nun makes appeal before final authority for social assistance (7)
- 10 One sound and solvent (7)
- 11 Cycling instrument for bones (5)
- 12 Can't men get arrested by alien law? (9)
- 13 Blue-eyed boy ordered to respect the academy (8,3)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site.

@ <https://qrgo.page.link/jppTn>

SCAN TO PLAY



DHAKA

IMF approves \$4.7-billion support loan package for Bangladesh



The IMF has approved a \$4.7-billion support loan package for Bangladesh to help it cope with soaring energy and food costs that have sparked huge protests. Bangladesh and other South Asian countries dependent on fossil fuel imports were hit hard by sharp cost-of-living increases following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. **AFP**

TOKYO

Japan and NATO pledge 'firm' response to China, Russia threats



Japan and NATO must "remain united and firm" in the face of security threats posed by China, North Korea and Russia's war in Ukraine, Jens Stoltenberg said on Tuesday. Mr. Stoltenberg, secretary-general of NATO, warned that Beijing was keeping a close eye on developments in Ukraine. **AFP**

OUAGADOUGOU

Suspected jihadists kill 28 persons in Burkina Faso, 15 bodies found



Twenty-eight people have died in new attacks by suspected jihadists in Burkina Faso, including 15 who had been abducted at the weekend, the authorities said on Tuesday. Fifteen bodies were found on Monday near Linguekor, a village in the western province of Comoe, regional governor Colonel Jean-Charles Some said. **AFP**

COLOMBO

Ex-President Sirisena apologises for 2019 Easter Sunday bombings



Former Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena on Tuesday apologised to the country's minority Catholic community for the devastating 2019 Easter Sunday bombings that killed over 270 people, including 11 Indians, saying that the carnage took place without his knowledge. **PTI**

Mosque blast toll hits 100; Pak. blames 'security lapse'

Explosion blew off part of the structure's roof in Peshawar; officials believe more people are likely to be trapped as over 300 worshippers were praying inside when the explosion took place

Associated Press
PESHAWAR

A suicide bombing that struck inside a mosque at a police and government compound in Peshawar reflects "security lapses", current and former officials said as the death toll from the devastating blast climbed to 100 on Tuesday. The blast, which ripped through a Sunni mosque inside a major police facility in the city, was one of the deadliest attacks on Pakistani security forces in recent years. It left 225 wounded, some still in serious condition in hospital, according to Kashif Aftab Abbasi, a senior officer.

More than 300 worshippers were praying in the mosque, with more approaching, when the bomber set off his explosives vest on Monday morning, officials said.

The explosion blew off part of the roof, and what was left soon caved in, injuring many more, according to Zafar Khan, a police officer. Rescuers had to remove mounds of debris to



In ruins: Rescue operation under way in the mosque in Peshawar's fortified Police Line area that was targeted by a suicide bomber on Monday, killing at least 100 worshippers. **AP**

reach worshippers still trapped under the rubble.

More bodies recovered

More bodies were retrieved overnight and early on Tuesday, according to Mohammad Asim, a government hospital spokesman in Peshawar, and several of those critically injured died. "Most of them were policemen," Mr. Asim said. Bilal Faizi, the

chief rescue official, said rescue teams were still working on Tuesday at the site as more people are believed trapped inside. Mourners were burying the victim at different graveyards in the city.

"Yes, it was a security lapse," said Ghulam Ali, the provincial governor in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, of which Peshawar is the capital.

Mr. Abbasi concurred, "There was a security lapse and the inspector-general of the police has set up an inquiry committee, which will look into all aspects of the bombing." "Action will be taken against those whose negligence" caused the attack.

Talat Masood, a retired army general said Monday's suicide bombing showed "negligence."

191 'anti-state' news websites blocked in Bangladesh

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

The Bangladesh government has ordered the closure of 191 websites it accuses of publishing "anti-state news", stoking concerns about media freedom in the South Asian country. Information Minister Hasan Mahmud told Parliament on Monday that the government has instructed the telecoms regulator to close the domains following "reports from intelligence agencies".

He said the sites, which were not named, were "conducting activities that spread confusion among the public". Campaigners and foreign governments including the U.S. have long expressed worries about efforts by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to silence criticism.

Bangladesh's draconian Digital Security Act, under which hundreds of people have been arrested since 2018, has caused alarm. "The government shouldn't try to control the flow of the internet," Faruq Faisal, regional director of media rights watchdog ARTICLE 19 South Asia, said on Tuesday.

Western allies differ over jets for Ukraine as Russia claims gains in the east

Reuters
KYIV

Ukraine is pushing its Western allies to provide it with fighter jets, a week after winning pledges of sophisticated modern tanks to help it beat back Russia's invasion force after almost a year of fighting. However, its western allies remain divided on the providing fighter jets.



Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov (left) meeting his French counterpart Sébastien Lecornu in Paris on Tuesday. **AP**

France has decided to send 12 further Caesar truck-mounted howitzers to Ukraine, Defence Minister Sébastien Lecornu said on Tuesday.

+

Mr. Morawiecki said in remarks posted on his website that any such transfer would take place "in complete coordination" with NATO countries.

While there was no sign of a broader new Russian offensive, the administrator of Russian-controlled parts of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk province, Denis Pushilin, said Russian troops had secured a foothold in Vuhledar, a coal-mining town whose ruins have been a Ukrainian bastion since the outset of the war.

Mr. Pushilin said that despite "huge losses" Ukrainian forces were consolidating positions in industrial facilities.

China slams Czech President-elect's call with Taiwan leader

Associated Press
BEIJING

China on Tuesday accused Czech President-elect Petr Pavel of challenging its hard line on national sovereignty by affirming ties with self-ruled Taiwan in a phone call with the island's leader.

The call on Monday represents a symbolic breach of China's attempts to cut off the already highly restricted foreign relations of the self-governing democracy, which Beijing claims as its own territory with no right to independent diplomatic recognition.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Mr. Pavel had acted in "defiance of China's

repeated dissuasion and complaints" and "trampled on China's red line."

"China strongly opposes and deplores this and has made solemn complaints with the Czech side," Ms. Mao said at a daily briefing.

Czech Republic PM Petr Fiala said, "The policy of the Czech Republic towards China has not changed and is in line with the policy of our allies. Czechia respects and represents its own one-China policy."

In the call, President Tsai Ing-wen said the countries "enjoy deep ties and share the values of freedom, democracy, and human rights," the Central News Agency said, quoting spokesperson Lin Yu-chang.

Stir against pension plan a challenge for Macron govt.

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

French protesters launched a new push Tuesday to pressure President Emmanuel Macron into dropping a pension reform plan, with hundreds of thousands taking to the streets and strikes disrupting transport and schools.

Union-led protesters came out for mass demonstrations for the second time in less than two weeks, challenging Macron's plan to raise the age of retirement from 62 to 64, a flagship reform of his second mandate. A police source said the authorities were bracing for up to 1.2 million people to take to the streets across France.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 45-46/2022-23/PHC/KNR, Jal Jeevan Mission - Kannur District - WSS to Peravoor & adjoining Panchayaths (Peravoor, Muzhakunnu, Kolayad, Chittanparamba, Alaram and Ayyanikunnu) - Laying Distribution Network and providing FHTC-Zone & II, EMD : Rs. 50,000/- Each, Tender fee : Rs. 195/- Last Date for submitting Tender : 23-02-2023, 02:00 pm, Phone : 04972705902, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.tenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer, KWA-JB-GL-6-1529-2022-23

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN- U40102RJ2005G016484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Suratgarh Super Critical Thermal Power Project, Suratgarh-335805
E-TENDER NOTICE: TN-151(RVU2223GLOBO1946)
Online E-tenders are invited for Supply of Boiler Tubes for Unit-7 & 8 of Boiler at SSCPTP, RVUN (2X660 MW). Tender details are available on websites <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvun/ and www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.
Raj.Samwad/C/22/13883 RVUN/PR-3788 Chief Engineer (STPS-SC)

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES ZONE, JAIPUR, SINCHAI BHAWAN, JLN MARG, JAIPUR - 302017, RAJASTHAN
Email - acejpr.wr@gmail.com, Tel. & Fax No. 0141-2702353, E-NIB No. 16/2022-23
No. 8896 Date: 13/01/2023
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, bids are invited from eligible bidders for the "Repair, Renovation and Restoration work of Malipur Dam and canal system Tehsil Malipur District Tonk" Rs. 458.13 Lakhs and "Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Deopura Minor Irrigation Project Sawai Madhopur" costing to Rs. 593.79 Lakhs are invited from interested bidders up to 06.00 PM (time) 07.02.2023 (date), and technical bid will be opened at 3:00 PM on 08.02.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state. NIB No: WRD2223A0619 UBN No.: 1. WRD2223WSOBO2508 2. WRD2223WLOBO2509 Additional Chief Engineer Water Resources Zone, Jaipur DIPR/C/1180/2023

कार्यालय अधिकारी अधिकारी, जल संसाधन खण्ड प्रयम, दूर्गपुर (राज.)
कार्यालय - लेखा/2022/2547
CORRIGENDUM-1
इ-निविदा सूचना संख्या 27 वर्ष 2022-23
अतिविकल मुख्य अधिकारी जल संसाधन संस्था उदयपुर की इ-निविदा सूचना संख्या 27 वर्ष 2022-23 निम्नानि कार्य Survey, Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance & Management of Solar based Micro Irrigation Project on EPC single responsibility turnkey basis at (i) Nayagaon Faras Anicut Village Bhawatara Tehsil & District Dungarpur (252 Ha CCA) (ii) Mandawali, Modar-1, Modar-2, & Modar-3 Cluster Tehsil Bichhawara District Dungarpur (94 Ha CCA) (iii) Hangriwala, Hajuandra and Piplada Clusters Tehsil & District Dungarpur (48 Ha CCA) (iv) Baladit Gameti Fala Cluster Tehsil & District Dungarpur (23 Ha CCA) & its O&M for a period of 8 years. मैं इस कार्यालय के पालन 252 दिनांक 20.01.2023 द्वारा उत्तराधिकारी की गया है। अन्यान्य कार्यालय में विभिन्न कार्य से सम्बन्धित विवरण व अन्य शर्तें वेबसाइट <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, www.dpr.rajasthan.gov.in, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> एवं www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd, पर देखी जा सकती है। NIB :- WRD2223A0620 UBN :- WRD2223WLOBO2510 Additional Chief Engineer Water Resources Zone, Jaipur DIPR/C/1589/2023
अधिकारी अधिकारी जल संसाधन खण्ड प्रयम दूर्गपुर दीआईपीआर/सी/1589/2023

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Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited, Jaipur
Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax : 0141-3228065
E-mail : edepmmsc@nic.in
CIN: U24232RJ2015G0C035067 Website: <http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in>
No. F-8(R) EPCM/EP/M-1/2022-23/NIB/2059 Dated: 27.01.2023
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids for Item (1) Air Purifier System (2) Calibrated Obstetric Under Buttock Drape (Labour Brass V-Drap) are invited from interested bidders up to 27.02.2023 : 06:00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state; and <http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in>. UBN-MSC2223GLRC00113 Raj.Samwad/C/22/13870 Executive Director (EPM)

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Kanchi Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-51/10/2022-23 Date:30.01.2023

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-II (Electrical) issued from KCEI, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work of **Shifting / Re-routing of existing 33KV UAS line feeding from 110KV Belur Sub-Station passing over KIADB plots of Mummighatti KIADB Industrial Area, Dharwad District (2nd Call).** The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **08.02.2023 upto 04:30 pm.**

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-54/11/2022-23 Date:30.01.2023

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works of **(1) Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 30M Wide & 18M Wide Roads Including Asphalt, Construction of RCC Drains, Ducts, Culverts, Storm Water Drains, Internal Water Supply Lines, GLSR, OHT etc, at Railway Track Block Sector-2 of Gowribidanur Industrial Area, 3rd Phase, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapura District. (2) Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 18M Wide & 15M Wide Roads Including Asphalt, Construction of RCC Drains, Ducts, Culverts, Storm Water Drains, Internal Water Supply Lines etc, at State Boundary Block Sector-3 of Gowribidanur Industrial Area, 3rd Phase, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapura District.** The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **15.02.2023 upto 04:30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

DIPR/CP/JA/4393/2022-23

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 1

To end in violence in West Bank, Blinken presses for 2-state solution

Reuters

RAMALLAH

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken shuttled from Israel to the Palestinians' West Bank on Tuesday, appealing for an end to resurgent violence and reaffirming Washington's backing for a two-state solution to

the decades-long conflict. Mr. Blinken is urging calm on both sides after last week's killing by a Palestinian gunman of seven people outside a Jerusalem synagogue and anger among Palestinians over actions by Israeli forces and settlers in the occupied West Bank.

IN BRIEF



ISMA revises sugar production estimate to 340 lakh tonnes

Sugar production during the current season is expected to be 340 lakh tonnes after diversion of 45 lakh tonnes for ethanol, according to the second advance estimate by the Indian Sugar Mills' Association. Total production is likely to be 385 lakh tonnes, ISMA said. The area under sugarcane has increased 6%. ISMA had revised the estimate based on satellite images of harvest and balance area, field visits, sugar recoveries achieved till now, and current trends of yields.

Sundaram Home Finance Q3 net profit rises 51% to ₹53 cr.

Sundaram Home Finance Ltd. reported standalone net profit for the quarter ended December rose 51% to ₹53 crore. Disbursements increased to ₹896 crore from ₹652 crore, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Sundaram Finance said in a statement. "The residential real estate sales is on a multi-year high. We continued on the positive growth trajectory in the third quarter driven by disbursements in Tier-2 and 3 towns," said MD Lakshminarayanan Duraiswamy.

CUMI Q3 net profit rises 7% to ₹72 cr. on strong performance

Carborundum Universal Ltd.'s (CUMI) standalone net profit for the quarter ended December rose 7% to ₹72 crore compared with the year-earlier period, driven by 'strong' performance. Revenue from operations grew 6% to ₹643 crore, the Murugappa Group firm said in a regulatory filing. Newly acquired entities – Rhodius and AWUKO – accounted for additional sales of ₹15 crore in the topline. The board declared an interim dividend of ₹1.50 per share, to be paid by February 28.

Economic Survey terms start-ups 'spine of new India'

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

Start-ups are being envisioned as the spine of 'new India' as they encouraged youth to become job creators rather than job seekers, according to the Economic Survey 2023.

Capitalising on the digital infrastructure, India has emerged as one of the most vibrant destinations for start-up ecosystems.

FY15 could be considered a turning point for the Indian start-up environment while 2021 marked the completion of five years of the Start-up India scheme. The country now has more than 84,000 recognised start-ups, according to the survey.

Credit flow to MSMEs rose, aided by ECLGS

The Hindu Bureau



Credit flow to Micro, Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSMEs) has seen a significant rise, assisted in part by the introduction of the Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), according to the Economic Survey.

Data from the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) shows that as of November 10, 2022, 1.2 crore MSME units availed the ECLGS scheme and raised collateral-free resources for ₹3.6 lakh crore. A CIBIL report showed 83% of the borrowers were micro-enterprises, and more than half of them had an exposure of less than ₹10 lakh. The NPA rate in banks for MSME

borrowers who availed of ECLGS was lower than the category that did not avail of the scheme.

Textile, apparel

As per the Survey, the textile sector, employing 4.5 crore directly, faced challenges in 2022-2023 as exports moderated compared with 2021-2022. However, exports during the first six months rose 9.5% over the pre-pandemic level of 2019-2020.

Wheels India Q3 net slides 29% to ₹15 cr. as exports lag

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Wheels India Ltd., standalone net profit for the quarter ended December contracted by 29% to ₹15 crore from the year-earlier period on account of slowdown in exports.

Revenue from operations dipped to ₹1,003 crore from ₹1,006 crore.

"There has been strong growth of our air suspension orders servicing regular and EV buses, which helped us offset the slowdown in exports," said Srivats Ram, MD.

The board of directors of the company has declared an interim dividend of ₹3 per share. The record date is February 14.

Domestic pharma market to touch \$130 bn by 2030: Survey

The Hindu Bureau



2022 were 22% higher compared with the corresponding pre-pandemic period in FY20.

Foreign investment

Cumulative FDI in the pharma sector crossed the \$20 billion-mark by September 2022. Also, FDI inflows surged fourfold over five years until September 2022 to \$699 million, supported by investor-friendly policies and a positive outlook for the industry.

On its part, the government had taken several steps to improve the infrastructural facilities for the pharma sector. Soundingly caution, the survey said, "On the downside, exports are slowing down and likely to moderate along with the probable global economic slowdown".

Despite COVID resilience, IT to see muted growth this year: Survey

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Information Technology-Business Process Management (IT-BPM) industry showed resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic – even growing slightly – and recorded 15.5% growth during the financial year 2021-22, the Economic Survey showed.

Referring to a Nasscom report, the Survey said that end-user technology companies benefited from a 'rise in investment, more complex technology convergence use-cases, and the prioritisation of [an] enterprise-scale data and cloud strategy.'

New markets

"Many firms are now focussing on new markets, more prominently the Middle East and Latin America, leading to market diversification which will increase the IT-BPM sector's resilience in the coming years," as per the Survey.

Global slowdown

"Nasscom's quarterly review in August 2022 indicates that technology spending during FY23 is likely to see a relatively muted growth dampened by an expected global slowdown," as per the Survey.

"The industry undertook over 290 mergers and acquisitions in FY22, primarily focusing on digital services. India's massive digital infrastructure played a crucial role in driving technology adoption," the Survey noted.

Faster inflation led to negative real growth in rural wages: Survey

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

There has been nominal increase in rural wages but when calculated against the rate of inflation, the real rural wages have had a negative growth, the Economic Survey that was tabled in Parliament on Tuesday showed.

While the Survey gave a positive picture about the Indian economy recovering from the pandemic and its expected growth, the rural wages do not seem to follow the same trajectory. The Survey noted that there was a nominal increase in rural wages.

In agriculture, the year-on-year rate of growth of nominal wage rate was 5.1% for men and 7.5% for women, during the period April-November 2022. In non-agricultural activities, the growth of nominal wage rates was 4.7% for men and 3.7% for women.

However, growth in real rural wages has been negative due to elevated inflation. Going forward, as inflation is expected to soften with the easing of international commodity prices and domestic food prices, it is expected that this will translate into a rise in real wages," the Survey explained.

The growth was also fuelled by "growing Internet penetration, rise in smartphone adoption, innovation in mobile technologies, and increased adoption of digital payments," the survey noted.

The sector is projected to grow at 18% annually, according to a Worldpay FIS report cited in the survey.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)

fared particularly well, the survey said. Those that adopted digital solutions fared far better than offline MSMEs, assisting them in accessing a large marketplace without incurring high costs," according to a study by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade cited by the survey.

Citing a report by Unicommerce and Wazir Advisors, the survey noted that urban e-commerce trends were speeding up differently depending on city size.

"The shoppers from tier-II and tier-III cities accounted for over 61.3% of the overall market share in FY22, increasing from 53.8% in FY21," the report stated. The order volume from tier-II and tier-III cities grew at almost double the pace of tier-I cities, with 92.2% and 85.2% YoY growth, respectively, in FY22," the report said. "In contrast, tier-I cities indicated a comparatively slower order volume growth rate of 47.2%."

'Capex on housing, urban affairs slid 32%'

The Hindu Bureau



There has been a decline in capital expenditure on housing and urban affairs by 32% on a yearly basis in the first eight months of financial year 2022-23, the Economic Survey showed.

The capex on housing and urban affairs was ₹1,000 crore in the first eight months of FY23 against ₹1,000 crore in the year-earlier period. The Budgeted estimate for the entire 2022-23 financial year is ₹27,000 crore.

Noting the halt in construction activities during the pandemic, the document showed that vaccination had facilitated the re-

IMF retains India growth outlook at 6.8% and 6.1% for FY22, FY23

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on January 31 said it is expecting some slowdown in the Indian economy next fiscal year and projected the growth at 6.1%, compared with 6.8% during the current fiscal ending March 31.

On a month-on-month basis, however, output at all 8 sectors that constitute 40.3% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) saw an uptick, with overall production rising 9.2%.

"Our growth projections actually for India are unchanged from our October Outlook," Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, chief economist and director, Research Department of the IMF, told reporters.

"We have 6.8% growth for this current fiscal year, which runs until March, and then we're expecting some slowdown to 6.1% in fiscal year 2023. And that is largely driven by external factors," he added.

Positive view

"We had a positive view on India in our October forecast. That positive view is largely unchanged," Mr. Gourinchas said in response to a question.

In a blog post he wrote that India remains a bright spot. Together with China, it will account for half of global growth this year, versus just a 10th for the U.S. and euro area combined, he added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,550	0.08
US Dollar	81.88	-0.28
Gold	56,780	-0.18
Brent oil	84.67	-1.86

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	2973.90	81.05
Adani Ports	612.65	15.65
Apollo Hosp.	4255.90	18.20
Asian Paints	2725.85	-40.35
Axis Bank	871.60	-0.25
Bajaj Auto	3818.50	-22.90
Bajaj FinServ	1342.45	-1.40
Bajaj Finance	5886.40	-135.40
Bharti Airtel	770.30	0.10
BPCL	343.25	8.15
Britannia Ind.	4317.60	-89.15
Cipla	1017.95	-16.45
Coal India	224.85	-1.00
Divis Lab.	3315.30	-51.10
Dr Reddy's Lab.	4324.15	-4.65
Eicher Motors	3263.35	-71.90
Grasim Ind.	1590.20	-8.40
HCL Tech	1122.20	-12.55
HFDC	2622.95	-25.25
HFDC Life	1603.50	-10.65
Hindalco	578.85	-9.10
Hindustan Unilever	2576.75	8.60
ICICI Bank	831.90	8.40
IndusInd Bank	1082.95	-6.10
Infosys	1533.75	-5.05
ITC	352.25	7.55
JSW Steel	716.45	14.75
Kotak Bank	1731.00	4.75
L&T	2124.40	11.50
M&M	1378.75	-47.15
Maruti Suzuki	8895.30	-78.30
Netstaplndia	19017.75	-148.15
NTPC	171.15	2.30
ONGC	144.90	0.00
PowerGrid Corp	216.65	4.80
Reliance Ind.	2353.85	-5.90
State Bank	553.50	-15.30
Sun Pharma	1034.50	-17.20
Tata Consumer Product	729.50	-6.15
Tata Motors	452.10	8.45
Tata Steel	119.70	0.95
TCS	3358.70	-74.95
Tech Mahindra	1015.00	-21.10
Titan	2377.15	-41.60
UltraTech Cement	7085.55	-197.85
UPL	757.20	-12.05
Wipro	398.85	-3.40

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 31

	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.72	82.04
Euro	88.46	88.81
British Pound	100.65	101.05
Japanese Yen (100)	62.66	62.91
Chinese Yuan	12.09	12.14
Swiss Franc	88.03	88.38
Singapore Dollar	62.01	62.26

CLIMBING THE LADDER

Deepti moves to the second spot in the T20I bowlers' rankings



India all-rounder Deepti Sharma has climbed to second spot and has the top position — currently occupied by England's Sophie Ecclestone — in her sights in the latest ICC T20I bowling rankings announced on Tuesday. The 25-year-old off-spinner has reduced the England left-arm spinner's lead to just 26 rating points.

BACK AT IT

Mane returns to training with ball in Munich ahead of PSG clash



Bayern Munich forward Sadio Mane trained with the ball for the first time in three months on Tuesday, two weeks ahead of the club's crucial Paris Saint Germain clash. Mane injured a tendon in his leg during his side's 6-1 win over Werder Bremen in November and needed surgery that forced him to miss Senegal's World Cup campaign.

NEW ADDITION

Wrestler Babita Phogat included in the Oversight Committee



Babita Phogat has been added to the Oversight Committee formed by the Union Sports Ministry to probe various allegations, including charges of sexual misconduct, levelled by some wrestlers against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharai Singh and to run WFI's day-to-day activities.

CLOSED

No ATP action against Zverev after 'insufficient evidence' of abuse



Alexander Zverev will face no disciplinary action from the ATP after an independent investigation found "insufficient evidence" to substantiate allegations of domestic abuse. He became the subject of an ATP-commissioned probe in October 2021 following allegations by his former girlfriend, Olya Sharapova.

India has a record to protect, NZ will be keen to break it

Hosts' quest to extend an unbeaten run in the last 12 bilateral T20I home series will be tested as the teams prepare to go full tilt in the series decider; the form of the top-order comprising Kishan, Gill and Tripathi is a worry for Hardik & Co.

NZ IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal

AHMEDABAD

India's proud record of staying unbeaten in the last 12 bilateral T20I home series will be tested when the side takes on New Zealand in the third and final match here on Wednesday.

With the scoreline tied at 1-1, both teams will go all out in this series decider.

The atmosphere should be electric, given that a sell-out crowd is expected to pack the massive Narendra Modi Stadium here.

Familiar territory

For New Zealand pacer Lockie Ferguson, who turned out for Gujarat Titans in the IPL last year, this is a return to familiar territory.

"Indian crowds are unmatched. Their love for the game stands out. Even when we get a wicket off a good ball, they clap. It's the same when we hit a six or four," Ferguson said in a press conference here on Tuesday.

"For some of our young guys like Ben Lister, to



Bracing up: Shaw, if he makes the playing eleven, will be keen to make an impact at the top of the order. VIJAY SONEJI

come to the biggest ground in the world is a special feeling. It's very exciting," Ferguson said.

It remains to be seen if the pitch is in line with what the Indian team favours. Captain Hardik Pandya was unhappy with the surfaces used in the first two T20Is, where batters struggled to find any sort

of rhythm.

Recent numbers from the stadium do not paint an encouraging picture for batters. The IPL final, held here in May last year, was a low-scoring affair. It was an all-round performance from Hardik, incidentally, which helped Gujarat Titans edge out Rajasthan Royals.

The last international match played at the venue, an ODI where India defended 265 to win by 96 runs, was no run-fest either.

The home team will be concerned about the form of the top-order — Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill and Rahul Tripathi. Gill has been unable to replicate

the tremendous touch he showed in the preceding ODIs. Kishan and Tripathi have looked unconvincing, and have wasted chances to make a mark.

If a change in the eleven is warranted, Mumbai opener Prithvi Shaw could get a look in.

The Indian team, which won the ICC Women's Under-19 Cricket World Cup in South Africa a few days ago, will be honoured here before the start of the match. Former India captain Sachin Tendulkar and BCCI office-bearers will felicitate the team members, BCCI secretary Jay Shah stated on Twitter.

The squads:

India: Hardik Pandya (Capt.), Suryakumar Yadav (Vice-capt.), Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Jitesh Sharma, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik, Shivam Mavi and Prithvi Shaw.

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (Capt.), Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Dane Cleaver, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Lockie Ferguson, Ben Lister, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Rippon, Henry Shipley, Ish Sodhi and Blair Tickner.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

The wicket does not matter a lot, says Suryakumar



Suryakumar and Dravid... discussing tactics. VIJAY SONEJI

Ashwin Achal

AHMEDABAD

India vice-captain Suryakumar Yadav makes his return to the venue where he made his international debut in a T20I against England nearly a couple of years ago.

"When I came to the dressing room, I told our team manager that I've returned to where it all began. I have great memories here," Suryakumar said in a press conference ahead of the third T20I against New Zealand here. "This is a beautiful stadium, with an amazing crowd. It will be an exciting game tomorrow," Suryakumar said.

Suryakumar did not find any fault in the spin-friendly pitches used in the first two T20Is. This was in contrast to captain Hardik Pandya describing the Lucknow surface as a "shocker".

"Red soil, black soil — it doesn't matter what soil you play on. This is not in your control. We did what we could and adapted to the situation in the last match. It was low-scoring, but it was an exciting game. Any game, be it T20 or 50-over, if there is competition between the teams, it will be exciting. The wicket does not matter a lot. We must accept the challenge and move on," Suryakumar, who made a match-winning unbeaten 31-ball 26 at Lucknow, said.

The Mumbai batter has been named in the squad for the first two Tests against Australia. "Obviously everyone wants to play Test cricket. When you start your domestic career, you start with red-ball cricket. It will be exciting. But at the same time, I'm focused on tomorrow's game," he said.

Lucknow curator sacked; Agarwal takes over

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The curator of the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow has been removed from his job after preparing a "shocker of a pitch" for the second T20I against New Zealand.

Though India won the game on Sunday with a ball to spare, skipper Hardik Pandya did not mince words, terming the Lucknow wicket a "shocker".

New Zealand was restricted to 99 for eight and India had a hard time chasing down the small target on a turning track.

"The curator has been removed and replaced by Sanjeev Kumar Agarwal who is a very experienced curator. We will turn things around in a month.

"A lot of domestic cricket was already played on all the centre wickets ahead of the T20I and the curator should have left one or two strips for an international game. The surface was over-rusted and due to the bad weather, there was not enough (time) to prepare a fresh wicket," a UPCA source told PTI.

Agarwal, who has prepared pitches in Bangladesh in the past before being removed in October last year, has been tasked to set things right.

Australia cricket team camp in Bengaluru

Sports Bureau

BENGALURU

The Australian men's cricket team is set to have a four-day preparatory camp starting Thursday at the Alur grounds on the outskirts of Bengaluru, a KSCA official confirmed. Australia will play the first Test of the four-match series in Nagpur from Feb. 9.

Rahane set for county stint with Leicestershire

Press Trust of India

LEICESTERSHIRE

India batter Ajinkya Rahane is returning to county cricket for a stint with Leicestershire.

The 34-year-old, who last played a Test in January last year, is set to join Leicestershire after the IPL and will be available for eight County matches, as well as the entire One Day Cup, the club announced on Tuesday.

Sportstar Aces: nominees for Popular Choice honours



Sports Bureau

CHENNAI

The Sportstar Aces Awards seek to honour incredible performances by Indians across sporting disciplines. Among the six Popular Choice honours open to public voting in the fifth chapter is the coveted Sportstar of the Year (Male). The nominees list is packed with achievers from across the spectrum of sport: Sharath Kamal (table tennis), Neeraj Chopra (athletics), Suryakumar Yadav (cricket), Lakshya Sen (badminton) and D. Gukesh (chess).

What the nominees did in 2022:

Sharath Kamal: Won four medals (three gold, one silver) at CWG 2022, clinching a medal in every cate-

gory he participated in. Claimed a record-extending 10th National singles title. First Indian to get elected to the Athletes' Commission of the International Table Tennis Federation. Awarded the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna.

Neeraj Chopra: Bagged India's first-ever silver medal at the World Athletics Championships (Oregon, USA). First Indian to win a Diamond League final (Zurich) and also finished on top at the Lausanne leg. Broke his own National record with an effort of 1,164, 31 innnings, two 100s, nine 50s.

Suryakumar Yadav: Finished the year as the No. 1 T20I batter in the world. Scored the most runs in T20Is (1,164, 31 innnings, two 100s, nine 50s).

The 'crazy' secret that worked wonders for hero Danneberg

Aashin Prasad
CHENNAI

Moments after the Germans lifted the World Cup, goalkeeper Jean-Paul Danneberg, the hero of the penalty shootout, was still buzzing. The enormity of the achievement was yet to sink in.

Danneberg had stepped up to the plate for the second time in the tournament, the previous one during the quarterfinal against England when he effected two saves.

And on the biggest night of them all, his three stops gave Germany a third World Cup crown.

Coach Andre Henning, teammate Christopher Ruhr and captain Mats Gräbisch all used the word 'crazy' while describing the 20-year-old Danneberg. He, too, had no hesitation in agreeing with them.

Amazing people
"Yeah, sure, of course! Goalkeepers are amazing people, goalkeepers are crazy," he said, breaking into a smile.

Danneberg has a 'crazy' secret — even Henning isn't aware of it — involving his bottle and an apple pie re-



The wall: Danneberg proved a big hurdle in shootouts as the Belgians found out during the final. K.R. DEEPAK

ing the citadel in crunch situations with around 15,000 fans raising the decibel level, Danneberg felt that he had it in him to be a specialist shot-stopper in shootouts.

"It's difficult. You cannot learn this, it's something you are born with. I am the lucky one. It feels crazy," he said, pointing the index finger to his head.

From warming the bench for a major part of the tournament to guard-

bot' or a 'machine', telling himself that it was 'the coolest thing' he saw. He also developed his skills playing indoor hockey.

He was also a specialist shootout 'keeper in the 2021 under-21 World Cup in Bhubaneswar and had shown his prowess, pulling off three saves in the win over Spain on penalties in the quarterfinal.

Unfortunately for Danneberg and Germany, the team lost in the final. Two years later, he flew home a World champion.

The gear attraction

Danneberg was drawn towards goalkeeping as a kid because he thought that the gear looked like a 'ro-

IN BRIEF



Bayern signs loan deal with Man City for Cancelo

Bayern Munich has signed Portugal wing-back Joao Cancelo on loan until the end of the season from Manchester City, the German club confirmed on Tuesday. Bayern has an option to buy the Portuguese defender for a reported €70 million at the end of the season. Cancelo, who has scored seven times in 41 appearances for Portugal, arrived in Munich on Monday and completed a medical on Tuesday morning.

Ishaan-Sai duo advances to second round

The young men's doubles pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Sai Pratheek progressed to the second round with a 21-18, 21-12 win over USA's Vinson Chiu and Joshua Yuan at the Thailand Open Super 300 in Bangkok on Tuesday. P.S. Ravikrishna and Sankar Prasad Udayakumaran put up a gallant fight before going down 21-16, 18-21, 10-21 to Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan. Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, seeded third, lost 9-21, 10-21 to Japan's Rena Miyaura and Ayako Sakuramoto. The new pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa lost 15-21, 18-21 to China's Tan Ning and Xia Yu Ting.

India to host Club Volleyball World C'ship for two years

The Volleyball World and the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) have announced India as the host for the men's Club World Championship for two years. The champions of the RuPay Prime Volleyball league (will compete in the Club World Championship in 2023 and 2024 against some of the top teams from countries like Italy, Brazil and Iran. The Club World Championship is scheduled from December 6 to 10 this year, and the host city would be announced later in the season. The CEO of Volleyball World, Finn Taylor said, "We are thrilled to have the Club World Championship being held for the first time in the subcontinent." The volleyball league this season would be held from February 4 to March 5. The league will be staged in Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kochi, featuring 31 games in all. Sony Sports Network will telecast the matches.

LIVE TELECAST

KIYG 2023: Star Sports 3, DD Sports & Hotstar, 9 a.m. onwards.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
South Africa vs England: 3rd ODI, FanCode & Hotstar, 4.30 p.m.
India vs New Zealand: 3rd T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.

I-League: Erosport (SD & HD), 7 p.m.

Anish Giri wins maiden Tata Steel title

CHESS

Sports Bureau

Anish Giri clinched his maiden Tata Steel Masters chess title after cashing in on a blunder by Richard Rapport while it was heartbreak for overnight leader Nodirbek Abdusattorov in the 12th and final round at Wijk aan Zee on Sunday.

Anish, a five-time runner-up, was half a point behind Abdusattorov at the start of the round. Abdusattorov was the favourite to win the title but Anish's Dutch compatriot Jorden van Foreest did his senior a big favour by beating the Uzbek youngster.

That left Anish with a winning tally of 8.5 points, ahead of Abdusattorov and a victorious Magnus Carlsen, who tied for the second spot at eight points.

Carlsen defeated debutant Arjun Erigaisi, R. Praggnanandhaa drew with Wesley So (USA, 7.5); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 5) drew with D. Gukesh (5.5); Arjun Erigaisi (4) lost to Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 8); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 8) lost to Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 6); Anish Giri (Ned, 8.5) bt Richard Rapport (Rom, 6.5); Levon Aronian (USA, 6.5) lost to Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri, 7); Ding Liren (Chn, 5.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 7).

Final standings: 1. Giri, 2-3. Abdusattorov, Carlsen, 4, So, 5-6. Caruana, Maghsoodloo, 7-8. Aronian, Rapport, 9-10. Praggnanandhaa, Foreest, 11-12. Ding, Gukesh, 13. Keymer, 14. Arjun.

Challengers: B. Adhiban (7) lost to Max Warmerdam (Ned, 7); R. Prithviraj Tondaiman, Shreyasi Singh, Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemati Sekhon will be the leading shooters in trap and skeet to compete in the two World Cups.

The Doha World Cup is scheduled to be held from March 4 to 13. The World Cup in Cairo will be from April 25 to May 3.

The teams: Doha and Cairo World Cups: Trap: Prithviraj Tondaiman, Zoravar Singh Sandhu, Bhowneesh Mendiratta; Shreyasi Singh, Preeti Rajak, Rajeshwari Kumari. **Skeet:** Mairaj Ahmad Khan, Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Gurjot Khangura; Ganemati Sekhon, Maheshwari Chauhan, Darshna Rathore. **Larnaca World Cup: Trap:** Lakshay Sheoran, Bakhtryaruddin Malek, Aryavansh Tyagi; Manisha Keer, Saborea Haris, Shagun Chowdhury. **Skeet:** Angadvir Singh Bajwa, Man Singh, Abhay Singh Sekhon; Areeba Khan, Raiza Dhillon, Parinaaz Dhaliwal.

Parth Bhut's unbeaten century pulls Saurashtra out of the woods

Punjab will be disappointed with the way it let the game slip despite dominating the first two sessions

RANJI TROPHY

Shayan Acharya
RAJKOT

Parth Bhut walked out to bat when Saurashtra was reeling at 147 for seven. To make matters worse, the team lost Snell Patel (70, 131b, 11x4) even before Bhut could settle down.

But the 24-year-old kept his calm and went on to score his maiden First Class century (111 n.o., 155b, 11x4, 4x6), guiding Saurashtra to 303 against Punjab in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinals at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium on Tuesday.

Challenging situation

Batting in a challenging situation, Bhut built two crucial partnerships – 61 for the ninth wicket with Chetan Sakariya and 95 with Yuvrajsinh Dodiya at the fag end – to bail out the team.

When his team desperately needed someone to



Gritty knock: Parth Bhut, who bailed Saurashtra out from a precarious situation, raises his bat after reaching his hundred. TWITTER/BCCIDOMESTIC

step up, Bhut played with a positive mindset, hammering a flurry of boundaries off Mayank Markande (four for 84) and Siddharth Kaul.

At a time when Punjab looked firmly in control, Bhut slowly turned things around. And after Mar-

kande dropped a sitter at 93, he gave no further chances and brought up his century in style.

Punjab, which ended the day's play at 3-0, will be disappointed with the way it let the game slip despite dominating the first two

sessions.

In cold and windy conditions, Baltej Singh (three for 60) made the most of the opportunities and dismissed Harvik Desai with the fourth ball of the day after Saurashtra opted to bat.

Snell and Vishvaraj Jadeja did manage a 77-run stand before the latter was caught and bowled by Mar-

kande.

With the steady partnership broken, Punjab had an impressive passage of play just before lunch as a fuller delivery from Baltej saw Sheldon Jackson, who started off briskly with two back-to-back sixes, offering a catch to Anmol Malhotra.

Captain Arpit Vasavada also failed to open his account and five wickets fell in the post-lunch before Bhut stepped up. And at the end of the day, Bhut's gritty knock turned things Saurashtra's way.

The scores:

Saurashtra – 1st innings:
Harvik Desai c Dhir b Baltej 0, Snell Patel b Markande 70, Vishvaraj Jadeja c&b Markande 28, Sheldon Jackson c Malhotra b Baltej 18, Arpit Vasavada lbw b Markande 0, Chirag Jani lbw b Kaul 8, Prerak Mankad lbw b Markande 5, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja c Choudhary b Kaul 12, Parth Bhut (not out) 111, Chetan Sakariya b Dhir 22, Yuvrajsinh Dodiya c Anmolpreet b Baltej 17;

Extras (b-3, lb-5, nb-2, w-2): 12; Total (in 87 overs): 303.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-77, 3-102, 4-107, 5-127, 6-134, 7-147, 9-208.

Punjab Bowling: Baltej 20.4-6-60-3, Kaul 18.2-81-2, Choudhary 15.1-62-0, Markande 29.2-4-84-4, Dhir 4.1-8-1.

Punjab – 1st innings:
Prabhsimran Singh (batting) 2, Naman Dhir (batting) 1; Total (for no loss in 1 over): 3.

Saurashtra bowling: Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 1-0-3-0.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES (QUARTERFINALS, DAY ONE)

At Kolkata: Jharkhand 173 in 66.2 overs (Kumar Suraj 89 n.o., Akash Deep 4/62) vs. Bengal.

Toss: Bengal.

At Mohali: Saurashtra 303 in 87 overs (Snell Patel 70, Parth Bhut 111 n.o., Mayank Markande 4/84) vs. Punjab 3/0 in 1 over. **Toss: Saurashtra.**

At Bengaluru: Uttarakhand 116 in 55.4 overs (M. Venkatesh 5/36) vs. Karnataka 123 for no loss in 26 overs (Ravikumar Samarth 54 batting, Mayank Agarwal 65 batting). **Toss: Karnataka.**

At Vizianagaram: Andhra 262/2 in 88 overs (Ricky Bhui 115 batting, Karan Shinde 83 batting) vs. Madhya Pradesh. **Toss: MP.**

TENNIS ROUND-UP

Prajwal Dev makes doubles quarterfinals

S.D. Prajwal Dev, partnering Nathan Seateun of France, made the doubles quarterfinals by beating Aleey Golovachev and Saveliy Ivanov 6-3, 6-3 in the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on Tuesday.

The results: \$15,000 ITF men, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt:

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Nathan Seateun (Fra) & SD Prajwal Dev bt Alexey Golovachev & Saveliy Ivanov 6-3, 6-3.

The results

(pre-quarterfinals): Sahira Singh bt Gia Alana Pereira 6-2, 6-2. Janani Ramesh bt Kanupriya Rajawat 6-1, 6-1. Rachita Talwar bt Ritu Ohlyan 6-2, 1-1 (conceded). Kavya Khirwar bt Medhavi Singh 7-5, 6-1. Samriti Punyani bt Rutuparna Choudhary 5-7, 6-1, 6-1. Vidhi Jani bt Anjali Rathi 6-3, 4-6, 1-5 (retd hurt). Riya Uboveja bt Sanjami Arora 6-1, 6-1.

Maiden wheelchair tennis Nationals in Indore in March

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has announced the conduct of the first-ever wheelchair tennis national championship in Indore from March 27 to 31.

The men's event will carry a prize purse of ₹2.5 lakh and the women's event will have ₹100,000.

Lucky escape for Vidhi Jani

Vidhi Jani escaped to a lucky win and entered the quarterfinals as fifth Anjali Rathi retired with a leg injury while leading 5-1 in the decider in the ₹100,000 AITA women's tennis tournament at the Joygoan Academy, Jhajjar, on Tuesday.

Top seed Abhay and seventh seed Tanvi make the finals with facile wins

PSA CHALLENGER

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Top seed Abhay Singh and seventh seed Tanvi Khanina kept the Indian hopes alive in a robust fashion by securing final berths in the men's and women's sections respectively of the HCL PSA Challenger squash tournament at the Dhyani Chand National Stadium on Tuesday.

Both the players were on top in the semifinals and did not drop a game to their opponents.

Abhay toyed with Matthew Lal of Hong Kong, even though the score of 11-4, 11-6, 11-8, may not suggest so. Lal is strongly built and has an explosive game, but Abhay was far too seasoned to let the power game trouble him.

In the final, Abhay will



Intense: Endo and Elshafei produced an close contest in the semifinals. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

be challenged by second seed Yassin Elshafei of Egypt, who had to step up his game to quell the energetic play of the towering Tomotaka Endo of Japan in four games.

Tanvi beat Nour Ramy of Egypt 11-5, 11-9, 11-5, stepping up her game whenev-

er needed, to make it a straight-forward affair. In the final, Tanvi will be up against top seed Amina Orfi of Egypt who sailed past compatriot Menna Menna for the loss of 13 points.

The 15-year-old Amina, the World No. 1 junior, had beaten Tanvi in a tight contest the last time the two met in the Challenger in Jodhpur in November, on way to the title.

It should be interesting to see how Tanvi, quite at home in her new training base in the Capital, finds a way past the talented Egyptian.

The results (semifinals):

Men: Abhay Singh bt Matthew Lal (Hkg) 11-4, 11-6, 11-8; Yassin Elshafei (Egy) bt Tomotaka Endo (Jpn) 11-5, 11-5, 11-6, 11-9.

Women: Amina Orfi (Egy) bt Menna Menna (Egy) 11-2, 11-4, 11-7; Tanvi Khanina bt Nour Ramy (Egy) 11-5, 11-9, 11-5.

Two sets of shotgun teams for World Cups

Sports Bureau

NEW DELHI

The top three shooters, tabulated on the basis of the scores from the National championship and two trials, have been selected to compete in the shotgun World Cups in Doha and Cairo.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), has selected the next best set of shooters for the World Cup to be staged in Larnaca, Cyprus, from March 25 to April 3.

With the World Cups not offering any Olympic quota places in the new format in the run up to the Paris Olympics, the national federation has decided to keep a bunch of shooters with international exposure ready as part of the national squad.

Prithviraj Tondaiman, Shreyasi Singh, Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemati Sekhon will be the leading shooters in trap and skeet to compete in the two World Cups.

The Doha World Cup is scheduled to be held from March 4 to 13. The World Cup in Cairo will be from April 25 to May 3.

The teams: Doha and Cairo World Cups: Trap:

Prithviraj Tondaiman, Zoravar Singh Sandhu, Bhowneesh Mendiratta; Shreyasi Singh, Preeti Rajak, Rajeshwari Kumari. **Skeet:** Mairaj Ahmad Khan, Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Gurjot Khangura; Ganemati Sekhon, Maheshwari Chauhan, Darshna Rathore.

Larnaca World Cup: Trap: Lakshay Sheoran, Bakhtryaruddin Malek, Aryavansh Tyagi; Manisha Keer, Saborea Haris, Shagun Chowdhury. **Skeet:** Angadvir Singh Bajwa, Man Singh, Abhay Singh Sekhon; Areeba Khan, Raiza Dhillon, Parinaaz Dhaliwal.

HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA-HYDERABAD NOTIFICATION No. 123/2023-RC, DATED: 01.02.2023

Applications are invited through ONLINE for General Recruitment to 10 posts of Civil judge in the Telangana State Judicial Service, comprising of 08 vacancies to be filled under Direct Recruitment, and 02 vacancies to be filled under Recruitment by Transfer. The detailed notification is placed in the official website of the High Court <http://tscg.gov.in>.