



## Drishti IAS

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करोल बाग (हिंदी माध्यम)  
31 अगस्त | सुबह 8:00 बजे

# No Governor's assent; Manipur Assembly session a non-starter

Raj Bhavan did not issue notification to convene the Assembly on Monday, though the State Cabinet had recommended holding a Special Session to Governor Anusuya Uikey; Congress says constitutional machinery has broken down in State

**Rahul Karmakar**  
GUWAHATI

The 60-member Manipur Assembly failed to hold a Special Session on Monday to discuss the ethnic violence in the State as the Raj Bhavan did not issue a notification to convene it despite a recommendation from the State Cabinet.

An official statement on August 4 said the Cabinet had recommended to Governor Anusuya Uikey the summoning of the fourth session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly on August 21. This followed a similar request from the



Paramilitary personnel stand guard outside the Raj Bhavan during a protest demanding convening of the Manipur Assembly. ANI

government on July 27.

"The Special Session could not be held as we did not receive the requisite notification from the Governor," a senior official

### SC panel seeks reconstruction of lost documents

**NEW DELHI**  
A Supreme Court-appointed committee chaired by former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Justice Gita Mittal has sought the reconstruction of essential documents lost or destroyed in Manipur during the violence. » PAGE 10

die in March, more than a month before the clashes started on May 3.

The next session has to be held before September 2. Article 174 of the Constitu-

tution says: "The House or Houses of the Legislature of the State shall be summoned to meet twice at least in every year, and six months shall not intervene between their last sitting in one session and the date appointed for their first sitting in the next session."

Former Manipur Chief Minister and Congress leader Okram Ibobi Singh said the failure of the House to sit for the Monsoon Session pointed to a constitutional crisis.

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» PAGE 10  
DEEP IN DISARRAY  
» PAGE 6

## SC to constitute a new Bench to hear Cauvery water issue

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**Tamil Nadu** said the release of water was a dire necessity to meet the demands of the standing crops

lease of water was a dire necessity to meet the pressing demands of the standing crops.

Tamil Nadu has urged the court to direct Karnataka to ensure the stipulated releases for September (36.76 tmcft) under the Cauvery Tribunal award as modified by the Supreme Court in 2018.

Appearing before the Bench headed by the Chief Justice, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi and Additional Advocate-General Amit Anand Tiwari said the plea was urgent.

"This is an urgent plea for release of Cauvery water for August as per the Cauvery Water Management Authority order... Your Lordships have to constitute a Bench," Mr. Rohatgi submitted.

"Today itself I will constitute a Bench," Chief Justice Chandrachud responded. Mr. Rohatgi urged the Chief Justice to list the case at the earliest.

Tamil Nadu has moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to Karnataka to release 24,000 cusecs of Cauvery water forthwith from its reservoirs at Billigundulu for the remaining period of the month, starting from August 14.

The State said the re-

**CONTINUED ON**  
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### IN BRIEF



**Modi:** more jobs available, people's income growing

**RAIPUR**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the income tax return data showed that the average income of Indians had tripled during his tenure, reflecting a rise in employment opportunities. » Page 11

**Will oppose UCC Bill if introduced, says Jagan Reddy**

**NEW DELHI**

The YSR Congress Party, according to sources, has made it known to the ruling BJP that it will oppose the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill whenever it is introduced. Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan Mohan Reddy, during a meeting with PM Narendra Modi in July, had enquired about the subject. » Page 4

**Delhi govt. official accused of raping minor arrested**

**NEW DELHI**

The police on Monday arrested Premoday Khakha, 51, a senior Delhi government official who has been accused of raping and impregnating a minor girl. His wife has also been taken into custody. The government, meanwhile, has placed him under suspension. » Page 2



TELANGANA ASSEMBLY POLL

BRS announces list of candidates for 115 seats

STATES » PAGE 5

**BRICS SUMMIT**

**A test for India's multipolarity rhetoric**  
New Delhi faces a geopolitical predicament

EDITORIAL » PAGE 6



DREAM RUN

Pragg stuns Caruana, meets Carlsen in final

SPORT » PAGE 15

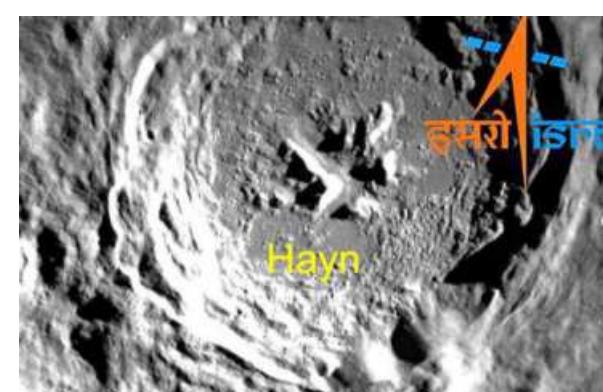
## Chandrayaan-3 reveals dark side of the moon

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Ahead of the scheduled landing of the Chandrayaan-3 lander on the moon on Wednesday, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Monday released images of the far side of the lunar surface.

The far side is also known as the dark side of the moon as it is always hidden from earth. The images were captured on August 19 by the Lander Hazard Detection and Avoidance Camera (LHDAC) onboard the lander. "This camera that assists in locating a safe landing area – without boulders or deep trenches – during the descent is developed by ISRO at SAC," the space agency posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Russia's Luna-25, which



**Journey to the unknown:** An image of the far side of the moon clicked on Saturday by Chandrayaan-3. The photo marks Hayn, a lunar impact crater next to the 'northeast limb' of the moon. PTI/ISRO

crashed into the moon on Sunday, had sent images of the far side of the moon.

The ISRO has already released three videos of the moon captured by Chandrayaan-3.

While one of them was taken by the Lander Position Detection Camera (LPDC) on August 15,

another was taken by the Lander Imager (LI) Camera-1 just after the separation of the lander module from the propulsion module on August 17. On August 6, it shared the first video of the moon as viewed by Chandrayaan-3 during the Lunar Orbit Insertion on August 5.

CJI asks govt. if it intends to dictate use of judicial review

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday said some parts of a draft standard operating procedure (SOP) prepared by the Centre to tailor judicial conduct in government-related cases read as if the Centre wanted to dictate the exercise of judicial review. "I have gone through your draft SOP... There are some points which actually say how judicial review should be exercised," Chief Justice Chandrachud addressed Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta.

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## From daily wager to medical student

33-year-old Odisha tribal labourer had done it all, even migrating to Kerala for work, for 15 years before he cracked NEET; Krushnachandra Ataka will join a Kalahandi medical college in a week

**Satyasundar Barik**  
BHUBANESWAR

**K**rushnachandra Ataka, a 33-year-old agricultural labourer from the Kondh tribe, is in an unusual hurry, inspecting any sign of disease in maturing paddy plants across a sprawling field at Thupadi village in Bissamkata block of Rayagada district in Odisha. The urgency is not only to ensure a good yield, but also to write a new chapter in his life.

Mr. Ataka, who returned to studies after a gap of 15 years (13 years as an agricultural labourer and two as a migrant



**Fruits of labour:** Krushnachandra Ataka, a labourer from Rayagada district in Odisha, is set to pursue an MBBS degree. BISWARANJAN ROUT

labourer), has cracked the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to medical colleges, and is all set to join Saheed Rendo Majhi

Medical College and Hospital, Bhawanipatna, in Kalahandi district in a week's time.

Born to parents who have only one acre of

unproductive agricultural land to feed five children of which he is the oldest, he passed his Class 10 exams securing 58% in 2006.

He would not have enrolled in Khallikote Junior College, Berhampur, for higher secondary classes after that had a non-governmental organisation not come forward to take care of his boarding and college fees.

"At a time when my parents were struggling to make ends meet, my studies became less of a priority," he recalls.

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G20  
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117  
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## INBRIEF



## Mother sends rakhis to MPs, seeks help getting Ariha back

Dhara Shah, the mother of two-year-old Ariha, who was placed in foster care in Germany by authorities two years ago, on Monday appealed to MPs and activists to help bring her daughter back. As part of a campaign launched with the help of NGO PRAYAS, Ms. Shah sent *rakhis* and letters to several people pleading her case. "I am sending you a *rakhi* with prayers for your success and prosperity. Please help me come back to India," the letter read. On September 23, 2021, Germany's Youth Welfare Office took Ariha's custody after she suffered an accidental injury.

## Gurugram gets a new police chief in major dept. reshuffle

In a major reshuffle, the Haryana government on Monday ordered the transfer of 20 IPS officers, including Gurugram Police Commissioner Kala Ramachandran. Vikas Arora, Faridabad Police Commissioner, will replace her. The reshuffle comes barely days after the appointment of Shatrujeet Kapur as Haryana's new Director General of Police (DGP) after the term of his predecessor P.K. Agrawal ended on August 15.

## CM approves sugar scheme for poor; 2.8 lakh to benefit

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday approved the decision to provide free sugar to ration cardholders and sent the file to the L-G for approval. "Approximately 2,80,290 beneficiaries, including 68,747 National Food Security cardholders, will benefit from this decision. The implementation of this initiative will require an estimated budget of ₹1.11 crore every month," a Delhi government statement read.

# Achieve Excellence in UPSC Mains 2023 with VISION IAS Abhyas Mains

With UPSC Mains Examination commencing on 15th September 2023, candidates who successfully cleared the Prelim stage of the UPSC CSE 2023 are now striving hard to give their best in the Mains examination. This effort includes revising syllabi through rigorous practice, fine-tuning exam-appearing strategies, validating answer writing approaches, and implementing value-addition measures that can maximize their performance and score in the examination.

The Mains exam is a test of the knowledge, skills, and civil servant-like qualities such as comprehension skills, critical thinking & analytical skills, decision-making abilities, expression, and ethical foundations.

Success in this examination not only offers an opportunity for aspirants to appear in the Personality Test but the performance in this stage also determines their final place in the merit list.

This is where, VisionIAS has emerged as a trusted partner of aspirants, illuminating their path through initiatives like the Abhyas Mains 2023. Abhyas is a strategically designed assessment and guidance program for students appearing in Mains Examination 2023 to timely assess their preparedness in an exam-like environment.

Abhyas Mains 2023 will be conducted in 40+ cities on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of August across the country where aspirants will get an opportunity to appear in five Papers, viz. GS Papers-I to IV and Essay in offline mode.

The Essay Paper will be conducted on 25th August, GS Papers I & II on 26th August while Papers III & IV will be conducted on 27th August in forenoon and afternoon sessions.

#### The Simulated Exercise: A Prelude to Success

In the dynamic realm of the UPSC Mains Examination, practicing in an environment that mirrors the actual exam setup is invaluable. Abhyas Mains serves as this vital simulated exercise, allowing aspirants to acclimate themselves to the examination's ambiance, pace, and complexity.

It plays a crucial role in translating students' preparation into actual performance in the Mains examination. This rehearsal enables candidates to gauge their exam readiness, recognize areas necessitating further refinement, and make strategic adjustments.

Therefore, Abhyas taking experience ultimately diminishes exam-induced anxiety, cultivates familiarity, and positions candidates to put their best foot forward and achieve peak performance in the UPSC Mains examination.

#### Abhyas Mains: A Benchmark of Exam-Readiness

Abhyas mirrors the UPSC Mains Examination not merely in structure but in essence. With its presence across more than 40 centers throughout India, it offers an inclusive reach to aspirants hailing from all corners of the nation.

This extensive and diverse geographical coverage not only guarantees accessibility but also fosters a spirit of healthy competition among participants, thus creating a more holistic benchmarking platform.

The examination encompasses a spectrum of components mirroring the UPSC Mains' rigor. These include quality Test Papers on UPSC patterns, the exam-like environment inside and around Test Centres, comprehensive assessment, and precise feedback.



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**ABHYAS**  
**MAINS 2023**  
**CENTERS**

This assessment focuses on the skills and competencies of students in various aspects of answer writing such as introduction and conclusion, innovative and impactful presentations, precise yet enriched content, logical flow & coherence, language proficiency, and other value-addition areas.

The assessment process is well-complemented by a dedicated & personalized mentoring ecosystem. It involves in-person interaction between the aspirant and a Senior Mentor through various channels that include face-to-face discussions, online video sessions, telephonic calls, emails, and texts.

These personalized mentoring sessions aid aspirants in realizing their untapped potential through smart interventions by building the skills and competencies needed to excel in the UPSC Mains Examination.

#### A Testimony of Excellence Through Toppers

Year after year, the finest minds in the civil service domain, the toppers, actively participate in Abhyas Mains. Some notable examples of previous years include Ishita Kishore (AIR 1, 2022), Waseem Ahmad Bhat (AIR 7, 2022), Ankita Agarwal (AIR 2, 2021), Aishwarya Verma (AIR 4, 2021), and Shubham Kumar (AIR 1, 2020), among other exceptional performers.

Their involvement amplifies the essence of this initiative, establishing it as the pinnacle of preparedness evaluation. The toppers' participation further enhances the credibility of Abhyas Mains and underscores the belief in its capacity to elevate aspirants' performance to new heights.

As the penultimate phase of the UPSC Mains preparation approaches, Abhyas Mains 2023 emerges as a pivotal milestone for aspirants and brings aspirants one step closer to the realization of their dreams of serving the nation through the esteemed realm of Indian Civil Services.

"It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves."  
- Sir Edmund Hillary

We wish all the UPSC aspirants the very best for the upcoming Mains Exam!

\* This is an indicative map solely prepared to assist students in identifying the test centres.

\* The pictorial representation does not purport to be the political map of India.

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# Panel for Karnataka education policy to be constituted in a week

CM Siddaramaiah says even BJP-ruled States hesitant to implement NEP; students admitted under it already in final-year degree courses now and NEP will end with them, says Minister

**The Hindu Bureau**



From left: Karnataka Primary & Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa, CM Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar and Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar at a meeting on the education policy in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Karnataka government has decided to constitute a committee of experts to formulate the State Education Policy (SEP) within a week.

"The National Education Policy (NEP 2020) has been formulated without taking the State governments into confidence. Education policy cannot be centrally imposed. A uniform education system cannot be imposed on a multicultural country. Therefore, we decided to withdraw NEP," said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah after chairing a meeting of Vice Chancellors, experts and Education Department officials.

While States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have made it clear to the Union government that they will not implement NEP, even BJP-ruled States are also hesitant to implement it, the Chief Minister pointed out.

He said though certificates might be issued every year under the norms of NEP, there is a question mark on how many job opportunities they will create for those who have studied for one or two years.

"Even if the poor students get job opportunities and quit studies in a year or two, will they be able to study further in future?" said Mr. Siddaramaiah, adding that educational institutions do not have the necessary infrastructure to implement the educational policy and this has created

unnecessary confusion.

#### Role of universities

"It is not possible to bring a uniform education system in our country with its diversity in language, culture and other factors. Universities should contribute to building equitable society. Any activities and actions which are against the Constitution should not take place in the universities. If students coming out from universities are still ignorant, devoid of rationalism and cling to caste and creed, then what they have

got cannot be called education," he said.

Addressing the media, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that the committee will include experts from both higher education and school education.

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar said, "The students who have got admissions under NEP are in final-year degree courses now. The NEP batch will end with them. Those students will get a three-year degree certificate."

# YSRCP likely to oppose Uniform Civil Code Bill

**Sobhana K. Nair**

NEW DELHI

The YSR Congress Party is anxious about the Union government's possible plan to introduce the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and according to informed sources, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy, at his last meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi in July, had enquired about the subject. The party also made it known to the ruling BJP that it will oppose the Bill whenever it is introduced.

While the BJP has been pushing for the UCC for a long time, the debate on the issue reigned with the Law Commission's notice on June 14 inviting feedback on the subject.

On July 3, Law Ministry officials, deposing at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice, said they were awaiting the 22nd Law Commission's report to proceed any further.

The meeting between Mr. Reddy and Mr. Modi came two days later, on July 5. It is learnt through reliable sources that Mr. Reddy informed the Prime Minister that if the Bill was brought, his party would oppose it.



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

The decision is dictated by State politics, where Mr. Reddy finds himself favourably placed among the minority voters. Andhra Pradesh, as per the 2011 census, has a little less than 10% Muslim population.

In the last Assembly elections, the minority voters chose the YSR Congress over its rival Telugu Desam Party (TDP) despite the fact that the latter was engaged in a pitched battle with the BJP.

"When we got the minority vote in adverse conditions, it would be politically suicidal to abandon them," a senior YSRCP leader said. But the party is clear that its opposition is limited to a possible legislation on the UCC. On

Farmer killed in clash with police ahead of rally over flood relief

**Vikas Vasudeva**  
CHANDIGARH

Several farmer leaders were on Monday detained in Punjab, a day ahead of a slated demonstration by farmers' unions from flood-ravaged States of north India. They are seeking immediate flood-relief compensation.

Farmers from across Punjab have begun marching towards Chandigarh to participate in the demonstration. In Sangrur's Longowal village, police personnel and farmers clashed after an attempt to breach a barricade. One farmer later succumbed to his injuries.

The police said farmers associated with BKU Azad Union were marching towards Badbar toll plaza on Barnala-Sangrur National Highway when the police tried to stop them. "When barricades were breached and tractor trolleys began moving forward, the police tried to stop them. An Inspector was nearly caught under a tractor trolley. The same trolley ran over an old farmer Pritam Singh who was seriously injured. He died during treatment," said Sangrur Senior Superintendent of Police.

## INBRIEF



### Law to ban polygamy: Assam govt. seeks public opinion

The Assam government has sought public opinion on a proposed law to end polygamy in the State, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday. Sharing a government public notice on X, formerly Twitter, Mr. Sarma appealed to the people to send their suggestions on the proposed law. The notice requested the people to send their opinion by August 30 through email or by post. It mentioned that the State government had formed an expert committee to study the legislative competence of the Assembly to enact such a law, and the report stated that the State legislature is competent. PTI

### BJP eyes EBC vote in Bihar, appoints Hari Sahni as LoP

The BJP has appointed low-profile Hari Sahni as the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Council, a development being seen as an attempt by the party to woo voters of the Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) ahead of the general election next year. Mr. Sahni replaces Samrat Choudhary who in March this year was appointed the State BJP president. With the elevation of Mr. Sahni, who comes from the boatmen (Mallah) community, a sub-group of the Nishads, the party is looking to consolidate its position among voters of the backward castes. EBC voters form 30% of the State's electorate. The BJP had nominated Mr. Sahni to the House in 2022. The Nishads have a sizeable presence in several Lok Sabha constituencies of north Bihar.

### Modi fulfilled Kalyan Singh's Ram temple dream, says Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said while the Congress kept dragging the Ram temple issue since Independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paved the way for its construction and fulfilled former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh's dream. The Modi government also fulfilled the veteran leader's wish to empower the backward and the poor, Mr. Shah said at a function in Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh to mark the second death anniversary of Singh. "The beginning which was made by Babuji (Kalyan Singh) has been given a shape by Narendra Modi, who worked for the holistic empowerment of the backward classes in nine years by undertaking a lot of work," he said. Singh's death anniversary is being observed by the BJP as the 'Hindu Gaurav Diwas', he said. PTI

# AAP-Cong. seat-sharing in Delhi: State leaders await nod from top

**Nikhil M Babu**  
**Iaideep Deo Bhanj**

NEW DELHI

Just days before the Opposition's INDIA bloc will be holding its crucial meeting in Mumbai, leaders of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress here said they will wait for a nod from their top leaderships before talking to their workers about the alliance between the two parties.

Both the Congress and AAP are part of the Opposition's INDIA bloc, which will be taking on the BJP-led NDA in the general election next year.

However, both parties are yet to formally declare an alliance in Delhi. Congress leader Alka Lamba had earlier this week stirred a political storm by saying that her party will "prepare to fight all seven

seats" in Delhi, drawing a sharp response from AAP which said this will render the INDIA bloc meaningless.

Later, the Congress' Delhi in-charge Deepak Bhardwaj said Ms. Lamba was not authorised to speak on alliance-related issues.

Several AAP leaders maintained that it is "too early" to have a meeting with workers on the alliance and they will wait till a seat-sharing formula is finalised with the Congress. "There is no direction from the top party leadership on this issue as of now," said an AAP leader.

Let it (fighting election together with the Congress) sink in naturally among workers. Why do you need to push that message?" another party leader said.

A senior Congress lead-

er also said they will talk to their workers about the alliance only after a nod from the party's central leadership. For now, the Delhi unit has been told to prepare a roadmap for the Lok Sabha elections next year.

#### Tough to explain'

Some workers of both parties said many of them will find it difficult to digest the decision of coming together for the elections as they have been attacking each other since AAP's inception in 2012.

An AAP worker, who has been with the party since 2012, said it is his party's "compulsion" to join hands with the Congress.

He, however, said many party workers are not happy at the possibility of an alliance with the Congress.

A Congress worker

echoed the same feeling, pointing out that there was talk of an alliance ahead of the last Lok Sabha elections too but they "found it hard to explain it to people".

"After all, it is AAP that stopped the progress of Sheila Dikshit's Delhi," the worker said.

"Over the past seven to eight years, we have been in a conflict against AAP on several issues and have even taken to the streets in protest. What do we tell people when we campaign at the block level?" said another Congress worker.

Earlier, senior Congress leaders such as Ajay Maken and Sandeep Dikshit had expressed reservation about an alliance with AAP and told their party leadership that AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal is an "unreliable ally".

# BJP says 'Vajpayee park' renamed; was always 'Coconut Park': Tej Pratap

**Amit Bhelari**  
PATNA

The Bihar government on Monday postponed the inauguration of a park following a controversy over alleged renaming of the public space in Patna's Kanarkabagh. The Opposition BJP has alleged that the government renamed the park to 'Coconut Park' after a recent revamp. The party claimed that it was named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihar Vajpayee after his death in 2018. The park was scheduled to be inaugurated by Tej Pratap Yadav, the Minister of the department and son of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, on Monday.

**'Coconut Park it is'**  
Mr. Yadav said, "I have not changed the name of the park. Since its inception, the park has been called

'Coconut Park'. The BJP is unnecessarily spreading rumours that I have changed the name. If any local resident changes the name of the park [to Atal Bihar Vajpayee park] that does not mean that the government has changed it." A department official said, "After Vajpayee's death, a private organisation, Bharatiya Jan Jagriti Manch, installed a statue of him and a board with the leader's name at the front gate. However, on paper, the name of the park has always been Coconut Park," he said, requesting anonymity.

BJP leaders, however, attacked Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Union MoS Home Nitayand Raik said, "I strongly condemn the move. In the days to come, Nitish Kumar's name would also be changed from many places."

# Police trying to evict us from DMK-led alliance, alleges VCK

**The Hindu Bureau**  
TIRUNELVELI

The "caste fanatics" in the police, who are out to isolate the Scheduled Castes from civil society, are methodically executing their plan to evict the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) from the ruling DMK-led alliance, VCK leader Thol. Thirumavalavan said on Monday.

Speaking at a protest organised here to condemn the murderous attack on a Scheduled Caste boy and his younger sister at Nanjaneri in the district on August 9, he said casteism, which had permeated the police, had transformed a section of the force, including officers, into caste fanatics. They were working

overtime against the SCs and taking every step possible to sideline them from civil society. More importantly, they were working to crush the VCK and methodically planning to evict it from the DMK-led alliance, he said.

Recalling the attack, Mr. Thirumavalavan said three armed teenagers had entered a colony of residents of a particular caste, attacked the boy and his sister, and escaped. "Since the attackers believe that the law could not punish them as the law-enforcers would save them, they are indulging in such daring acts. Hence, the panicked and unsafe SC people, in search of protection and dignified life, are embracing other religions."

# As many as 189 tribal colonies in Kerala still lack Internet access

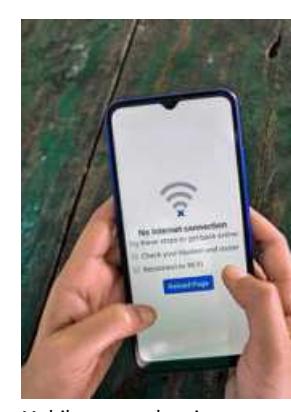
**Dhinesh Kallungal**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Though Kerala was the first State in the country to declare the right to Internet a basic right, as many as 189 Adivasi ooru (tribal colonies) spread over 12 districts in the State still have no access to Internet and mobile connection.

The lack of access affects the prospects of over 5,000 tribal students in these colonies.

According to the data available with the Scheduled Tribes Development Department, Idukki has the highest number of tribal colonies cut off digitally from the mainland – 75 colonies, accommodating over 2,000 tribal students. Kannur comes second with 1,140 students.

Murali M. Nair, Joint Di-



Mobile screen showing no internet connection. GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

Internet and mobile connection in these colonies would be made available under a Union Cabinet-approved project that aims at providing 4G mobile services in remote areas.

Officials said that the work on setting up the towers would be launched soon after permission was granted.

"We hope that by December the State will be in a position to address the digital divide in the tribal colonies," said another senior officer.

**KFON project**  
Government sources claimed that community study rooms set up in various parts of the State provided facilities for students to use the Internet. However, students from remote digitally cut-off colonies

seldom make use of such facilities. The previous Left Democratic Front (LDF) government had declared Internet connection a basic right when the ₹1,548-crore Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON) – a project aimed at providing free Internet access to 20 lakh below the poverty line (BPL) families in the State and providing Internet connection at a nominal rate to the public – was launched in 2019 and the first phase of the project was commissioned in June 2023.

The Kerala High Court had earlier held that the right to have access to the Internet is part of the fundamental right to education as well as the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution.

# BRS starts early, announces 115 names for Assembly poll

Telangana Chief Minister to contest two seats — Gajwel and Kamareddy; only seven MLAs have been dropped; the party has ruled out the possibility of any alliance with Left parties

**B. Chandrashekhar**  
HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Monday announced candidates for 115 of the 119 Assembly constituencies in Telangana for the upcoming Assembly election, with only seven MLAs dropped.

In a surprise decision, party president and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has announced that he would contest two seats this time — Gajwel and Kamareddy.

Mr. Rao has also ruled out the possibility of any alliance with the Left parties — CPI and CPI (M) — by stating that announcing the candidates for 115 seats in one go meant that the party had no interest in any poll alliances.

The BRS president announced that he had decided to contest from two places as there were



**Poll bugle:** K. Chandrasekhar Rao announcing the candidates for the upcoming Assembly election, on Monday.  
NAGARA GOPAL

requests from several districts, and he had picked up Kamareddy. Releasing the list of candidates at the party of office at the "auspicious time after 2.38 p.m.", he said the candidature of sitting MLA from Venmalawada — Chennamaneni Ramesh — was not considered due to his nationality issue pending in the court. The party has picked up Chalmeda Lakshmi Narasimha Rao for the constituency.

Similarly, the party

leadership has selected Bhukya Johnson Rathod Naik, who is considered close to working president K.T. Rama Rao, in place of A. Rekha Naik for Khanapur seat and Anil Jadhav for Booth constituency in place of the sitting MLA Bapu Rao Rathod.

For Asifabad, the party has picked Kova Laksami again who won the election in 2014 and was defeated in 2018. In Hyderabad, BRS has picked up Bandaru Lakshma Reddy in place of sitting

MLA Bethi Subhash Reddy. For Korutla, the party leadership has considered the request of sitting MLA Kalvakunta Vidyasagar Rao to give ticket to his son K. Sanjay Kumar. Reiterating that the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen would continue to be a friendly party of the BRS, he said the two would sweep all 29 seats in Hyderabad and the erstwhile Rangareddy districts.

**Anti-party activities**  
Asked about Malkajigiri MLA Mynampalli Hanumantha Rao's "ultimatum" that he wants ticket for his son for the Medak seat or he would quit the party, Mr. Rao said it was up to him. He said the BRS would not tolerate anti-party activities.

Mr. Rao said the party would release its election manifesto at its *Simha Garjana* public meet in Warangal on October 16.

## W.B. Assembly committee for 'Bangla Diwas' on April 15

**Press Trust of India**  
KOLKATA

A committee set up by the West Bengal Assembly to determine the day for the 'Paschingbanga Diwas' (the State's foundation day) has recommended that it be observed on April 15 as 'Bangla Diwas'.

The celebration of the day on June 20 had kicked off a storm in the State this year, with the government and Raj Bhavan locking horns with Mamata Banerjee accusing the BJP and Governor C.V. Ananda Bose of using the foundation day for political gains and promoting a narrative favoured by the 'safron camp'.

## '5 accused in Nuh violence handed over to police'

**Press Trust of India**  
GURUGRAM/NUH

Five accused wanted in connection with the July 31 communal violence in Nuh were 'handed over' to the police by the residents of Singar village following repeated appeals by the police and the administration, an official said on Monday.

"On Sunday, some villagers handed over Juber, Salman, Ansar, Rafiq and Abu Bakar to the police," the spokesperson said.

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU**  
**TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD. [ICO]**  
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008. Phone : 044-28191890 / 28190259,  
Website: [www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in](http://www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in) E-Mail: [gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in](mailto:gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in), [mngprdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in](mailto:mngprdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in)

Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai – 600008, from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria indicated in the tender document for the supply of MMA Drugs Kit to TNMSC Ltd under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance of the tender.

Sl. No	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1.	Online Tender for the supply of MMA Drugs Kit to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance	e-015(M(P))MMA-KIT/TNMSC/2023, Dated: 22.08.2023	22.08.2023 at 3.00 PM to 05.09.2023 upto 3.00 PM	29.08.2023 at 10.00 AM to 05.09.2023 upto 3.00 PM	05.09.2023 at 3.30 PM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at <https://tnmsc.tn.gov.in/>. The tender document can also be downloaded at [www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in](http://www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in) for reference purpose.

**Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)**  
DIPR/4643/TENDER/2023  
"கோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சுதந்திரம் படைப்போம்."

**COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE**  
(A Statutory Authority of Government of India under Architects Act, 1972)  
India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, 1st Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003  
website: [www.nata.in](http://www.nata.in), [www.coa.gov.in](http://www.coa.gov.in)

**IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**REVISION IN ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO B.ARCH. COURSE FOR 2023-24 AND CONDUCT OF 4<sup>TH</sup> TEST OF NATA 2023**

The Council, with the approval of the Central Government has amended the Regulation 4(1) and (2) of the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020 and amended the eligibility for admission to Architecture course w.e.f. 19.07.2023, as under:

- "(1) No candidate shall be admitted to architecture course unless she/he has passed 10+2 or equivalent examination with Physics and Mathematics as compulsory subjects along with either Chemistry or Biology or Technical Vocational subject or Computer Science or Information Technology or Informatics Practices or Engineering Graphics or Business Studies with at least 45% marks in aggregate or passed 10+3 Diploma Examination with Mathematics as compulsory subject with at least 45% marks in aggregate."
- "(2) The candidate needs to qualify an aptitude test in architecture conducted either by NTA (i.e. JEER) or "NATA" conducted by the Council of Architecture."

Accordingly, all stakeholders i.e. students, parents, architectural institutions and concerned authorities are required to follow the above eligibility criteria for admission to First Year of 5-year B.Arch. Degree Course for the academic session 2023-24.

In view of the above revised eligibility criteria, the Council has decided to conduct 4<sup>th</sup> Test of NATA 2023 Examination on September 17, 2023 to facilitate the eligible aspirants with one final opportunity to appear for the NATA for the purpose of admission to B.Arch. Degree Course. The candidates qualifying in the 4<sup>th</sup> NATA Test shall be eligible for admission to B.Arch. degree course for academic session 2023-2024, irrespective of the fact whether they had appeared in previous Tests of NATA 2023 or not.

It may be noted that admission of successful candidates in 4<sup>th</sup> NATA Test shall be only against vacant/ unfilled seats available at various Institutions. Centralized Admission counselling process in the states shall continue and will not be affected by the results of the 4<sup>th</sup> Test. For further details on registering for NATA, please visit website [www.nata.in](http://www.nata.in).

New Delhi  
August 22, 2023

Registrar

### Notice Inviting Tender

Tender Ref. No. ST/GP/9/2018/50

Director, Guwahati Planetarium, hereby invites online Bids from eligible Bidders following Two-Bid System of bidding for "Providing water proofing roof treatment over the roof slab of Guwahati Planetarium".

Sl. No.	Name of project	Approx. value of work	Bid Security	Bid Security drawn in favour of	Time of completion	Bid processing fee
1	Providing water proofing roof treatment over the roof slab of Guwahati Planetarium	Rs. 22,34,172.00	Rs. 44,683.00 for General category & Rs. 22,342.00 for reserved category	Director, Guwahati Planetarium	45 (Forty Five) days	Rs. 400.00

Bids must be submitted online at the e-Procurement portal (i.e., <https://assamtenders.gov.in>) on or before the due date of submission i.e. 11/09/2023 upto 2:00 PM.

The Technical Bid will be opened online on 11/09/2023 at 3:00 PM and the Price Bid shall be opened online only for the technical qualified bidders.

**Director**  
Guwahati Planetarium, ST & CC Deptt.  
Uzbanbar, Guwahati-1

Janasanyog /C/9075/23

**Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam**  
Block No. 24, 2nd Floor, STPI Building, SDA Complex, Kasumti Shimla-171009 (H.P.), E-mail- [hpkvnshimla@gmail.com](mailto:hpkvnshimla@gmail.com)

The Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam (HPKVN) as State Skill Development Mission has mandate to implement skill development project having loan no. and title: 3573-IND/Himachal Pradesh Skill Development Project. HPKVN invites Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the selection of prospective/eligible bidders for procurement/supply of the Machinery & Equipments and related items against Package No.

HPKVN/(563)/2020/Proc./Op.Part.CoE/Vol-III Date: 22.08.2023

Sr. No.	Name of the package	Deadline for receipt of RFQ
1.	HPKVN/ CoE/ Equipment & Furniture/ 01R4- Procurement of Hotel Amenities Equipment.	18th September, 2023
2.	HPKVN/ CoE/ Equipment & Furniture/ 01R6 - Procurement of Food Processing Equipment.	18th September, 2023

Interested Bidders are requested to submit their bids on prescribed "Proforma", which may be downloaded from [www.hpkvn.in](http://www.hpkvn.in). The bids must reach to this office on or before 18th September, 2023, 01:00 PM along with requisite documents and Demand Draft of Rs. 10,000/- in the name of "Managing Director, Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam, Shimla" towards bid processing fee.

-sd-  
Managing Director

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH 6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW

No.: ME-3/2023/1877 Lucknow: Dated 21 August, 2023

### The Time Schedule of Second Round Online Counseling for UP NEET PG-2023

The Time Schedule for the Admission through Online counseling in the State of Uttar Pradesh for Government/Private Medical/ Dental Colleges/Institutions /District Hospitals/Universities for Postgraduate (MD/MS/Diploma/DNB/MDS) Courses is as follows:-

S.No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1	Date of Online Registration	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2023 (From 11:00 AM) to 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2023 (Till 11:00 AM)	03 days
2	Date of depositing Registration Fee and Security Fee	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2023 (From 11:00 AM) to 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2023 (Till 11:00 AM)	04 days
3	Date of declaration of Merit List	29 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	01 day
4	Date of Online Choice Filling	01 <sup>st</sup> September 2023 (From 11:00 AM) to 04 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 (Till 11:00 AM)	03 days
5	Date of Declaration of result of seat allotment	05 / 06 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	01 day
6	Date for downloading allotment letters	08 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 to 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	05 days
7	Date for Admission process	08, 09 <sup>th</sup> September and 11, 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	04 days
8	Session Start	05 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	

- Candidates registered during first round of counseling not required to register again.
- Candidates admitted in the first round of counseling are not required to deposit the security Money again.
- Candidates who have not been register in first round of counseling can participate in the Second round of counseling by depositing the registration fee of **Rs.3000/-** (Rs. Three thousand only).
- To participate in the counseling of MD/MS/Diploma, DNB and MDS courses, separate registration will be mandatory and it will also be mandatory to deposit separate security money.
- Candidates admitted in the first round of counseling are eligible for reshuffling in the second round of counseling.
- Such candidates, who have been allotted seat in first round of counseling, but not reported or resigned from admitted seat, will be eligible for the second round of counseling after depositing the security money again.
- Other important information and detailed description can be seen on the website <https://upneet.gov.in> and [www.dgme.gov.in](http://www.dgme.gov.in) keep visiting this website from time to time for the latest information.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

## NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar,(U.P.)

Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

### E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official websites: [www.noidaauthorityonline.in](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.in) & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(धनराशि रुपये 30 लाख से रुपये 01 करोड़ तक)

Sr. No.	JOB Number	Name of Work	Amount Rs.	Tender Publication
(1)	02/Advt/SM/2023-24	Advertising rights on BOT Basis for Operation & Maintenance of 44 Market toilets on different locations in Noida for a period of 05 Years, Noida	44,33,792.00	Second Time

Which can be uploaded by date 28.08.2023 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 29.08.2023 at 11.00 AM.

(V.K. Tyagi)  
S.M., Noida

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**

## GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM



# Decoding the President's speech

In her address to the nation on the eve of this Independence Day, President Droupadi Murmu said, "Our Constitution is our guiding document". At this time of great political and ideological contestation, it is reassuring to hear the Head of State forthrightly say these words. This is because they connote that neither the ideologies nor the politics of different political parties and formations should go beyond the boundaries set by the Constitution. Besides, this crucial sentence in the address was a simple and lucid declaration that India would steadfastly remain a constitutional democracy.

President Murmu struck many notes in her address which represent India's current national needs as well its aspirations for a better world. Among these she focused on living in harmony with nature, the empowerment of women, and the value of education in social transformation. Her words on education were based on her own experience. As she put it, "Having been a teacher also, I have realised that education is the greatest tool of social empowerment". The President also dwelt on India's economic progress. More importantly, even as she encouraged the nation, she reminded it of the long distance that remains to be covered till we achieve the aspirations of the leaders of the freedom movement.

**Ideological contestation**  
Amidst points covered in her address, two deserve special analysis. One goes to the heart of the present ideological contestation; the other to the Constitution as a "guiding document" and the aspiration, as the President eloquently said, of moving forward towards "making India an inclusive and developed nation by the year 2047".

The first point. Government leaders have mentioned, both in domestic and foreign forums, that India has suffered 1000 years of



**Vivek Katju**  
is a retired Indian Foreign Service officer

slavery. This is in keeping with the ruling dispensation's interpretation of Indian history of what is commonly referred to as the 'Medieval Period'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his Independence Day speech: "...Our country was invaded 1,000-1,200 years ago. A small kingdom and its King were defeated. However, we would not have known that this event would lead India into a thousand years of subjugation". It is not clear which invasion Mr. Modi had in mind. What is important is the reference to "a thousand years of subjugation".

In the past, government leaders did not venture into stigmatising the medieval era as one of foreign domination and enslavement. Such a categorisation was limited to the colonial period. Consequently, liberation from foreign rule meant freedom from British rule. President Murmu seems to have favoured this traditional interpretation. She avoided any mention of "a thousand years of subjugation". Her choice of words indicates that, for her foreign domination means the period of British rule. This is illustrated by the following formulation in her address: "India is the mother of Democracy and since ancient times we had democratic institutions functioning at the grass roots. But long years of colonial rule wiped them out... We won freedom from foreign rule... With our independence began the era of foreign rulers withdrawing from many colonies and colonisation drew close to its end".

Now, the second point. President Murmu wisely reminded all Indians that their identity as "citizens of India" was above all their other identities. At the same time, she recognised that "each of us has many identities". In view of the vastness of India and its huge population – we are now the world's most populous country – it cannot but be so, but as the President said, they are subsumed within our Indian identity. Indeed, can there really be a higher status

Words matter, especially when used by the highest constitutional authority of the country

for those who live in this great land than that of "citizen of India"? Among the identities the President mentioned were caste, creed, language, region, family, and profession. What was significant was that she omitted religion as an identity marker. She did not even use the word faith. It can be argued that creed embraces religion or faith. However, while a creed may form part of a religion, the two are not synonymous. This is also made clear by the President's speech in Hindi when she used the word "panth" instead of "dharma".

**The guiding document**  
The use of these different words is part of the ideological contestation underway. As the President said, the Constitution is the nation's guiding document and the terminology used in it should prevail. This writer would humbly submit that as the first citizen of the country, she should follow the words used in the Constitution. The Constitution mentions religion and faith, not creed. And the Hindi translation of religion in the official Hindi version of the document is dharma, not panth. Dharma is also the word used in Hindi for faith, which finds mention in the Preamble to the Constitution.

Can the submissions put forward here regarding the use of words be categorised as merely quibbling or nitpicking? This writer believes that this is not so because some words acquire the position of 'code words' and become markers for ideologies. Besides, words matter, especially when used by the highest constitutional authority of the country. The President's life story is truly inspirational. In the midst of great personal tragedies, she has maintained a calmness that reflects that she has imbibed what Krishna taught Arjuna before the war began. The nation needs from her equanimity, care and constitutional precision amid the raging political and ideological battles.

# The opacity of TANSCHE

The body in charge of developing higher education has come under criticism

## STATE OF PLAY

**R. Sujatha**  
sujatha.r@thehindu.co.in

A few weeks ago, the Tamil Nadu government's Higher Education Department went back on its policy that all colleges in the State should adopt a "uniform syllabus". The new order said that autonomous colleges need not follow a "uniform syllabus" if they did not wish to. This policy was also endorsed by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCHE), the overarching body that formulates programmes, coordinates with universities on the implementation of these programmes, and is empowered to promote cooperation and coordination among institutions to improve higher education and research.

TANSCHE was set up in 1992 and is mandated to comprise 15 members. It is supposed to meet every three months, according to the Act that set up the TANSCHE. However, this has not been followed by the Council. Teachers in universities are angry that even though the Council has not functioned as per the Act, the government has urged them to follow the syllabus that TANSCHE has drafted.

The Council's website is defunct. The last update to the website was made more than a decade ago and the officials listed on the website have since retired. Ever since TANSCHE was formed, the officials have been political appointees, especially the member-secretary and the vice-chairman, though efforts have been made to ensure that the persons had the calibre to hold the post.



however, has devoted just one page to the activities of the Council. This, when TANSCHE had announced that it proposed to develop the "uniform syllabus" last year. The project mandates that the officials seek consensus from vice-chancellors and senior faculty from the universities under its purview. But professors point out that most teachers engaged to frame the syllabus were from Chennai. They say hardly any information was shared about the faculty invited to participate in the exercise. The opposition to the "uniform syllabus" did not come just from senior faculty but from vice-chancellors of universities as well, an indication that the council members had little understanding of their own roles.

Educators say political issues, which are beyond the purview of the officials of the Higher Education Department, forced the former vice-chancellor of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University to step down from the post of vice-chairman at TANSCHE in 2013-14. It was then that the Council began to slide in its functioning.

However, a government document from 2018 showed that despite dwindling trust, the Council managed to maintain its credibility. It met and discussed key issues such as converting constituent colleges into government institutions, sexual harassment cases in colleges, additional intake of students, and developing higher education schemes.

The excuse that for three years the Council could not function owing to the COVID-19 pandemic is unviable as the policy notes of 2021-22 and 2022-23 offer a detailed view of the work it had undertaken despite the pandemic. The latest 2023-24 policy note,

# The superpower of OTT platforms

Same Language Subtitling on all Indian language content is an opportunity to make meaningful contributions to reading literacy and language learning

## DATA POINT

**Brij Kothari & Nisha Vernekar**

**O**n August 8, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the 'State of Elementary Education in Rural India' report which shows that schoolchildren spend most of their screen time playing games, watching movies or listening to songs. Accessing study materials and online tutorials featured way down the order. **Chart 1** shows the findings from the survey. Of the 49.3% of parents whose children used gadgets, 76.7% said that their children mainly used mobile phones to play video games, over 56% said that their children used phones to watch movies, 35% said they used phones to access online materials, and only 19% said they used phones to attend online tutorials.

Instead of seeing this trend as a cause for concern, it can be viewed as a promising opportunity where education meets entertainment. Traditional media consumption has increasingly transitioned to OTT platforms, which have the ability to make meaningful contributions to reading literacy and language learning (**Chart 2**).

Captions were invented in the U.S. in the early 1970s to make television accessible to people with various degrees of hearing impairments. Viewers without hearing disabilities also came to appreciate the value of captions and same language subtitling (SLS) as it helped them follow the dialogues better. Caption and SLS are now available in around 40-50 countries. But a major benefit of SLS – improving mass reading literacy – has not been leveraged by any country yet.

The PlanetRead survey estimates that of the billion "literate" people in the country, 600 million are weak readers. The survey, conducted in four Hindi-speaking States, measured literacy using two methods – the census method which relies on self-reporting and

another which required people to read a Grade 2-level text.

An Ormax OTT audience report showed that India's OTT base in 2022 was 424 million people, with a nearly 80% penetration in metros. Future OTT growth will predominantly come from rural areas where the preference tilts toward Indian language content.

SLS on all Indian language content is, therefore, a massive opportunity. Universalisation of SLS may act as an automatic reading practice in the viewer's language. The Billion Readers initiative of the PlanetRead organisation is scaling SLS on TV and streaming platforms to achieve that. Moreover, under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, all OTT platforms are required to offer SLS with their content. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting framed the Accessibility Standards, 2019 mandating SLS on half the content on TV by 2025.

PlanetRead conducted a survey of 2,673 movies/shows produced in 2022-23 that are on India's top five OTT platforms - Hotstar, Netflix, Amazon Prime, Zee5, and Sony Liv. Almost all English language content on OTTs is available with English subtitles. In contrast, SLS is missing from most Indian language content (**Chart 2**).

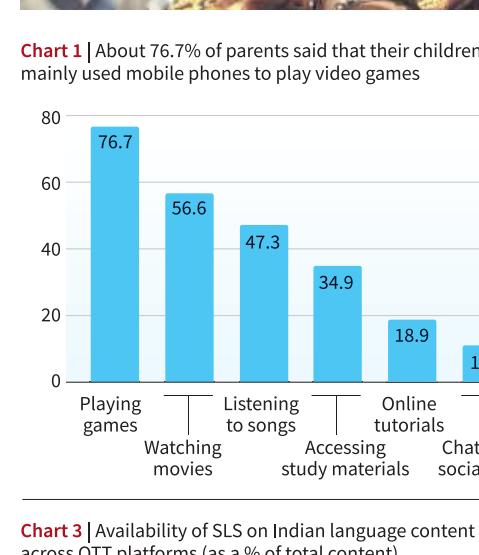
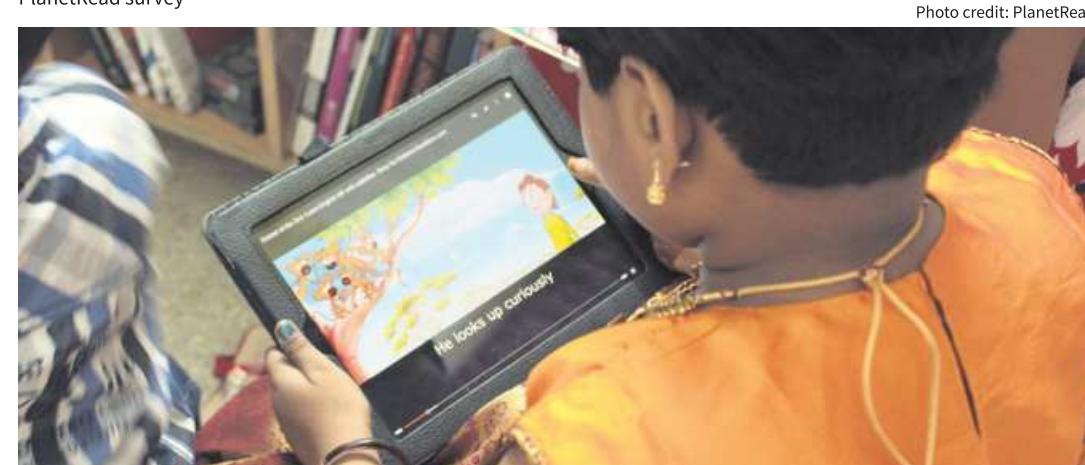
Netflix leads SLS implementation in Indian languages with one-third of the content having SLS (**Chart 3**). Amazon Prime is a distant second (10.1%), while the other big OTT platforms have barely made a start.

SLS penetration is higher on content produced by the platforms themselves. Of the original Indian language content produced by Netflix and Amazon Prime, SLS is on 92.3% and 81.8% of content, respectively (**Chart 4**). However, Hotstar, Sony Liv, and Zee5 are yet to implement SLS in their original Indian language content. This suggests that if content producers were to include SLS and caption files, OTT platforms may include these features.

## Watch and learn

The charts are based on data sourced from the State of Elementary Education in Rural India report and the PlanetRead survey

Photo credit: PlanetRead



Brij Kothari and Nisha Vernekar are with the Billion Readers (BIRD) initiative at PlanetRead. BIRD is supported by Co-Impact and the Rohini and Nandan Nilekani Philanthropies.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

**The Hindu**

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 22, 1973

## IIT admissions govt. enquiries into complaints

New Delhi, Aug. 22: The Union Minister of Education, Prof. Nurul Hasan, to-day expressed his "concern" in the Rajya Sabha that representation of students from certain States in the five Indian Institutes of Technology was "very low indeed". Prof. Hasan was replying to Mr. P. Subramania Menon, who had complained that only two students from Kerala were selected for IIT this year. Even these students could not get admission because they could not get their pre-degree certificates in time, he said. Prof. Hasan assured the House, that he making enquiries to find out how this had happened. Sometime the States board of secondary education did not announce the results in time. Also the structure of courses in the secondary education in the States was not on the all India pattern. In spite of the recommendation by the Union Education Ministry, the State Governments had not been able to apply their mind to bring about these changes, particularly in science and mathematics courses. He said he proposed to have further consultations with the State Education Ministers on this question. Replying to Mr. Krishan Kant, Prof. Hasan told the House about the action taken on some of the complaints received on the working of the Indian Institute of Technology. The students of Kanpur institute had passed a resolution that the institute was in a state of decay and in all probability be ruined unless matters were looked into immediately. The board of governors took notice of this and had appointed a number of teams to look into the functioning of the institution. In regard to the IIT, Madras, he said a charter of demand was forwarded by the employees association.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 22, 1923

## Spanish defeat

Madrid, August 20: Military critics attribute the recent Spanish reverse in Morocco to their holding a big salient. The Spanish base at Afrau on the coast is now isolated and Tifarauin has been surrounded. The garrison is holding out and reinforcements are on their way thither. A Spanish Military Aeroplane manned by two officers crashed today in rebel territory near Tifarauin. Their fate is not known.

# Text & Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

**Number of corruption cases probed by CBI pending trial in courts**

**6,841** Over 2,000 cases were pending trials for more than 10 years as on December 31, 2022, according to the latest annual report of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). PTI

**The members added on a net basis by EPFO in the month of June**

**17.89** in lakh. The Ministry of Labour Data said that 3,491 establishments have extended social security coverage of provident funds to their employees. PTI

**The average age in Kharge's Congress Working Committee**

**61** The Congress has failed to fulfil its promise of having 50% of people below the age of 50 years but has given 66.6% reservation for SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities and women as promised during its Raipur session. PTI

**Fine imposed on an American firm by the Chinese government**

**1.5** in \$ million. The Mintz Group has been fined by China's government in a crackdown on information-gathering. Xi's government has tightened control by launching data security crackdowns. AP

**The worth of the weapons given by the U.S. to Ukraine till now**

**42.8** in euro billion. Kyiv's next biggest military backers are Germany with 7.5 billion euros and the United Kingdom with 6.6 billion. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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## On smartphone manufacturing in India

Why have the former Reserve Bank of India governor and the Minister of State for Electronics been at loggerheads with each other? What are the key features of the production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme? Why are low-level assembly jobs not good in the long-run?

### EXPLAINER

**Anuj Srivas**

**The story so far:** Over the last few months, former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan and the Minister of State for Electronics Rajeev Chandrasekhar have sparred over how well a Central government scheme to boost electronics manufacturing has been faring.

**What happened?** It started when Mr. Rajan, along with two other economists, released a brief discussion paper arguing that the programme isn't really pushing India towards becoming a self-sufficient manufacturing powerhouse. Instead, the government is using taxpayer money to create an ecosystem of low-level assembly jobs that will still depend heavily on imports. The junior IT Minister responded sharply, calling the paper a concoction of "half-truths" built on "shoddy comparisons".

**What is the PLI scheme?** Around five years ago, the Government of India decided it wanted more companies to make things in India. Manufacturing is a key ingredient to economic growth and also comes with what economists call a multiplier effect – every job created and every rupee invested in manufacturing has a positive cascading effect on other sectors in the economy.

However, the problem was that many industries didn't want to set up shop in the country. India's infrastructure isn't great, the country's labour laws are archaic, and the workforce isn't very skilled. To solve this, the government used, and uses, a carrot-and-stick approach. The 'stick' is raising import duties, thus making it more expensive for companies to import stuff from somewhere else and sell it in India. The 'carrot' is to provide subsidies and incentives. One key set of incentives is the



**Heated debate:** A view of Foxconn's Sriperumbudur plant in the Kancheepuram district. FILE PHOTO

production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme. Here, the government gives money to foreign or domestic companies that manufacture goods here. The annual payout is based on a percentage of revenue generated for up to five years.

The industry that has shown the most enthusiasm for the scheme is smartphone manufacturing. Companies like Micromax, Samsung, and Foxconn (which makes phones for Apple) can get up to 6% of their incremental sales income through the PLI programme. And with the scheme, mobile phone exports jumped from \$300 million in FY2018 to an astounding \$11 billion in FY23. And while India imported mobile phones worth \$3.6 billion in FY2018, it dropped to \$1.6 billion in FY23. Central government Ministers, including Mr. Chandrasekhar, have regularly cited this data as proof of the PLI's scheme's success.

**What is Mr. Rajan arguing?** In his paper, the former Central bank governor argued that the export boom hides more than it reveals. Specifically, Mr. Rajan contended that while imports of fully put-together mobile phones have come down, the imports of mobile phone components – including display screens, cameras, batteries, printed circuit boards – shot up between FY21 and FY23. Incidentally, these are the same two years when mobile phone exports jumped the most. This matters because manufacturers aren't really making mobile phones in India in the traditional sense. That would involve their supply chain also moving to India and making most of the components here as well. All that the companies are doing, Mr. Rajan said, is importing all of the necessary parts and assembling them in India to create a 'Made in India' product.

This is important as low-level assembly work doesn't produce well-paying jobs and doesn't nearly have anywhere the same multiplier effect that actual manufacturing might provide.

#### What is the Minister saying?

Mr. Chandrasekhar's argument is two-fold. First, he said, Mr. Rajan wrongly assumed that all imports of screens, batteries, etc. are used to make mobile phones. It is possible these items are used also for computer monitors, DSLR cameras, electric vehicles etc. He also argued that not all mobile phone production in India is supported by the PLI scheme, only around 22% so far.

The Minister's overarching point is that the import dependency isn't as bad as Mr. Rajan says it is. That said, the Minister has admitted that the 'value-addition' – how much work an Indian mobile production plant is actually doing in creating the finished product – for mobile manufacturing is probably low. But he added, it will go up as the broader supply and assembly chain settles in India.

#### Who is right?

To his credit, Mr. Rajan accounted for this critique in his initial paper. In a reply to the Minister last week, he argued that even if only 60% of imports are used for production, India's net exports will still be negative. That is, even if only 60% of screens, batteries, etc. are used to make mobile phones, the final import tally would still beat the final export tally.

The main divide is over whether the PLI programme will be able to create long-lasting jobs and firmly establish India as a manufacturing and supply hub that adds value to the production process.

The Minister believes that it will take time for the project's results to show. On the other hand, Mr. Rajan believes that without proof of PLI's success, there is an opportunity cost. After all, every rupee spent in PLI payments is money that could have gone into improving, say, the education system, an investment that would also help the Indian economy.

(Anuj Srivas is a freelance writer)

### THE GIST

Around five years ago, the Government of India decided it wanted more companies to make things in India. It has therefore introduced a key set of incentives through the production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme. Here, the government gives money to foreign or domestic companies that manufacture goods here.

The industry that has shown the most enthusiasm for the PLI scheme is smartphone manufacturing. And with the scheme, mobile phone exports jumped from \$300 million in FY2018 to an astounding \$11 billion in FY23.

However, the former RBI governor contends that while imports of fully put-together mobile phones have come down, the imports of mobile phone components have shot up between FY21 and FY23.

### THE GIST

U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak recently backed plans for new fossil fuel drilling off Britain's coast, worrying environment experts.

Drilling in seas and oceans for fossil fuels not only aggravates the threat of climate change but also warms oceans and raises sea levels.

In its March 2023 Progress Report to the U.K. Parliament, the Climate Change Committee (CCC), which advises the U.K. and devolved governments on emissions targets, said that the U.K. has not adequately prepared for climate change under the second National Adaptation Programme. In the U.K., National Adaptation Programmes are statutory programmes that the government must follow to help prepare the country for climate change, as required under the Climate Change Act. The second National Adaptation Programme covered the period from 2018-2023.

As per the CCC's report, there is "very limited evidence" of the implementation of adaptation at the scale needed to fully prepare for climate risk. According to the Climate Action Tracker, U.K.'s climate action is not consistent with the Paris Agreement. Although its overall rating is "almost sufficient", U.K.'s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term targets do not represent a fair share of the global effort to address climate change. Licensing new oil and gas extraction plans is incompatible with the 1.5°C limit in the rise in temperature, as per the Climate Action Tracker website.

## What are the concerns about drilling in the North Sea?

Why is the new move by the U.K. government worrying environment experts? How does offshore drilling affect marine biodiversity? What has the Climate Change Committee said?

**Priyali Prakash**

#### The story so far:

U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak recently backed plans for new fossil fuel drilling off Britain's coast, worrying environment experts even as the world continues its stride towards irreversible climate change. According to an official statement released on July 31, the move will help Britain become more energy independent. The North Sea Transition Authority (NTSA), responsible for regulating oil, gas and carbon storage industries, expects the first of new licences to be awarded in autumn, with the round expected to award over 100 licences in total.

**What is the history of drilling there?** Geographically, the North Sea lies between England and Scotland on its west, the Netherlands, Belgium, and

France on its south, and Norway, Denmark, and Germany on its east.

The 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf was the first international legislation to establish the rights of countries over the continental shelves adjacent to their coastlines and paved the way for exploration in the North Sea. The treaty came into force in 1964, shortly after the U.K. Parliament passed the Continental Shelf Act in April of the same year. The Act provides for exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf based on the 1958 convention. It delineated the jurisdiction the U.K. had over oil and gas resources under the seabed near its shores.

The first licence for exploration in the U.K. North Sea was awarded to British Petroleum (BP) in September 1964. The following year, BP discovered natural gas in the North Sea, off the east Anglian coast. In 1970, BP made its first discovery of commercial oil in the large Forties Field

east of Aberdeen, Scotland. In the next 15 years, BP started more than 15 fields in the U.K. North Sea (and four in the Norwegian North Sea). More British, European, and U.S. companies continued their exploration of the North Sea, and by the 1980s, there were over a hundred installations looking for oil and gas.

The production from the North Sea peaked in 1999, when it produced 1,37,099 thousand tonnes of crude oil and natural gas liquids. By 2022, the total production declined to 38,037 thousand tonnes, according to official figures.

**Why is offshore drilling problematic?** According to the U.S.-based advocacy group Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), offshore drilling puts "workers, waters, and wildlife" at risk. Drilling in seas and oceans for fossil fuels not only aggravates the threat of climate change but also warms oceans and raises sea levels. Offshore drilling is associated with

a direct risk to marine biodiversity, as well as with indirect risks to coral reefs, shellfish and the marine ecosystem from acidic waters because of carbon pollution settling into oceans.

#### What about climate commitments?

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ABSTRACT

# Recent parliamentary elections in India: a closer look

A recent paper, which has gained much traction, merits close scrutiny as it raises worries about the 'future of democracy' in India by claiming to detect 'irregular patterns' in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections

Ashutosh Kumar

Das, Sabyasachi, Democratic Backsliding in the World's Largest Democracy (July 3, 2023). Available at SSRN: dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4512936

**A** working paper titled 'Democratic Backsliding in the World's Largest Democracy', authored by Sabyasachi Das, an academic teaching economics in Ashoka University, has received much traction on social media and in academic circles. The paper merits close scrutiny as it raises worries about the 'future of democracy' in India by claiming to detect 'irregular patterns' in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The framework

Based on election studies literature that draws from democracies around the world, mainly the U.S., the paper argues that the 'irregularity patterns' visible in the 2019 elections can be attributed either to 'electoral manipulation' or to 'precise control' theses.

The 'precise control' thesis refers to the incumbent party's ability to precisely predict and then affect the win margins with the help of 'its superior electoral machinery' in closely contested constituencies. For this purpose, the party targets polling stations, especially the ones in urban areas with a large number of voters, as they are easier to access. This may result in a large turnout in these polling stations, resulting in high vote shares for the incumbent party. On the other hand, the 'electoral manipulation' thesis refers to targeted electoral discrimination at the local level, partly facilitated by the weak monitoring of election observers. This includes the strategic/targeted suppression of certain community/group votes in the form of registration and/or turnout manipulation. This amounts to electoral fraud and raises serious questions about electoral integrity.

The crux of the paper

Coming to India, the paper traces 'irregularity' in the 2019 elections in the form of 'excess/disproportionate wins' of the incumbent party (the BJP) in 'constituencies that were closely contested between a candidate from the incumbent party and a rival'. Using data from the website of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the paper mentions 59 parliamentary constituencies (PCs) where the absolute win margin for the winning party was within 0.05%, out of which the BJP won 41. The party won 22 out of 27 PCs in the States where it was the incumbent party. In these PCs, which had significant Muslim electorates, the discrepancy was visible in the high turnout at the polling stations, making a case for 'irregularity'. The paper looks at the datasets collected from ECI websites, the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) post-poll survey and from 'standard sources' like published papers, and states that this 'pattern of irregularity' can be explained by the 'electoral manipulation thesis'.

In support of the contention that the data is 'less supportive' of the 'precise control thesis', the paper presents two arguments. The first argument is based on the CSDS post-poll data, which shows that the BJP and other contesting parties



Contested claims: A supporter of the BJP during a rally in New Delhi in 2019. AFP

did not 'campaign significantly harder' in the closely contested PCs where the BJP managed to 'barely' win. Even then, these PCs, particularly the polling stations with a significant number of Muslim votes, registered high turnouts. The second argument is that the BJP did not campaign 'harder' in the polling stations having sizable Muslim voters, as the party did not 'expect to get significant support from them'. As per the CSDS poll data of the 2014 and 2019 elections, only 8 percent of Muslims reported to have voted for the BJP.

As for the 'pattern of irregularity' being more consistent with the 'election manipulation thesis', the paper refers to the 'discrepancy' that occurred between the 'final count of EVM votes' for each Lok Sabha constituency for the first four of the seven phases of election as released by the ECI on its website, which did not match with the 'constituency wise number of votes in EVM' that was released later. The ECI 'removed the earlier figures from its website' after the 'media query'. The paper claims to trace 'discontinuous change with respect to the incumbent's win margin' in the later official figure and that 'the discontinuity' was 'concentrated in BJP ruled States'. Also, the EVM data discrepancy was 'significantly larger' in 'closely contested PCs barely won by BJP'. The paper claims to find 'the evidence on turnout discrepancy as indicative of manipulation done locally at the polling stations, rather than resulting from aggregation fraud at the constituency level'.

The paper argues that polling officials deputed in the polling stations 'exercise significant discretion in allowing registered voters'. It further alleges that the Muslim voters due to their names being easily identified in the electoral roll, were subjected to 'both strategic deletion and strategic discrimination'. The paper claims that this happened at polling stations having 'significant' Muslim voters in the BJP ruled States, as the State governments could 'influence assignment of officials in charge'. State Civil Service officers (SCS) were deputed in these polling stations because they were 'more likely to be politically pliable' being from

the same State and under the State government. The role of the ECI also comes under scrutiny for the 'weak monitoring of counting of votes'. The author claims to have access to the data of 539 PCs (out of 543) containing 1,804 counting observers to make this charge.

Furthermore, to substantiate the 'possibility of strategic deletion of Muslim voters', the paper calculates the growth rate of the voters in each Lok Sabha constituency taking the figures of the 2014 and 2019 elections. The paper finds that the growth rate fell discontinuously by 5 percentage points (compared to the mean of 0.09) in PCs barely won by the BJP, and the fall was 'concentrated in PCs with higher share of Muslim electorate'. Given the Muslim voters' apathy towards the BJP, the paper questions both the 'high turnout' and the 'high' BJP vote share in the polling stations having significant Muslim presence, which was 'large in magnitude and statistically significant' in the PCs 'barely' won by the party. The paper claims to base its contention on data generated on the basis of the study of 8,50,000 polling stations drawn from 3,098 assembly constituencies from 475 Lok Sabha constituencies.

A critique of the paper

Regarding the claim that the BJP was not campaigning 'hard' enough in the PCs where it had a narrow win, the paper itself mentions that a party having 'the superiority of electoral machinery' could be 'able to accurately predict and affect win margins in closely contested constituencies'. And the BJP being the incumbent party at the national level and in some States, did have a distinctive superiority in terms of campaigning intensity, backed by human and material resources at its command. Therefore, the party did not need to campaign unusually 'harder'.

While accepting the CSDS poll data as a credible source which shows that the BJP did not canvass Muslim houses as much as other parties, the counter-argument can be that BJP would have actually targeted non-Muslim homes, belonging to the two large disadvantaged caste groups among Hindus, namely the Scheduled

Castes (SCs) and the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). These groups, the paper argues, have emerged as the 'new' supporting voters of the party. This might have accounted for the increase in the turnout in the identified polling stations.

Additionally, the CSDS data has its limitations due to its small sample size. In a State like U.P. with a huge population, the sample size was only 2,705, with actual interviews being much lesser. As the paper observes there are on an average seven Assembly constituencies (ACs) in each PC but in the CSDS, 2019 survey only two ACs were selected from each PC; and three polling stations were selected from each selected AC.

As for the claim that SCS officers are 'politically pliable' and therefore complicit in turnout manipulations, is not an argument, but a conjecture. 'Political pliability' cannot be considered the hallmark of all SCS officers. That argument is unfair.

There were 36 PCs where Muslims constituted more than 40% of the total electorates in the 2014 and 2019 elections. Contesting on 21 seats, the BJP received 28.92% of the vote. The BJP won only 5 seats in the two elections, though not from the same PCs. Interestingly, of the 59 PCs listed in the paper that show a narrow margin of win either for the BJP or any other party, there are only three PCs having more than 40% of Muslim voters. If one goes by the CSDS poll data findings based on the 2014 and 2019 elections that Muslim voters generally do not vote for the BJP, then the electoral verdicts in most PCs where they have 'significant presence' negate the 'election manipulation thesis' of the 'suppression' of the Muslim vote. In any case, as Hilal Ahmed, a faculty at CSDS argues, there is no 'credible proof' to argue that Muslims constitute a 'single homogenous' voting community and whose electoral choice is 'self-evident', (that they vote en masse against the BJP).

Interestingly, the paper itself concedes that 'the absolute difference between the two official versions of EVM turnout data could be due to 'administrative errors during counting of votes'. The paper also absolves the ECI of engaging in 'direct tempering of turnout data ex-post'. Moreover, barring only one case, as per the data gathered, the magnitude of data revision is smaller than BJP's absolute margin of victory. As for the question mark over the credibility of the ECI based on the allegations of 'weak monitoring' of 'arbitrary deletion of names of registered Muslim voters' at local levels, and also showing 'bias in scheduling of elections', the paper cites a set of articles. Ironically, another set of articles and even CSDS and global surveys are cited in the paper which show peoples' high level of trust in the 'independence and institutional strength' of the institution.

The paper also concedes that the tests/evidence/datasets 'are ... not proof of fraud, nor does it suggest that manipulation was widespread' as proving 'electoral manipulation in a robust democracy is a significantly harder task that would require detailed investigation of electoral data in each constituency separately'. Even then, it goes on to raise serious questions about the wellbeing of India's electoral democracy. And in support of its contention about 'democratic backsliding/democratic reversal' in India, the paper quotes from the Freedom House Index, 2021, the Democracy Report, 2020, V-Dem Annual Report 2021. However, the paper itself refers to another world-wide Gallup Poll survey which rates India higher than older democracies like the U.K. and France in terms of the confidence of the electorates in India.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Ms N. M. Sahay, Calcutta, wants to know the meaning of 'It is up to you to do it'"

"'It is up to you to do it' means it is your responsibility. It is incumbent on you to do it."

*It is up to the government to do something about the quality of the TV programmes.*

*It is up to him to make up his mind about this soon.*

*It was used first in America in 1308 and it is used now both in British and American English. Young people in Britain started using 'down to you' instead of 'up to you' in fun and it has caught on.*

*It is down to the Prime Minister to settle the matter.*

*It is down to him to guide her properly.*

*'Down to' is also used in the sense of 'fault of' these days.*

*The accident was down to his reckless driving.*

*'Down to' is found in a couple of recent dictionaries."*

*"Sir, Ms. K. Anita, Secunderabad, wants to know the meaning of 'deadlock'."*

*"When two sides negotiate to arrive at some settlement and no agreement is reached because of differences, you say that the meeting ended in a deadlock.*

*The meetings between the workers and the management reached a deadlock over the bonus issue.*

*It can also be used as a verb.*

*The meetings between the workers and the management have been deadlocked for some months now."*

*"Sir, Ms. R. Gowri wants to know the meaning of 'bob up'?"*

*"'Bob up' means 'to appear, especially unexpectedly'.*

*She bobbed up when I was in the middle of a discussion.*

*The word 'bob' has about twenty meanings and I don't want to go into them now."*

*"Sir, Mr. M. M. Ehsan, 22, Marappa Block, JC Nagar, Bangalore, wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'to make a clean breast of'?"*

*"When you make a clean breast of something, you tell the truth about something bad you have done; you don't hide anything.*

*When he was questioned by the police, he made a clean breast of the theft he had committed."*

*"Sir, Mr. C. Sugumar wants to know the meaning of the word 'thesaurus'?"*

*"Thesaurus is a storehouse of information, especially dictionary or encyclopaedia".*

*This is a thesaurus of slang.*

*The word is used these days to mean a dictionary of synonyms and antonyms. Beat, strike, hit are synonyms. Synonyms are words with similar meanings in the same language. 'Antonym' is the opposite of 'synonym'. 'Antonym' is a word that is opposite in meaning to another.*

*Examples: good, bad; blunt, sharp; big, small. 'Thesaurus' is from the Greek word 'thesaurus', a treasure house. It acquired the figurative sense of 'treasure of knowledge' when it came into Latin.*

*Published in The Hindu on January 31, 1989.*

## THE DAILY QUIZ

August 22 is observed as 'Madras Day'. A quiz on the bustling south Indian metropolis

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

Name the 'founder' of Madras who arrived in July 1699 in a ship called 'The Eagle'.

QUESTION 2

In present day Madras, there are two statues on/near the famous Marina beach that is reminiscent of the famous photograph of the American Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima. One is the 'Triumph of Labour'. Where is the other?

QUESTION 3

In 1918, what did Mahatma Gandhi establish in Madras to highlight and recognise the importance of the whole nation speaking one language?

QUESTION 4

Which part of Madras gets its name

from the 230 weaver families that settled there at the instance of Governor George Morton Pitt to produce enhanced quality of cotton for export?

QUESTION 5

Madras is presently home to two Ramon Magsaysay Award winners (one in 1971 for Community Leadership and the other in 2016 for Emergent Leadership). Name both.

QUESTION 6

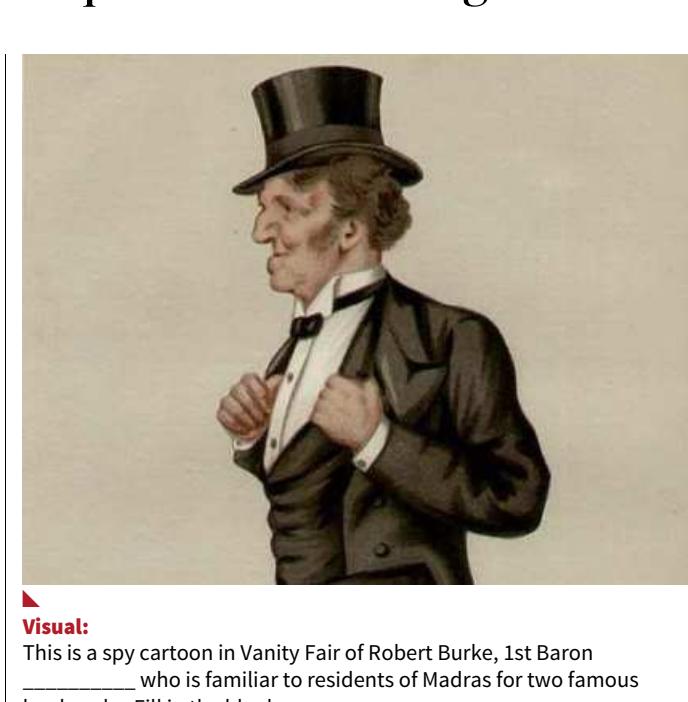
On September 22, 1986, what rare incident made a famous venue in Madras part of sporting history?

QUESTION 7

At which famous institution in Madras do 'mountains move and rivers stay still'?

QUESTION 8

Name the two 'sister cities' of Madras in the U.S.



Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. This player won the Golden Ball for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. Ans:

Aitana Bonmatí from FC Barcelona, Spain

2. This woman footballer holds the record for the most international goals.

Ans: Christine Sinclair from Canada

3. This country holds the record for

most number of Women's World Cup

championships. Ans: United States

4. The other country, apart from Spain,

which has both the men's and the

women's World Cup. Ans: Germany

5. This Japanese footballer scored the

most goals in the 2023 Women's World

Cup. Ans: Hinata Miyazawa

Visual: This player was named the Best

Young Player of the 2023 tournament.

Ans: Salma Paralluelo

Early Birds: Vineet Girij Vinod

Chandra Raigunji Indra Sharma M.

Suresh Kumar Sadhan Kumar Panda

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

## Word of the day

Bucolic:

a country person; a short poem descriptive of rural or pastoral life; relating to shepherds or herdsmen or devoted to raising sheep or cattle; idyllically rustic

Synonyms: peasant, provincial, idyll, pastoral

Usage: His bucolic lifestyle has done him a lot of good.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/bucolicpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /bju'kɒlɪk/

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

**From Page One****Manipur fails to hold Assembly session**

Referring to the August 4 recommendation by the Manipur Cabinet, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the Governor not calling the Special Session of the Assembly "is further evidence that the constitutional machinery has simply broken down" in the State. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was preoccupied with "refurbishing his self-styled Vishwaguru role" and the Home Minister (Amit Shah) was "busily electioneering" to let the "agony of the people of Manipur" continue "unabated".

The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), an apex body of the Meiteis, had in July demanded a Special Session of the Assembly and set August 5 as the deadline for it.

The organisation also submitted a memorandum at the Prime Minister's Office on August 5 seeking a Special Session for adopting a resolution in the House against compromising the State's territorial integrity. This followed the demand of several Kuki-Zomi organisations, specifically the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum, for a separate administration for the tribal people. The demand included set-ups similar to an Assembly apart from the posting of officials of the rank of Chief Secretary and Director-General of Police.

All 10 Kuki MLAs, including seven of the BJP, refused to take part in the Special "COCOMI-dictated" Assembly Session citing security reasons.

**SC to form a new Bench to hear Cauvery issue**

This was 37.971 tmcft in addition to the demand of around 24,000 cusecs, in the month of August.

A direction was given to Karnataka on August 10 to release from its reservoirs 15,000 cusecs at Billigundlu on August 11 for 15 days.

"Unfortunately, even this quantum of water was arbitrarily reduced to 10,000 cusecs by the CWMA in its 22nd meeting held on August 11 at the instance of Karnataka. Regrettably, even this amount of 10,000 cusecs to be ensured at Billigundlu by releasing such quantum of water from the KRS and Kabini reservoirs has not been complied with by Karnataka," the Tamil Nadu application has said.

**CJI queries govt. on SOP and judicial review**

Mr. Mehta flatly denied any intention on the government's part to modify the courts' power of judicial review through the draft SOP. He said the draft focused on how senior government officials, including the Chief Secretaries, were being summoned by courts for the slightest reason.

Reserving the case for orders, Chief Justice Chandrachud agreed to frame "broad yardsticks" on the issue of calling government officials to court. The Chief Justice also found several important points worth consideration in the draft SOP, including a proposed bar on courts from summoning officials when the case was still pending in appeal.

The SOP also highlighted how officials were pulled up by judges for not following a dress code while visiting courts. "Government officials are not officers of the court and there should be no objection to their appearing in a decent work dress unless such appearance is unprofessional or unbefitting of her/his position," the draft SOP reasoned.

The Chief Justice made it clear that the Supreme Court would restrict its order only to the aspect of issue of summons to government officials, and nothing else.

**From daily wager to medical student**

"My three younger brothers had started working, one as a mason, one as a motor mechanic, and the third as an agricultural labourer." He got admission in the B.Sc. Chemistry graduate degree programme, but dropped out in 2008 and returned to the village, so he too could become an earning member, taking up cultivation.

"I toiled hard in the field, but I only got a daily wage of ₹100, and so migrated to Kerala in 2012 to work in a brick kiln," Mr. Ataka said. The first few months in Perumbavoor did not pay him enough, so he shifted to a matchbox manufacturing unit in Kottayam. Upon his return to Thupadai in 2014, Mr. Ataka took up agricultural labour again.

"In 2021, I joined a training course and started purchasing National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) books from Berhampur for preparation for the medical entrance examination," he said. In 2022, he passed the examination, but again a lack of funds came in his way. He did not even go to counselling. In 2023, he cracked NEET again, securing an all-India rank of 7,18,996, and a State rank of 3,902.

Determined not to let the opportunity slip again, Mr. Ataka approached a money lender in his village to borrow ₹37,950, the admission fee. In what came as a surprise, the money lender said he would not charge an interest.

This time, family members have decided to back Mr. Ataka and make sure that he returns a doctor. "I have seen people dying of diseases because of the lack of doctors in my village," he said.

**SC panel flags loss of essential documents of people in Manipur**

The Justice Gita Mittal Committee appointed by the top court submits three reports; it suggests appointment of a nodal officer to take charge of the reconstruction of documents; it seeks substantial improvement in the compensation scheme

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

**A** Supreme Court-appointed committee chaired by former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal on Monday said the reconstruction of thousands of essential documents lost or destroyed in the violence which rocked Manipur since May is the first step that needs to be taken to nurse the State back to health.

The committee has filed three separate reports in the Supreme Court after meeting stakeholders on August 19. The committee headed by Justice Mittal also includes Justices Shalini Phansalkar Joshi and Asha Menon, both former High Court judges.

A Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud had entrusted to the all-woman committee the task of providing the "healing touch" to



Paramilitary personnel firing tear gas to disperse the villagers protesting against Central security forces in Manipur. ANI

Manipur by "supervising, intervening, and monitoring relief and rehabilitation, restoration of homesteads, religious places of worship, etc." The Chief Justice had said the committee, through its work, would endeavour to re-instate the Manipur people's belief in the rule of law.

**First report**

"The first of the three reports submitted by the committee highlights the

loss of essential documentation of the residents of Manipur who have been dishoused... The committee suggests the appointment of a nodal officer to take charge of the reconstruction of these documents," Chief Justice Chandrachud had said, after perusing the reports.

He said the lost documents include Aadhaar cards. "Benefits are now distributed through the modalities of the Aadhaar

card... That is also the link to bank accounts," the Chief Justice observed.

The Chief Justice said the committee's second report concerned the Manipur Victim Compensation Scheme (MVCS).

"The committee says the MVCS needs to be substantially improved," Chief Justice Chandrachud addressed the lawyers for both the petitioners and the State of Manipur.

The Bench said the MVCS should be in the same league as the schemes framed by the National Legal Services Authority. The committee flagged that a victim of Manipur violence was not even considered eligible for benefits under MVCS if he or she had received welfare from another scheme.

The court said there is no such absolute bar in other States. "In other States, if a victim has got benefits under any other scheme, that fact will be taken into consideration while deciding the amount of compensation under this scheme," Chief Justice Chandrachud remarked.

The Chief Justice said the committee reports identify core areas in which work needs to be done in the State. These include rehabilitation of women victims of violence, comprehensive psychological assistance and mental healthcare, medical care and health, relief camps, and data reporting and monitoring. The committee said it has also identified domain experts whose help it would require in these fields.

The court posted the case for Friday, saying it would pass certain procedural directions to facilitate the work of the committee in aspects including administrative assistance, funding, necessary publicity by setting up a web portal, and other infrastructural requirements.

**CPI delegation to visit relief camps in Manipur**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

A delegation of the Communist Party of India led by party general secretary D. Raja landed in Manipur capital Imphal on Monday for a four-day visit. The State has been on the boil for more than three months now.

Last week, a delegation led by CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury had visited the strife-torn State.

The CPI delegation consists of Rajya Sabha member Binoy Viswanath, the party's national secretaries K. Narayana and Rama Krishna Panda, and Asomi Gogoi, senior leader from Assam. "Our delegation will interact with all sections of society. We will be visiting relief camps both in valley and hill areas. And on the last day, we will call on Manipur Governor Anusuya Uikey," Mr. Raja said.

On Wednesday, the delegation will also participate in the 75th Foundation Day celebrations of the CPI.

**SC criticises Gujarat HC for its 'counterblast' in abortion petition by rape survivor****The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed strong displeasure at the Gujarat High Court's "counterblast" to its criticism about the manner in which a 25-year-old rape survivor's plea for abortion was handled by the High Court.

The top court had held a special session on Saturday, August 19, on an appeal filed by the woman, seeking an urgent hearing of her plea to medically terminate the pregnancy, which was already nearing 28 weeks.

A Special Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan, which heard the case on August 19, immediately ordered the woman to be medically examined and scheduled the case on Monday for orders.

The Saturday hearing had seen the Bench criticise the Gujarat High Court to convene a *suo motu* hearing in

12 whole days, defeating the woman's race against time to get an abortion, and eventually dismiss it.

On Monday, Justices Nagarathna and Bhuyan were informed by lawyers that the Gujarat High Court had convened a *suo motu* hearing in the same case, shortly after the Supreme Court hearing ended on Saturday.

The top court was informed that the High Court had passed an order to "clarify" that the adjournment was given to obtain her view on whether she was willing to give her child into State custody.

This upset the Bench even more. Justice Bhuyan said an unjust condition could not be perpetuated on a rape survivor. "How can you force the rape survivor to undergo pregnancy?" Justice Bhuyan asked.

Justice Nagarathna questioned the very need for the High Court to convene a *suo motu* hearing in

a case it had already dismissed, that too, shortly after the Supreme Court had heard it in appeal.

"We do not appreciate the counterblast by the High Court to the order of the Supreme Court. What is happening in the High Court of Gujarat?" Justice Nagarathna asked in open court.

The Bench said it was not targeting a particular judge but questioning the procedure followed in such a time-sensitive case.

**Plea allowed**

The top court, however, refrained from recording anything adverse in its order against the High Court while allowing the plea for medical termination of the pregnancy.

The Bench noted that a woman has a sacrosanct right to bodily integrity. It said pregnancy caused by a sexual assault was injurious to the mental health of the survivor.

**Naga council opposes demand by Kuki groups****The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Responding to demands by the Kuki-Zo community for a separate administration in Manipur, the United Naga Council on Monday issued a statement, opposing the inclusion of alleged "disputed" territory, which includes areas that were in Chandel and Senapati districts before they were carved out, as part of the proposed administration.

The UNC Manipur said there was no Anglo-Kuki War in 1917-19, calling it a rebellion that ended in massacres of Nagas living in Ukhral, Chandel, and Tamenglong. It further said that Kukis were "distorting history" in a bid to "legitimise their imagined Kuki homeland within the Naga ancestral homeland".

The UNC said its statement was a reaction to several representations by Kuki-Zo civil society organisations and MLAs seeking a separate administration.

**Baghel opposes Bastar steel plant privatisation, links it to tribal emotions****Shubhomoy Sikdar**  
RAIPUR

which has been running a profitable steel plant in Bhilai since the mid-1950s, to run the Nagarnar Steel Plant, if the NMDC itself could not operate it.

**Stage set for showdown** "Nagarnar Steel Plant has not even started [operations] yet its bidding [for divestment] has begun – five companies have come and inspected it. So on one side, there is talk of inauguration [of the plant], and on the other side, there is talk of selling it [the steel plant]," Mr. Baghel said. But as the stage for a Centre-State showdown is set over the issue, Arun Sao, BJP Chhattisgarh president, said.

Amid reports that the formal inauguration of the Nagarnar Steel Plant in Bastar will be slated soon, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has opposed the move, linking it to the "sentiments of the people of Bastar". Asserting that tribal and backward communities had given their land so that people could secure employment with the setting up of the steel plant, the Chief Minister on Sunday said that the Centre should explore the possibility of having a public sector undertaking (PSU) such as the Steel Authority of India (SAIL),

**All eyes on possible Xi-Modi meet as PM reaches S. Africa today****Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

de-escalation, and patrolling rights, had also fuelled the speculation.

"The host country South Africa has invited a large number of guest countries, besides of course BRICS members (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) who will be present there. The PM's schedule, in terms of bilateral meetings with those leaders who would be present in South Africa is still being developed," said Mr. Khatra, when asked at a briefing whether Mr. Modi would have a scheduled bilateral with Mr. Xi, which would be the first such meeting between them since the two leaders met at the BRICS summit in Brazil in 2019.

Mr. Khatra also sidestepped a question on what would be the messaging if the two leaders failed to hold a bilateral meeting in South Africa.

Since the LAC stand-off and killings at Galwan, there have been talks between Foreign Ministers,



Security personnel deployed at the Sandton Convention Centre ahead of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg. REUTERS

in July this year, a full eight months later, that the External Affairs Ministry admitted that Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi had discussed boundary issues, after the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) inserted a line into a readout of a meeting between NSA Ajit Doval and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi about a "consensus" reached between the leaders.

In September 2022, the two leaders stood next to each other and attended a Leaders' Lunch at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, but did not hold formal talks.

In November 2022, the two leaders were seen talking at a G-20 banquet in Bali after Mr. Modi walked up to Mr. Xi and "exchanged greetings", but it was only

back home, could mean that the two leaders could be selective about releasing information about any meetings they hold in South Africa. In the run-up to the BRICS summit, leaders of the Opposition Congress and the Shiv Sena have issued statements questioning "land taken by China" in the past few years, including one by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in Ladakh, where he said locals were affected by "land lost".

Part from the LAC issue, any bilateral India-China meeting will be important in resolving issues over the G-20 Joint Declaration statement, which China and Russia are blocking at present, to be released at the G-20 summit less than three weeks away.

Mr. Modi will land at Johannesburg's Waterkloof Air Force Base on Tuesday afternoon, and attend a BRICS Business Forum Leaders' dialogue followed by the BRICS Leaders' Retreat, with the Presidents

of Brazil, China and South Africa. Russian President Vladimir Putin will not attend the summit, appearing via videoconference, given concerns over an International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant against him.

On Wednesday, Mr. Modi will be part of a day-long BRICS summit with the other leaders, and on Thursday, he will attend the BRICS-Africa outreach and BRICS-Plus meetings with more than 50 leaders from Africa and other parts of the Global South.

Mr. Khatra said India had "positive intent and an open mind" on the subject of BRICS expansion, with the South African host releasing a list of 23 countries that have now formally applied for BRICS membership.

"This is a testament to the vitality and influence of the BRICS cooperation mechanism," Mr. Xi wrote in an op-ed piece on Monday, as he landed in South Africa for a State visit ahead of the summit.

# More jobs available, people moving to higher income groups, says Modi

Prime Minister says the economy has reached number five from the 10 position in nine years, and citizens are coming forward in large numbers to pay their taxes as they knew that every rupee is being spent on the nation's development

**Shubhomoy Sikdar**

RAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the income tax return (ITR) data showed that the average income of Indians had tripled during his tenure, reflecting a robustness across sectors and a rise in number of employment opportunities.

"According to ITR data, the average income, which was around ₹4 lakh in 2014, has increased to around ₹13 lakh in 2023. In India, the number of those who have moved from the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually gave appointment letters to 5,580 teachers at the Madhya Pradesh Rozgar Mela. ANI

lower income group has also increased," Mr. Modi said while addressing the Madhya Pradesh Rozgar Mela through video link.

He said that citizens were coming forward in large numbers to pay taxes honestly as they knew that every rupee of their tax

was being spent for the development of the country. The economy, which was at the number 10 spot before 2014, had reached number five [a September 2022 development], he said.

#### Teacher recruitment

At the Rozgar Mela, appointment letters were given to 5,580 teachers. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan handed over the letters on stage to 10 of the teachers.

The Prime Minister said that in the past three years, more than 50,000 teachers had been recruited in

Madhya Pradesh and that the State government deserved praise. Noting that the new recruits would play a key role in the implementation of the National Education Policy which would contribute to the nation's development, Mr. Modi emphasised that equal importance has been given in the NEP to traditional knowledge as well as future technology.

The Prime Minister further said that policy work done today in the field of education, skill development and employment would have far-reaching benefits.

# Pilot's appointment to CWC is a show of unity

#### NEWS ANALYSIS

**Mohammed Iqbal**

JAIPUR

The appointment of former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and six other leaders from Rajasthan to the Congress Working Committee (CWC) seems to be a message from the national leadership to the ruling party in the State to end rift and maintain unity for the coming Assembly election. Mr. Pilot's political stature has increased

with his new appointment.

Mr. Pilot has been given an organisational role in the highest decision-making body of the Congress after a gap of three years since his rebellion in July 2020, when he was stripped of his positions as Deputy Chief Minister and Pradesh Congress Committee president.

The party's move to affirm Mr. Pilot's significance is expected to pacify his supporters who were unhappy over the turn of events in the past three years.

With Mr. Pilot's inclusion in the CWC following a truce brought about between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and him, the Congress's election campaign is set to gain strength, especially because he was also included in the screening committee for distributing party ticket earlier this month.

Mr. Pilot on Monday announced his schedule to address a party workers' convention in his Assembly constituency, Tonk, on Tuesday.

The Tonk MLA said the

convention would be dedicated to the hard-working party members. He also expressed gratitude to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and other senior leaders for making him a CWC member, saying he would join the efforts to strengthen the ideology and policies of the Congress and take them to the people.

#### Impact on Gujjars

Mr. Pilot's induction in the CWC will make an impact on the Gujjar community, to which he belongs. Guj-

jars, constituting a dominant community in eastern Rajasthan, had voted overwhelmingly for the Congress in the 2018 Assembly polls, but they were seemingly annoyed over the treatment meted out to Mr. Pilot.

The representation of Rajasthan in the CWC has gone up from four to seven after the reconstitution. Minister Mahendra Singh Malviya, a prominent tribal leader from Banswara, is a new entrant who has replaced Raghuveer Meena.

# Public should be holding lawmakers accountable for conduct in House: Om Birla

**Sandeep Phukan**

UDAIPUR

Disruptions in the legislature can come down if voters hold their elected representatives accountable for their behaviour in the House, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Monday.

"When the voters of a particular legislature start questioning their elected representatives about disruptions and unparliamentary conduct inside the House, then disruptions will come down. And I am happy that most Legislative Assemblies have made their proceedings live," Mr. Birla said.

Delivering the inaugural address at the ninth Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India region conference, Mr. Birla made a strong pitch for using digital technology so that citizens get access to the functioning of the legislative bodies and could see the participation of their elected representatives.

He said information provided in various legislatures should be exhaustive and comprehensive and announced that work on a common platform – One Nation, One Legislative platform – was under way to ensure every issue raised in an Assembly or Parliament, every debate, every question was posted online.

Mr. Birla observed that legislatures, be it Parlia-



Om Birla and C.P. Joshi at the Executive Committee meeting ahead of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference. PTI

ment or the Legislative Assemblies and Councils, represented the dreams and aspirations of 140 crore Indians.

"If someone who uses RTI [right to information] has more information than the legislative bodies, then it is a matter of worry," Mr. Birla told the conference, attended by Speakers and Deputy Speakers from across the country.

The Lok Sabha Speaker said use of digital technology not only provided better access to a citizen but also made the process of governance more participative.

#### Need to be neutral

The Lok Sabha Speaker also said that though Presiding Officers were elected on party ticket, they would become impartial and neutral on assuming the Chair.

Mr. Birla pointed out that while agreements and disagreements were part of democratic traditions, every side should adopt a constructive approach on

issues that concerned the nation or a province.

The theme of the two-day regional conference of the CPA is "Strengthening democracy and good governance in digital age".

Speaking before Mr. Birla, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot credited former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for ushering in a "digital revolution".

"Our rivals keep mentioning his [Rajiv Gandhi] statement of 15 paise reaching a beneficiary if one rupee of public fund is spent. Today they say we make one rupee reach the beneficiary through DBT [Direct Benefit Transfer]. What they don't say is that Rajiv ji brought in the digital revolution by working on mission mode," Mr. Gehlot said.

While Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh spoke on the role of technology in governance, Rajasthan Speaker C.P. Joshi delivered the welcome address to delegates.

# Bank recalls auction notice of Sunny Deol's bungalow after actor offers to settle dues

**Press Trust of India**

MUMBAI

Facing prospects of his bungalow in Mumbai being auctioned to recover unpaid loans, Bollywood actor Sunny Deol has offered to settle all outstanding dues, prompting State-owned lender Bank of Baroda to drop auction proceedings for the property.

The Gurdaspur MP from the BJP, whose latest movie *Gadar 2* is a box office success having already grossed over ₹300 crore since the release last week, has been in default on a ₹55.99-crore loan from the bank, interest and penalty, since December 2022.

In a statement on Monday, the bank said that Mr. Deol had offered to settle the dues, after which it withdrew the public notice to auction the villa owned by the actor, citing technical reasons, a move that was questioned by the Congress. In a post on X, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh asked who triggered these "technical reasons".

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED	
(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)	
No.31, Kamara Salai, Chepauk - 600 005. Phone No.2860318, 28511972	
<b>NOTICE INVITING TENDER WITH FORWARD BIDDING</b>	
1. Description	
Sale of dimensional granite blocks from Kodakkal 193/Part-15 (Ext: 6.00 Ha.) quarry of TAMILNADU MINERALS LTD.	
2. Tender No. & Date	
116BEK-X/2023, Dated:17.07.2023	
Tender ID	
2023_TMMIN_361647_1	
3. Bid Submission end date	
18.09.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.	
4. Technical bid opening date	
19.09.2023 at 16.00 hrs.	
5. Tender form Fee	
Rs.200/- or equivalent USD .25 (Non refundable) EMD Rs.5,00,00/- or equivalent USD .7200	
Note: For further details please visit Tamilnadi e-tender portal: <a href="http://tntenders.gov.in">http://tntenders.gov.in</a>	
GENERAL MANAGER(FINANCE)	

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION	
Short Tender Notice No.29/2023-24/SE-II/EE-II/DB/GVMC, Dt: 21-08-2023	
1. No. of Works : 02 (Two)	
2. Value of Works (ECV) : Rs. 247.25 Lakhs	
3. Down loading Starting : 21-08-2023	
4. Down loading End Date : 25-08-2023	
5. Last Date for Submission of bid : 25-08-2023	
Further Details at <a href="http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in">http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in</a> O/o the Executive Engineer (PW-II) Division / For Commissioner, GVMC	

NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. <a href="http://www.coалиndia.in">www.coалиndia.in</a> /respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI), <a href="http://www.cmpdi.co.in">www.cmpdi.co.in</a> , CIL e-procurement portal <a href="https://coalindiatenders.nic.in">https://coalindiatenders.nic.in</a> and Central Public Procurement Portal <a href="https://eprocure.gov.in">https://eprocure.gov.in</a> . In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <a href="https://gem.gov.in">https://gem.gov.in</a> ".	
cmpdi	
Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited	
Gandhinagar House, Kanpur Road, Ranchi-834 031, Jharkhand, INDIA	

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice	
Tender No.: 1) Re-E-Tender No 128,129,130,132/2023-24/SE/HC/CHN, Jal Jeewan Mission - 1) WSS to Sreemodanagaram, Kanjir, Chengamanad, Nedumbassery & Parakkadavu pts - Laying CWPM from Chowara WTP to Chengamanadu OHSR and Construction of Chengamanadu OHSR 2) WTP to Parakkadavu WTP and Construction of Pump house, RWPM & Construction of WTP 3) NELLUKUZH PI - Wall cum Pump house, WTP & Raw water pumping main, RWPM & Construction of WTP 4) 19518.2 (1301.3) 19518.4 (21.00.00/-) 5.00,00/- 5.00,00/- Tender Fee : Rs. 11,9518.2 (1301.3) 19518.4 (21.00.00/-) 5.00,00/- 5.00,00/- Website : <a href="http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in">www.kwa.kerala.gov.in</a> , <a href="http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in">www.etenders.kerala.gov.in</a>	
Superintendent Engineer, PH Circle, Kochi	
The details of the application process are available at <a href="http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in">http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in</a>	
Women candidates fulfilling the requirements are encouraged to apply	

RAJASTHAN URJA VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED	
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)	
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Work Office: 1st Floor, Bhawan Bhawan, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005	
E-mail: <a href="mailto:SE.PPRUVNL@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN">SE.PPRUVNL@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN</a> ; Website: <a href="http://www.energy.rajanstan.gov.in/rvuk/">www.energy.rajanstan.gov.in/rvuk/</a>	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Online bids are invited to procure Round the clock (RTC) power upto 1000 MW in September 2023 on short term basis from various Generators/ State Utilities/ CPPs/ Distribution Licensees/ SEBs/ Trading Licensees as per specification under TN-21/RUVNL/FY 2023-24. May visit website <a href="http://www.mstecommerce.com/">www.mstecommerce.com/</a> <a href="http://www.energy.rajanstan.gov.in/rvuk/">www.energy.rajanstan.gov.in/rvuk/</a> for further details.	
Raj Samvardha C/23/7874	

## IN BRIEF



## 17 Indians held captive by an armed group in Libya rescued

Seventeen Indian nationals held captive by an armed group in Libya have been rescued and brought back to India following sustained efforts by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), people familiar with the matter said on Monday. The Indian nationals, hailing from Punjab and Haryana, reached Delhi on Sunday evening, they said. The Indian embassy in Tunis played a key role in the evacuation. The case was brought to the attention of the Indian embassy in Tunis on May 26 by the family members. On June 13, Libyan authorities were able to rescue the Indian nationals, but kept them in their custody, given that they had illegally entered the country. Following the intervention by our Ambassador in Tunis and senior MEA officials, Libyan authorities agreed to release them, they said. PTI

## Four Australian F-35 jets join Malabar naval exercise

Four Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) F-35 fighters jets joined the 27th edition of Malabar naval exercise involving Australia, India, Japan and the U.S., which concluded on the east coast of Australia off Sydney on Monday. Four RAAF F-35s and two Hawk advanced jet trainers joined the exercise, a diplomatic source said. "At the culmination of five days of multifarious exercises, Exercise Malabar vividly showcased the strong cooperation, shared values and the collective ability of the four participating nations to ensure a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, promoting peace and security for all," the Indian Navy said in a statement. The exercise saw participation of ships, submarines and aircraft from the Indian Navy, Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the U.S. Navy (USN), it stated.

## Panel looks at steps to curb stress in realty sector

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Identifying financial viability as the primary reason for stress in real estate projects, an expert committee headed by former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has said judicial interventions such as the use of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) should be used only as a last resort in case of stalled housing projects.

The committee was set up in March to tackle the problem of incomplete real estate projects following a recommendation made by the Central Advisory Council under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016. It submitted its recommendations to the Union Minister for Housing on Monday.

According to the report, the primary reason for stress in real estate projects is lack of financial viability which has resulted in cost overruns and delays. The report observed that steps are needed to improve the Internal Rate of Return of these projects which would attract more funding and judicial interventions such as IBC should be used only as a last resort. According to the committee, the Indian Banks' Association has estimated that 4.12 lakh stressed dwelling units involving ₹4.08 lakh crore are impacted in these stalled real estate projects.

## Woman and baby crushed to death in Uttarakhand landslip

A search operation is under way for more victims as a taxi-stand lies buried under rubble at Chamba; schools closed after heavy rain alert



A landslip at Chamba in Tehri district, Uttarakhand, buried several vehicles under rubble on Monday. PTI

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

A four-month-old baby and his mother and aunt were killed in a landslip on the New Tehri National Highway at Chamba in Uttarakhand on Monday. The victims were identified as Poonam Khanduri, her four-month-old son and her sister-in-law Saraswati Devi. Suman Khanduri, the father of the child, had gone to a market nearby to buy food while his wife, son and sister-in-law waited in the car that was

parked in a taxi-stand hit by the landslip.

The police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) started the rescue operation immediately. But after two hours of digging through the rubble, it was found that the three had died.

Tehri Senior Superintendent of Police Navneet Singh Bhullar said the bodies were recovered from the car buried under the rubble. "Some more vehicles could also be trapped as the landslip hit the taxi-stand near the Chamba police station," he said, adding that a search-and-rescue operation was underway. Reports that came in later in the day said the police had also recovered the body of a 30-year-old man but the victim is yet to be identified.

Meanwhile, all schools in Bhiplanga, Chamba, Narendra Nagar and Jaunpur in Tehri district have been declared closed on Tuesday on the orders of the District Magistrate in view of a heavy rain alert for various parts of the State over the next two days.

(With PTI inputs)

## ICMR studies post-COVID mortality

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**  
NEW DELHI



The study cautions that the results relate to patients who had been hospitalised during their initial COVID-19 infection, and hence could not be generalised. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

6.5% all-cause mortality, were reported.

"Encouragingly, vaccination before the COVID-19 infection confers protection from post-discharge mortality. Post-COVID Conditions (PCC) and the presence of comorbidities may have some association with late post-discharge deaths; further research is warranted in this field," the study said.

The study, however, cautions that the results relate to patients who had needed hospitalisation and could not be generalised for all COVID-19 patients.

## Clinical registry

The ICMR has been maintaining the National Clinical Registry for COVID-19 at 31 centres across the country, where all hospitalised COVID-19 patients are periodically contacted by telephone. Data collected till February 2023 were included in this analysis.

A matched nested case control analysis was conducted to evaluate the factors related to one-year post-discharge mortality.

The study states that post-COVID conditions (PCC) were associated with 2.7 times higher odds of post-discharge mortality. The limitations of the current investigation include reliance on telephonic follow-up, which could have led to under-reporting of the symptoms.

Other ongoing studies on COVID include the effect of the vaccine on thrombotic events in the 18-45 years population in India in 2022, and factors associated with sudden deaths in the same age bracket.

## India must maintain close watch on new variants of COVID-19

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

the virus in circulation, and their public health impact. He added that India must maintain close watch on new global variants of the virus.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), while EG.5 (Eris) has been reported from over 50 countries, the BA.2.86 (Pirola) variant has been reported from four countries.

It was also noted that, globally, a total of 2,96,219 new cases of COVID-19 had been reported in the past seven days. India, which makes up nearly 17% of the global population, has reported only 223 cases (0.075% of global new cases) in the past week.

## Activists seek dialogue on controlled human infection trials policy

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

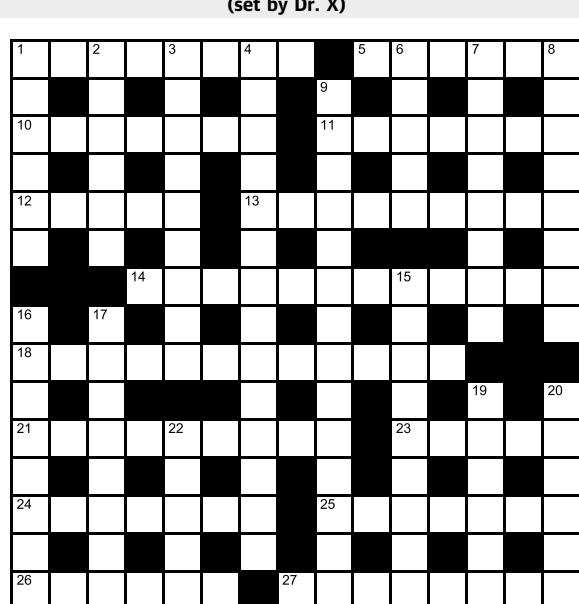
Before embarking upon controlled human infection studies, the government must ensure that there is a public discussion with regard to this, and must also ensure that people are protected against unfortunate results, a group of activists has said.

The group, which includes an advocate, an independent journalist, an independent researcher and other activists, has submitted its comments on the Controlled Human Infection Studies (CHIS) consensus policy statement that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

released recently. In the statement, the group has also said that the proposed guidelines must offer opportunities to all people to put forth their views on the subject. It has called for providing the names of the individuals who drafted the CHIS document, a list of those consulted, and a list of the reviewers. The ICMR statement on CHIS is vague, and "allows loopholes, and leeway for legal and ethical violations," the document said.

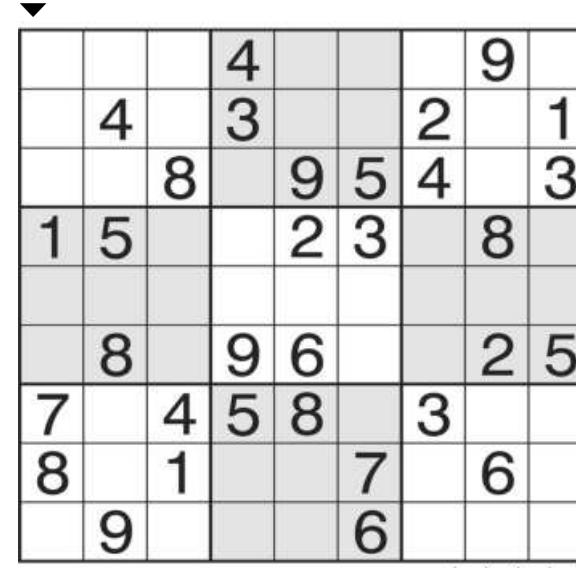
The group has expressed reservations about various issues regarding clinical trials with healthy individuals and the introduction of disease-causing pathogens in them.

## TH CROSSWORD (set by Dr. X) 13950



- 1 Suggestion saving lives in plague (8)
- 5 English prince captivated by model's liveliness (6)
- 10 Bound by ultimately provocative lady in retreat, nervous (7)
- 11 Penny in wild beano at reception, primarily where drinks are free (4,3)
- 12 Arrives in hotel and sleeps (5)

## SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

SOUND OFF IMPAIR  
UTIA COONE  
BLOSSOM CODONATA  
WPCINNLLS  
AVISO LOFTINESS  
YALYFCE  
COMPARENOTES  
HSULEOSS  
ENTERTAINING  
AANCILNH  
VIRULENCE GRATE  
IGAICIPES  
ELATION ATHEART  
SZRGALALE  
TRENDY SLALOMED

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

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## FAITH

## Dhritarashtra's request

Yudhishtira loses everything he possesses in the game of dice, and even stakes his brothers and his wife Draupadi. After Dushasana's attempt to disrobe Draupadi fails, thanks to the intervention of Lord Krishna, Dhritarashtra restores to Yudhishtira all that he had lost. Yudhishtira wants to know from Dhritarashtra what his further course of action should be. Dhritarashtra then speaks kindly to Yudhishtira, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse.

Dhritarashtra says Yudhishtira being an adherent of dharma will not let his mind dwell on the harm done to him by others. Virtuous men like him will never harbour hatred in their hearts. Their company is pleasant, and conversations with them are calming. Dhritarashtra says Yudhishtira is a jnani, and he has shown through his behaviour that he is indeed a righteous man. Therefore, Dhritarashtra's request to him is that he should forget Duryodhana's treatment of him and of his family. Dhritarashtra asks Yudhishtira to think of him (Dhritarashtra) as his father, and to look upon Gandhari as his mother.

Dhritarashtra gives a weak excuse for his silence when Duryodhana had crossed all limits. He says he had not restrained Duryodhana because he wanted to see how far Duryodhana would go. Yudhishtira has no cause for worry, says Dhritarashtra, for he has dharma on his side.



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

**WASHINGTON**

Trump threatens reciprocal tax on India if voted back to power



Former U.S. President and Republican candidate Donald Trump has once again raised the issue of high taxes in India on certain American products, in particular the iconic Harley-Davidson motorcycles, and has threatened to slap reciprocal tax if he is voted to power in the 2024 presidential elections. PTI

**COPENHAGEN**

Zelenskyy says in Denmark he is 'confident Russia will lose this war'



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday he was "confident" Russia would lose the war in Ukraine. "Today we are confident that Russia will lose this war... I'm sure that we will win because the truth is on our side," Mr. Zelenskyy said while addressing a large crowd outside the Danish Parliament.. AFP

**BEIJING**

China lodges complaint over Camp David remark by Korea, Japan, U.S.



China said it had lodged complaints over a statement released at a first-of-its-kind summit of the leaders of the U.S., South Korea and Japan in which they criticised Beijing's "aggressive behaviour" in disputes in the East and South China Sea. U.S. President Joe Biden hosted the summit at the Camp David presidential retreat. AFP

**HEBRON**

Israeli woman shot dead, man wounded, in West Bank attack



An Israeli woman was shot dead and another man wounded in a suspected shooting attack near the occupied West Bank city of Hebron. Israel's Magen David Adom emergency service said that a woman was "confirmed dead" after she was hit by gunfire. The man travelling with her in a car was in a "serious condition", it added. AFP

## Nurse who killed seven newborns in her care jailed for life in Britain

Lucy Letby, 33, has also been charged with attempting to kill six other babies; she attacked prematurely born victims, often during night shifts, by either injecting them with air, overfeeding them with milk or poisoning them with insulin

**Agence France-Presse**

LONDON

A British nurse was jailed for life on Monday, with no prospect of release, for murdering seven newborns and attempting to kill six others while they were in her care.

Lucy Letby, 33, was convicted of killing five baby boys and two baby girls, making her the U.K.'s most prolific child serial killer in modern history.

She was arrested following a string of baby deaths at the neonatal unit of the Countess of Chester Hospital in northwest England between June 2015 and June 2016.

The prosecution said



**Dastardly act:** Lucy Letby, one of the U.K.'s most prolific child serial killers, refused to attend her sentencing on Monday. REUTERS

Letby attacked her vulnerable prematurely born victims, often during night shifts, by either injecting them with air, overfeeding them with milk or poisoning them with insulin.

Following a trial that started in October, a jury at Manchester Crown Court ended more than 100 hours of deliberations on Friday.

Letby was in the dock as

the jury returned the first guilty decisions earlier in August.

But she was not in the dock for the final verdicts and refused to come up from the cells for her sentencing on Monday.

"You acted in a way that was completely contrary to the normal human instincts of nurturing and caring for babies," judge James Goss said, addressing Letby in her absence.

He said there was "pre-meditation, calculation and cunning" in her actions.

"You have no remorse," the judge said. "There are no mitigating factors."

Mr. Goss said that "because the seriousness of your offences are excep-

tionally high, I direct that the early release provisions do not apply".

"The order of the court therefore is a whole life order on each and every of fence and you will spend the rest of your life in prison," the judge said.

**Sunak's comments**

After Letby refused to attend the sentencing, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said it was "cowardly that people who commit such horrendous crimes do not face their victims".

The leader of the main Opposition Labour party, former chief prosecutor Keir Starmer, promised to close the "shamefully exploited loophole" if elected to government.

## Pakistan to compensate over 100 Christians who lost their homes in riots

**Associated Press**

MULTAN



**Grim affair:** Hundreds of Christians who fled their homes have returned only to see destruction everywhere in Jaranwala. REUTERS

Punjab, where hundreds of Muslims went on a rampage on last Wednesday over allegations that a Christian man and his friend had desecrated the Koran.

Mohsin Naqvi, the top official in Punjab province, made the compensation announcement a day after he visited Jaranwala in

sation in the presence of local priests and residents.

Hundreds of terrified Christians who fled their homes have returned only to see destruction everywhere. They have been living outside their burned homes, fearing the structures may collapse.

## Legal hurdles still remain for Guatemala's President-elect Arévalo

**Associated Press**

GUATEMALA CITY



A progressive from outside Guatemala's power structure was resoundingly elected the country's next President in a reprimand to the governing elite over widespread allegations of corruption.

Despite preliminary results on Sunday showing a potential landslide for anti-corruption crusader Bernardo Arévalo, the attention immediately turned to whether he would be allowed to assume power. This is because the Attorney General's Office is attempting to suspend Mr. Arévalo Seed Movement party's legal status.

With 100% of votes

## Saudi border guards killed hundreds of Ethiopian migrants'

**Agence France-Presse**

LONDON

Saudi border guards fired "like rain" on Ethiopian migrants trying to cross into the Gulf kingdom from Yemen, killing hundreds since last year, Human Rights Watch said in a report on Monday.

The allegations, described as "unfounded" by a Saudi government source, point to a significant escalation of abuses along the perilous route from the Horn of Africa to Saudi Arabia, where hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians live and work.

One 20-year-old woman from Ethiopia said Saudi border guards opened fire on a group of migrants

### The allegations point to an escalation of abuses along the perilous route from Horn of Africa to Saudi Arabia

they had just released from custody. "They fired on us like rain. When I remember, I cry," she said.

**Systematic abuse**

The New York-based group has documented abuses against Ethiopian migrants in Saudi Arabia and Yemen for nearly a decade, but the latest killings appear to be "widespread and systematic" and may amount to crimes against humanity, it said.

### TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA		Tel.06766-258301(O); email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com	
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR		e Procurement Notice for Bridge Works under BSY Identification No. Bridge Online NCB No.380	
No. 2916 / Date : 18/08/2023			
1. Name of the Work	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification
2. No. of Work		From	To
3. Estimated Cost		Tender Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible)		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
5. Period of Completion		5	6
6. Other details:			7
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification
1	2	3	4
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	Bridge Online NCB No.380	Dt.28.08.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.12.09.23 up to 5:00 P.M.
			Dt.11.09.23 up to 5:00 P.M.
			Dt.13.09.23 at 11:00 A.M.
			Will be intimated later
● Further details can be seen from the website <a href="http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in">www.tendersorissa.gov.in</a>			
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar. 9IPR-25177/11/0016/2324			

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Himanshu Seth, Proprietor of M/s Global Comp. and Traveling Services, Office Address: 312/315, Second Floor, Rajendra Arhant Tower, Community Centre, B-1, Janakpuri, New Delhi, Also at: WZ-104A, First Floor, Mukhram Park Extension, near Chaukhandi Nala, Tilak Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case CC No. 2939/19, U/s 138 N.I. Act, P.S.: Tilak Marg, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Himanshu Seth cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Himanshu Seth has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Himanshu Seth accused of CC No. 2939/19, U/s 138 N.I. Act, P.S.: Tilak Marg, New Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 03.10.2023.

By Order  
Ms. Isha Singh,  
Metropolitan Magistrate-03,  
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

DP/9388/NDD/2023-  
(Court Matter)

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that accused Shamshad S/o Sh. Rafeeq, R/o- H. No. 03, Vaishali Dabri Extn., New Delhi has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide FIR No. 244/2018 U/s 129/55 Gambling Act P.S. Sagarpur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Shamshad can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Shamshad has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Shamshad of case FIR No. 244/2018 U/s 129/55 Gambling Act P.S. Sagarpur, Delhi is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of 22.09.2023

By Order,  
Ms. Manu Shree  
Metropolitan Magistrate-03,  
Patiala House Court, New Delhi  
DP/9362/SW/2023 (Court Matter)

## Ecuadorians reject oil drilling in the Amazon in historic decision

**Associated Press**

RIO DE JANEIRO



**Fragile land:** Block 44, situated in the Yasuni National Park, is home to the Tagaeri and the Taromenani indigenous groups. AFP

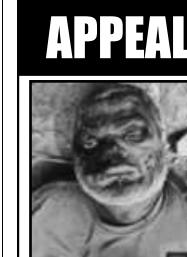
UNESCO. Encompassing a surface area of over 1 million hectares, it hosts 610 species of birds, 139 species of amphibians, and 121 species of reptiles. At least

three species are endemic.

The outcome represents a significant blow to Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso, who advocated for oil drilling, asserting that its revenues are crucial to the country's economy. As a result of the vote, state oil company Petroecuador will be required to dismantle its operations in the coming months.

**Political turmoil**  
The referendum took place alongside the presidential election. The country is experiencing political turmoil following the assassination of one of the candidates, Fernando Villavicencio.

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 45 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Dark, ID Mark: Old Keloid over Neck, Wearing: Blue T-Shirt and naked from lower body, found dead at Opp. Pillar No. 143, 5th Pusta, Yamuna Khadar, New Usmanpur, Delhi on 19.08.2023 by 11.55 am under area of P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi

In this regard a DD No. 50A, dated 19.08.2023 has been lodged at P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO  
PS.- New Usmanpur, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-22172410, 8750870722

DP/9405/NE/2023 (UIDB)

Ph.: 011-22172410, 8750870722

### UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one male person was found dead at Alipur Radha Krishna Kata, Sirdi Road, Durga Mata Mandir, dated 14.08.2023. In this regard a DD No. 14A dated 14.08.2023 has been registered at P.S. Alipur, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 60 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Sallow.

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

SHO

## IN BRIEF



## TMB ties up with Jocata to offer digital lending products

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) has partnered with FinTech platform provider Jocata to offer digital lending products to customers. "TMB has embarked on a large-scale digital transformation agenda along with business process re-engineering, and one of the key milestones for us will be to bring digital credit products to our MSME customers through technology," said managing director and chief executive officer CEO S. Krishnan.

## Wipro appoints head for Wipro Enterprise Futuring

Wipro Ltd. said it has appointed Brijesh Singh as Senior VP and Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Head for Wipro Enterprise Futuring, which offers forward-looking solutions, comprising intelligent insights and data, application platforms, digital operations, and cybersecurity, for large-scale enterprise transformation to global clients. Mr. Singh's appointment follows Wipro's \$1 billion investment in AI and the recent introduction of Wipro ai360.

## HCL, UpLink seek fresh water conservation 'aquapreneurs'

HCL and UpLink, the open innovation platform of the World Economic Forum, on Monday, sought applications from 'aquapreneurs' to be a part of the Zero Water Waste Challenge called for innovative water usage approaches to improve freshwater conservation from supply to demand to achieve zero water waste. According to a HCL statement, this is the second out of five challenges planned by HCL and UpLink under their Aquapreneur Innovation Initiative.

**German baby skincare brand Sanosan eyes 'rapid' growth**

The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

Sanosan, a premium German baby skincare brand, said it expects to grow rapidly in India, with the sales volume projected to double in three years. The brand was introduced in the Indian market 2 years ago through an exclusive distribution agreement with Glowderma Lab.

"We introduced our brand in India during COVID, so considering that, we have good success in this market," said Christine Steger, MD, Mann & Schroder Cosmetics, which produces and supplies the products under the Sanosan brand.

**'Global auto majors raise freshers' hiring to meet EV demand'**Mini Tejaswi  
BENGALURU

Global auto brands such as BYD, Citroën, Kia, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Volvo, Audi, and Porsche are ramping up hiring of skilled professionals in engineering, research and design, and IT roles in India to ready themselves for the EV (electric vehicle) play.

Confirming the trend, Sachin Alug, CEO, NLB Services, a U.S.-based firm that offers recruitment services to global enterprises said auto captives in India have been ramping up hiring efforts by an impressive 20-40% in 2023.

"Several companies are also hiring about 1,000-

**'Amid air traffic rebound, jet fuel demand yet to catch up'**

A slower rebound in long-haul travel and a distressed airline industry have led to lower demand for jet fuel; Low demand is expected to persist through 2023 even as flight traffic has recovered

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Demand for jet fuel is yet to recover to pre-pandemic levels in India and may only do so by the first quarter of 2024, S&P Global Commodity Insights said in a research note on Monday.

Although aviation traffic as well as passenger footfall have outgrown pre-COVID-19 levels, a relatively slower rebound in long-haul travel and a distressed airline industry have resulted in lower demand for jet fuel which is likely to

**Lagged recovery**

Demand for jet fuel has failed to match the rise in air traffic above pre-pandemic levels: S&P Global Commodity Insights

- Jet fuel demand is expected to remain below pre-pandemic levels in 2023 and fully recover only by Q1 2024
- Fewer long-haul flights seen as a key factor as demand for jet fuel is highly correlated to distance travelled
- The recovery could be derailed by a surge in fuel prices or by a weakening of discretionary income and employment

persist through 2023, the research firm said.

The number of flights has returned to corresponding levels of 2019 this



year, but the distance travelled by them is yet to recover, said Himi Srivastava, South Asia oil markets analyst at S&P Global Com-

modity Insights.

"The lack of recovery of longer flights accounting for lower kilometers travelled is one of the main reasons pulling back jet fuel demand as jet fuel demand is highly correlated to distance travelled," Ms. Srivastava observed.

Jet fuel demand is expected to fully recover by Q1 2024. However, if fuel prices surge again or discretionary income and employment weaken then lower load factors could necessitate fewer flights and thus, lower fuel consumption, the firm said.

**Jio Financial Services slides 5% on debut**The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

Jio Financial Services Ltd. made a lacklustre trading debut on Monday closing 5% lower than its listing price on the NSE and BSE.

On the NSE, the stock listed at ₹262, touched an intraday high of ₹262.05, before closing at ₹248.90. The company's market capitalisation on the exchange was estimated at ₹1,58,133.24 crore.

Similarly, on the BSE the stock got listed at ₹265, touched the day's high of ₹278.20 before ending trading at ₹251.75, down 5%. On the BSE, the company's full market capitalisation was estimated at ₹1,59,943.93 crore.

**MARKETS**

## MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,216	0.41
US Dollar	83.13	-0.03
Gold	59,300	0.08
Brent oil	84.98	-

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	2639.75	62.35
Adani Ports	858.15	22.25
Apollo Hosp.	4932.65	84.30
Asian Paints	3182.30	18.75
Axis Bank	952.60	9.55
Bajaj Auto	4610.85	-4.70
Bajaj Finance	1478.30	18.15
Bharti Airtel	7048.20	186.10
BPLC	352.05	-0.85
Britannia Ind.	4510.50	-24.55
Cipla	1233.80	-2.60
Coal India	230.10	2.65
Divis Lab	3665.25	10.35
Dr Reddy's Lab	5910.85	36.40
Eicher Motors	3365.55	15.95
Grasim Ind.	1808.40	17.45
HCL Tech	1179.25	5.55
HDFC Bank	1589.50	-1.25
HDFC Life	625.15	-0.80
Hero MotoCorp	2931.50	4.45
Hindalco	449.40	9.90
Hind Unilever	2562.75	8.00
ICICI Bank	955.20	4.55
IndusInd Bank	1397.80	26.10
Infosys	1405.40	16.60
ITC	447.80	6.15
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	248.90	-12.95
JSW Steel	794.75	7.65
Kotak Bank	1760.35	9.55
L&T	2662.25	20.30
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5147.65	62.40
M&M	1538.55	-14.10
Maruti Suzuki	9438.80	-17.25
NestleIndia	22034.35	204.35
NTPC	218.80	3.65
ONGC	176.05	0.75
PowerGrid Corp	247.20	6.20
Reliance Ind.	2520.00	-36.80
SBI	1278.55	-3.90
State Bank	571.70	-1.25
Sun Pharma	1137.40	2.50
TataConsumerProduct	848.50	5.95
Tata Motors	620.50	4.70
Tata Steel	116.90	1.10
TCS	3401.65	34.55
Tech Mahindra	1218.85	8.05
Titan	3078.30	27.85
UltraTech Cement	8219.30	4.45
UPL	585.70	7.25
Wipro	414.60	2.90

"The review of the AITIGA was a long-standing demand of Indian businesses and the early commencement of the review would help in making trade facilitative and mutually beneficial," the Ministry said in a statement.

"The Ministers agreed to follow a quarterly schedule of negotiations and conclude the review in 2025. The review of AITIGA is expected to enhance and diversify trade while addressing the current asymmetry in the bilateral trade," the Ministry added.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.91	83.23
Euro	90.38	90.73
British Pound	105.65	106.06
Japanese Yen (100)	56.81	57.04
Chinese Yuan	11.36	11.41
Swiss Franc	94.19	94.56
Singapore Dollar	61.08	61.32
Canadian Dollar	61.31	61.54
Malaysian Ringgit	17.83	17.89
Australian Dollar	53.10	53.32

Source: Indian Bank



Resolve to redress: The two sides have agreed on the terms of reference for fresh negotiations. REUTERS

**China's Honor to make India comeback by early 2024**Reuters  
BENGALURU

Chinese smartphone brand Honor will relaunch in India through a licensing deal with a local company and is aiming to start domestic manufacturing by early next year, its country head told Reuters.

Honor's comeback is underpinned by a licensing deal with a newly formed Gurugram-based firm Honor Tech for an undisclosed "agreed-upon cost" tied to the transfer of technology and hardware.

It will introduce three variants of Honor phones in India, with the mid-ranged Number series expected by September.



2,000 candidates through campus recruitment drives," he said.

Munira Loliwala, AVP, TeamLease Digital said there was a visible increase in hiring by global auto players in the country. "The overall tech talent hiring demand in automotive sector has increased by 20-40% in 2023."

"Several companies are also hiring about 1,000-

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

## See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Ritu, S/o/W/o. Jitender, R/o. H.No. 136, DTC Colony, Model Town, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case Cr. Case 10480/2021, FIR no. 663/2020 U/s 323/341/506 IPC registered at P.S. Model Town, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Ritu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ritu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ritu** accused of Cr. Case 10480/2021, FIR no. 663/2020 U/s 323/341/506 IPC P.S. Model Town, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 16.10.2023

By Order  
Sh. Himanshu Sehlot,  
Metropolitan Magistrate -03,  
Court No. 213, North  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/9340/NW/2023

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

## (SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Mahender Singh, R/o D-2/4, Gali no. 9, B Block, Joharpur Extension, Karawal, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in CC No. 739/2017, U/s 138 NI Act, registered at P.S. **Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi**, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Mahender Singh**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Mahender Singh**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Mahender Singh**, of case CC No. 739/2017, U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. **Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi**, is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 23.09.2023.

By Order  
Arjun Kirar,  
Metropolitan Magistrate (NI Act)-04,  
Central Court no. 1,  
CBA-1, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/9412/ED/2023

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified female **Namely: Unknown, W/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 35 years, Height : 5'5", Complexion : Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, Wearing : Unknown** has been found dead at 17-18 Block, Trilokpuri, Delhi on 05.08.2023. In this regard a case vide DD No. 32A dated 05.08.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Mayur Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or

## VITAL COG

**Kohli crucial to India's World Cup chances, feels Bishop**



Former West Indies pacer Ian Bishop believes that Virat Kohli is a big match player and will play a crucial role for India in the upcoming ICC World Cup. "He is a man for the big stage and has a sense of the occasion as we all know. I hope he will do that because he is a fantastic player in white ball cricket," Bishop said on RevSportz.

## DECISION TIME

**One batting position does not make much difference, says Ganguly**



Sourav Ganguly on Monday said that India has options for the No. 4 position in its ODI side, and stressed that one position alone will not win important tournaments like the World Cup. "Rahul Dravid, selectors and Rohit Sharma need to decide who is the No. 4 and has to continue with him," Ganguly said.

## A BIG LOSS

**World Cup hero Carmona learned of father's death after the final**



Spain's Women's World Cup final's goal-scoring hero Olga Carmona learned that her father had passed away after the 1-0 win over England, the Spanish federation said. "The RFEF deeply regrets having to report the death of Olga Carmona's father. We send our most sincere embraces to Olga and her family in a moment of deep pain."

## SHOCKING THE FIELD

**Katzberg outshines the stars, clinches hammer gold at Worlds**



Canadian 21-year-old Ethan Katzberg took a stunning World Championship hammer gold on Sunday with a National record throw of 81.25 metres in the fifth round. Poland's Olympic champion Wojciech Nowicki took silver with 81.02, with Hungary's Bence Halasz a crowd-pleasing bronze in 80.82.

# Praggnanandhaa makes history, meets Carlsen in the final

The 18-year-old Indian draws Caruana out of his comfort zone before producing the knockout punch, becomes the third youngest after Fischer and Carlsen to qualify for the Candidates Tournament; Goryachkina wins women's title

## CHESS WORLD CUP

## Rakesh Rao

**C**ontinuing his dream run, R. Praggnanandhaa took World No. 3 Fabiano Caruana out of his comfort zone, pulled him into shorter time-control games and nailed him to challenge favourite Magnus Carlsen in the final of the FIDE World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Praggnanandhaa, who turned 18 during the World Cup and knocked out second seed Hikaru Nakamura on the way, now becomes the third youngest to qualify for the Candidates Tournament after Bobby Fischer and Magnus Carlsen. He is also the first Indian to reach the World Cup final since the knockout format was introduced in 2005.

It may be recalled that Viswanathan Anand's titles came in 2000 and 2002 came in a 24-player league-cum-knockout format.

After Praggnanandhaa and Caruana played out four draws in three days, the decisive difference came in the first 10-minute rapid game. Praggnanand-



**Stupendous win:** Praggnanandhaa, after dealing a decisive blow, played solidly to ensure a draw and a berth in the final. X@FIDE

haa, playing white, had an extra pawn by the 21st move but Caruana had compensation. The twist to the tale followed when Praggnanandhaa gained a second pawn and swiftly moved his king to the queen's side and added to Caruana's worries.

By this time, Caruana realised he was in serious trouble and needed some moves of sub-optimal strength from his young rival to regain lost ground. But Praggnanandhaa relentlessly chased victory and came within a move of

handing out a checkmate when Caruana resigned on the 63rd move. Caruana returned to hit back with white pieces but it was Praggnanandhaa who played proactively to put his desperate rival under pressure. Caruana did wriggle out of trouble but never held any winning chances. Eventually, Praggnanandhaa gave nothing away and the resultant 82-move draw took him past Caruana.

Looking back, Praggnanandhaa should consider himself extremely fortu-

nate to have saved the first 25-minute rapid game with black pieces in 71 moves, while Caruana was left to rue the choice of pushing a kingside pawn on the 54th move that saw his winning chances evaporate in a flash. In this game, Caruana's time management was better than Praggnanandhaa's. In the second, too, Praggnanandhaa had to tread carefully and Caruana was alert to seizing any opportunity. This was an improved showing from Praggnanandhaa but Caruana was never under

pressure.  
**Pragg goes through to the final! He beats Fabiano Caruana in the tiebreak and will face Magnus Carlsen now. What a performance!**  
VISWANATHAN ANAND on X

Earlier, in the women's final, Aleksandra Goryachkina rode her luck to deny 20-year-old Bulgarian Nuryul Salimova the title by winning the second 25-minute rapid game.

Salimova blew a winning position in the first rapid clash on Monday. In the second, the 2021 finalist Goryachkina held the upper hand before Salimova found a continuation, leading to a draw. Just when the contest seemed to be heading for a pair of 10-minute rapid games, Salimova erred one last time and Goryachkina seized the opportunity.

**The results: Open: Semifinal:** R. Praggnanandhaa bt Fabiano Caruana (USA) 3.5-2.5. **Women: Final:** Aleksandra Goryachkina (FIDE) bt Nuryul Salimova (Bul) 2.5-1.5.

# Tilak gets the nod; fit-again Shreyas and Rahul back



**In charge:** Captain Rohit and chief selector Agarkar at a press conference on Monday. R.V. MOORTHY

## ASIA CUP

Uthra Ganesan  
NEW DELHI

Tilak Varma is the only surprise inclusion in a batting-heavy Indian side with just two spinners in Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav, the latter edging Yuzvendra Chahal on the back of recent performances.

Also returning are Shreyas Iyer and K.L. Rahul, both sidelined for a while with injuries. Shreyas has got the all-clear, while Rahul had picked up a niggle in the last few days but should be available by the time the tournament kicks off, according to Ajit Agarkar, chairman of selectors.

"With Tilak we saw some real performance

and temperament and this gives us an opportunity to give him some more exposure. Also as a left-hander he looks promising. When the time comes for that (World Cup selection) we will make the decision," Agarkar told the media. The World Cup side is expected to be named on Sept. 5, midway through the Asia Cup.

Skipper Rohit Sharma, meanwhile, insisted that he was not thinking about being favourite for the title and that winning a tournament was a collective responsibility.

**Marginal advantage**  
"We don't believe in the thought process of being the favourites, we have to play well and win the tournament. All teams will be here to compete hard. It

can be a little advantage playing at home but even the other guys play a lot here these days and are aware of the conditions. It is not about one player or position to win us a game or tournament, it's about the entire batting unit coming together and getting the job done," he explained.

The squad is scheduled to assemble in Bengaluru for a five-day camp.

## The squad:

Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Tilak Varma, K.L. Rahul, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, and Prasidh Krishna; **Reserve:** Sanju Samson.

**India's Group-A matches:**  
Sept. 2: vs Pakistan (Pallekele);  
Sept. 4: vs Nepal (Pallekele).

# Prannoy and Lakshya advance; Srikanth exits

## BADMINTON WORLDS

## Press Trust of India

## COPENHAGEN

Indian shuttlers H.S. Prannoy and Lakshya Sen progressed to the men's singles second round of the World Championships with straight-game wins over Finland's Kalle Koljonen and Mauritius' Georges Julien Paul respectively here on Monday.

Prannoy, the World No. 9, saw off the left-handed Koljonen 24-22, 21-10 to extend his head-to-head count over the Finnish player to 3-0. Lakshya, the reigning Commonwealth Games champion, steamrolled Paul 21-12, 21-7 in 25 minutes.

The match between Prannoy and Koljonen turned into a tight battle in the opening game with the Finnish player quick to open up a 4-4 lead. Prannoy reeled off seven straight points to grab a 11-8 lead at the break.

An exciting battle ensued after resumption with Koljonen eventually grabbing three game points after pushing one away from the forehand of his opponent. Prannoy saved all



**Calling the shots:** Lakshya was hardly stretched by Paul, cruising to victory in 25 minutes. FILE PHOTO

three game points before hitting wide to hand over the advantage to his rival.

A backhand block at the net helped him save another game point but he sprayed into net next as it was 22-21 in favour of the Finnish player.

The second game started on an equal footing with Prannoy marginally leading 6-5 at one stage. However, the Indian opened up a six-point lead at the break with a smash.

The Indian kept moving ahead with Koljonen finding it hard to negotiate the angles and deceptions of Prannoy, who soon gained 12 match points after Koljonen hit wide. Prannoy missed one at the net and Kol-

# It's time to start a dynasty, says Lyles

## WORLD ATHLETICS

Jonathan Selvaraj  
BUDAPEST

As the 100m finalists of the World Championships made their way to the starting blocks, a hush enveloped the stadium.

The emcees stopped speaking, and the fans fell silent. People took out their camera phones to capture the moment. Even those who continue to speak were shushed. This was a moment that commanded reverence.

The crowd agreed to a moment of silence before the race director announced "on your marks" and "get set". The stadium erupted when the pistol fired and the race began. Less than 10 seconds later, anticipation filled the air.

Finally, a name was listed on the scoreboard. It read Noah Lyles and next to it was 9.83 seconds. Lyles saw it though he already knows the result. He found the on-screen camera and yelled: "They said it couldn't be done. They said I wasn't the one. But thank God I am!"

Then he wheeled away in celebration, almost as if powered by the electricity



coursing through the crowd.

Track athletics needs the 100m. Ever since Usain Bolt's retirement in 2017, the sport has lacked a star. Perhaps Lyles could be the one. It's not taken him too long to appoint himself as Bolt's heir apparent. At the media interaction following the race, Lyles talked about winning the 200m and the 4x100m relay.

"It's time to start a dynasty," he beamed.

Lyles might have won bragging rights for this year with his win at the Budapest Worlds, but you know that everyone gets to run this one again. The athletes will be ready, and for sure, so will be the fans.

# India has got a really solid 1-2-3 combination, similar to Australia's: Hayden

Amol Karhadkar  
MUMBAI

Despite the injury-prone middle-order, Matthew Hayden, the two-time World Cup champion, has backed India's selection for the Asia Cup and has billed it a strong contender for the World Cup.

"In the lead up to World Cups you are always going to have some trial players and we have seen the class of Tilak Varma. I think it's a good strategy in terms of not just this World Cup but even potentially getting into the next World Cup (cycle) as well," Hayden said here on Monday, on the sidelines of the Ceat Cricket Rating awards.

"The great thing about Team India is it's got a really solid 1-2-3 combination. Similar to Australia's, actually. When you look at their last four or five months, they have had a really good, strong, what we like to call the engine room. And then they have got some good problems to solve through the middle order. And if they can fill spots with a few talented young players like Tilak,



**Talking cricket:** Hayden and McCullum having a chat at the Ceat awards function in Mumbai on Monday. EMMANUEL YOGINI

put pressure on someone like Suryakumar Yadav, I think that's a good strategy. Keep everyone honest in the side and performing, so not a bad move. I think it's a great side."

"One-day cricket is still a unique property because it goes through phases of play where it's not just about fours and sixes. It's about fitness and running. That's in the field and also with the bat, which favours sides that really focus heavily on their fitness," Hayden said.

## IN BRIEF



## Double podium for Geoffrey Emmanuel in Malaysia

India's Geoffrey Emmanuel marked his debut in the Malaysian Superbike Championship 2023 with podium finishes in both races astride a Honda CBR 250 machine in Kuala Lumpur over the weekend. The 18-year-old from Chennai took part in the 250cc category (A Class) of the championship. Geoffrey (Gusto Racing India) finished third overall, starting from third in both races despite limited seat and track time. He narrowly missed the second spot by less than a tenth of a second in a tight finish in the first race.



## Greenwood to leave United after investigation

Manchester United forward Mason Greenwood will leave Old Trafford, the Premier League club said on Monday following an investigation into allegations of attempted rape of which he was cleared. "All those involved, including Mason, recognise the difficulties with him recommencing his career at Manchester United," the club said in a statement. "It has therefore been mutually agreed that it would be most appropriate for him to do so away from Old Trafford, and we will now work with Mason to achieve that outcome."

## Rider Mobin Shah passes away during rally

Mobin Shah, a rally rider passed away while competing in the Ultimate Desert Challenge in Sam Dunes in Jaisalmer due to heat exhaustion on Saturday. According to a statement from the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI), the 27-year-old was seen sitting exhausted away from his bike in Special Stage 3. He was immediately shifted to a life-support ambulance before being taken to a hospital where he passed away. The second day of the event on Sunday was cancelled.

## Diksha finishes T-6; Gandas 20th among men

India's Diksha Dagar continued her superb run on the Ladies European Tour, carding a fine 5-under 67 to finish T-6 at the ISPS HANDA World Invitational golf tournament in Galgorm (N. Ireland). Lying T-11 after three rounds at the \$1.5m event, Diksha finished at 5-under for the week. In the tournament, where the men also played, Manu Gandas finished T-20, his best result in his rookie year on the DP World Tour.

## Thumping win for Indian junior men

Agencies  
DUSSeldorf

The Indian junior men's hockey team scored a 4-0 victory over England in the four-Nations tournament here on Monday. Rajinder Singh (13th), Amir Ali (33th), Amandeep Lakra (41st) and Arai Jeet Singh Hundal (58th) were the scorers for India.

India went ahead 1-0 after Rajinder converted a penalty corner. At the beginning of the second-half, Amir got a quick field goal.

Amandeep converted a penalty corner in the third quarter and Arai Jeet added another at the stroke of the final whistle to make it 4-0.

The Indian junior women's team forced a 3-3 draw with England on Sunday. Hina Bano (sixth), Rutuja Dadasa Pisal (49th) and Mumtaz Khan (53rd) scored for India while Le Huray Martha (fourth and 19th), and Alexander Beth (ninth) were on target for England.

The team will next play Spain on Tuesday.

## LIVE TELECAST

**BWF:** World Championships, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 p.m. onwards

**Maharaja Trophy T20:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 1 & 5.30 p.m.

**Afghanistan vs Pakistan:** 1st ODI, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

**Durand Cup:** Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3 & 6 p.m.

**Champions League:** (play-offs, first-leg), Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

## Late goals help Barca overcome Cadiz

Pedri and Torres scored for the team that did not have coach Xavi and Raphinha due to suspensions; Betis holds Atletico for a goalless draw; Lecce beats Lazio in a thriller

## EURO LEAGUES

Agencies  
MADRID

**B**arcelona needed late goals from Pedri and Ferran Torres to beat Cadiz 2-0 in the Spanish league in the first official match at its temporary new home for the season on Sunday.

Pedri scored in the 82nd minute and Torres in stoppage time to secure the win at the Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium in Montjuic, where the team will play while the Camp Nou undergoes an extensive makeover.

Barcelona secured its first win of the season despite the absence of coach Xavi and forward Raphinha because of red cards in the 0-0 opening draw at Getafe last weekend.

Atletico Madrid had to settle for a disappointing goalless draw at Real Betis in its second game of the season on Sunday.

In Serie A, Juventus secured a comfortable 3-0



Making an impact: Pedri's opening goal gave Barcelona the late impetus. GETTY IMAGES

win at Udinese on Sunday, while late goals from Pontus Almqvist and Federico Di Francesco gave Lecce a 2-1 comeback victory over last season's runners-up Lazio.

Andrea Belotti scored his first league goals for Roma but they weren't enough to help Jose Mourinho's team win its open-

er after it was held 2-2 by Salernitana.

**The results:** LaLiga: Real Betis 0 drew with Atletico Madrid 0; Barcelona 2 (Pedri 82, Torres 90+4) bt Cadiz 0; Girona 3 (Herrera 12, Stuani 55, 65) bt Getafe 0; Osasuna 0 lost to Athletic Club 2 (Inaki 11, Gurutzeta 20).

**Bundesliga:** Frankfurt 1 (Kolo 40) bt Darmstadt 98 0.

**Premier League:** West Ham 3 (Aguero 7, Antonio 53, Lucas Paquet 90+5 pen) bt Chelsea 1 (Chukwuemekwa 28).

## Sethuraman takes lead; Guha holds Puranik

## NATIONAL CHESS

Rakesh Rao  
PUNE

S.P. Sethuraman took his time to convert his chance into a well-crafted 94-move victory over fellow GM Deep Sengupta to emerge as the leader with six points after as many rounds of the National chess championship here on Monday.

**The results (sixth round):** Abhimanyu Puranik (5.5) drew with Mithraba Guha (5.5); Deep Sengupta (5) lost to S.P. Sethuraman (6); Surya Shekhar Ganguly (5) drew with Deepan

Chakravarthy (5); M. Venkatesh (5) drew with Diptyan Ghosh (5); Vishnu Prasanna (4.5) lost to Aronyak Ghosh (5.5); Kolla Bhaavan (5) drew with Shyamnikhil (5); Utkal Ranjan Sahoo (4) lost to Abhijeet Gupta (5); N. R. Visakh (5) bt Dinesh Sharma (4).

C. Praveen Kumar (4) lost to P. Iniyian (5); Apoorv Kamble (5) bt Sayantan Das (4); G. Akash (4.5) drew with Sandip Nagare (4.5); Neelash Saha (5) bt Vivaan Shah (4); Anuj Shravatri (5) bt Yash Bharadwaj (4); Indrajet Mahindrakar (4) lost to Sidhant Mohapatra (5); L.R. Srihari (5) bt P. Supreetha (4); Harshit Pawar (4.5) drew with C.R.G. Krishna (4.5); Sharwan Majumder (4) lost to Mehar Chenna Reddy (5); S. Nitin (3.5) lost to Bhoopathi Yadav (5).

## Djokovic wins marathon against Alcaraz

Associated Press  
MASON

Novak Djokovic outlasted Carlos Alcaraz in a thrilling rematch of their Wimbledon final, winning 5-7, 7-6 (7), 7-6(4) on Sunday to take the Western & Southern Open.

In a match that lasted 3 hours, 49 minutes, the longest best-of-three sets final

in ATP Tour history (since 1990), the No. 2-seeded Djokovic avenged his loss last month to the top-ranked Alcaraz.

In the women's final, seventh-seeded Coco Gauff became the first teenager in more than 50 years to win the Western & Southern Open with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Karolina Muchova.



Toufik (Bengal, 6/52).

Hritik (Delhi, 5/69).

## Toufik spins a web, CAB bowls out Kerala cheaply

## BUCHI BABU

## Sports Bureau

Off-spinner Toufik Uddin Mondal's six-wicket haul helped Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) bowl out Kerala cheaply for 195 on the opening day of the second round All India Buchi Babu invitation tournament in Tirunelveli on Monday.

**The scores:** At Coimbatore: Indian Railways 184 in 54.3 overs

(Nishant Kushwah 52, Sagar Solanki 45, Shubham Agarwal 4/38) vs Chhattisgarh 67/2 in 26 overs.

**At Dindigul:** Madhya Pradesh 204 in 79.2 overs (Harsh Galia 74, Mahesh Pithiya 4/63) vs Baroda 31/2 in 7.1 overs.

**At Salem:** Jammu & Kashmir 256 in 61.4 overs (Shubham Pandit 46, Fazil Rashid 50, Hritik Shokeen 5/69) vs Delhi 68/2 in 17 overs (Anuj Rawat 47 batting).

**At Tirunelveli:** Kerala 195 in 65.3 overs (Krishna Prasad 53, Anand Krishnan 44, S. Sachin 44, Toufik Uddin Mondal 6/52, Vaibhav Yadav 4/50) vs CAB XI 53 for two 24 overs.

**BUCHI BABU:** Toufik (Bengal, 6/52).

**At Coimbatore:** Indian Railways 184 in 54.3 overs

## Mohun Bagan SG will be wary of Abahani Dhaka's challenge

## AFC CUP PLAYOFF

Amitabha Das Sharma  
KOLKATA

Buoyed by a dominant start, Mohun Bagan Super Giant will look to build on its continental aspirations when it takes on Abahani Dhaka from neighbouring Bangladesh in the AFC Cup playoff match at home here on Tuesday.

The Indian Super League champion made a strong start to its campaign by prevailing over Machhindra FC of Nepal (3-1) and cleared the preliminary stage in its first outing of the tournament, at the same venue five days ago.

The Mariners will be eager to continue the momentum and progress to the South Zone group stage where teams like Odisha FC, Bashundhara Kings (Bangladesh) and Maziya

SRC (Maldives) have already qualified.

With the loss against traditional rival Emami East Bengal in the Durand Cup group league fixture (on August 12) still ranking with the fans, Mohun Bagan SG head coach Juan Ferrando sought to shift his focus on the continental assignment.

"We are still in the pre-season preparation stage but will have to get the team in the competitive mode with so many matches coming so early in the season," Ferrando said.

The ISL champion has sought to be more successful this season and has made significant investments in acquiring more stars in its stable.

With the tournament regulations allowing six foreigners on field, Abahani Dhaka arrived with nine foreigners under its Portuguese coach Mario Lemos.

tion to progress to the final eight, Rajasthan United pressed for the goal right from the start but failed to make a dent on the defensive plans of its resolute opponent. Apart from the resistance provided by the Army defence, Rajasthan United encountered a bigger hurdle in the form of puddles that formed on the ground following heavy rains prior to the match.

In another match in Kolkata, Kerala Blasters FC finished its group-C league campaign by blanking Indian Air Force Football Team 5-0. Bidhysagar Singh scored a hat-trick while Mohammad Aimen and Danish Farooq scored one apiece as the Blasters picked up its first win to end with four points from three matches.

**The results:** Group F (Kokrajhar): Rajasthan United FC 0 drew with Indian Army FT 0.

**Group C (Kolkata):** Blasters 5 (Mohammad Aimen 9, Bidhysagar Singh 12, 61, 82, Danish Farooq 57) bt IAF FT 0.

## Tiger Mountain clinches the Royal Revive Plate

**HYDERABAD:** Trainer M.R. Chauhan's Tiger Mountain, ridden by Akshay Kumar won the upper division of the Royal Revive Plate, the chief event of Monday's (Aug. 21) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Gurpal Singh rep. Mukteshwar Racing LLP & Mr. Shantanu Sharma.

**RAZIA SULTANA PLATE (Div. II):** GRETSY (Sonu Kumar) 1, Great Giver (P. Ajeebh Kumar) 2, Asured Success (Kuldeep Singh) 3, SHW 3 and Encora (R.S. Jodha) 4, 3/4, 1/2 and 1/4. IM 15. 09s. 333 (w), 43, 12 and 10 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 45, SHW: 83 and 33, FP: 3,176, Q: 1,316, Tanala: 7,711. Favourite: Luck Zone. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

**2. RAZIA SULTANA PLATE (Div. II):** HOPING SKY (Mohit Singh) 1, Right Time (P. Ajeebh Kumar) 2, Trishul (Surya Prakash) 3 and Decoy (A. Imran Khan) 4, 3/4, 3/4 and 1/2. SHP: 38, THP: 52, SHW: 180 and 25, FP: 3,439, Q: 1,261, Tanala: 26,647. Favourite: Luck Zone. Owners: Mr. Champaklal Zaveri, Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri rep. Zaveri Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd., Miss Harsha N. Desai & Miss Niti N. Desai. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

**3. NAWAB KHAJA MOINUDDIN KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (Div. II):** EXOTIC DANCER (Sonu Kumar) 1, Laurus (S. Saglai) 2, Malala (A. Imran Khan) 3 and Star Racer (P. Ajeebh Kumar) 4, Shd and 2. IM 15, 10s. 312 (w), 41, 15 and 14 (p). SHP: 52, THP: 74, SHW: 65 and 23, FP: 1,283, Q: 503, Tanala: 4,669. Favourite: Malaika. Owners: Mr. Prakash Babu & Mr. Krishnamohan Rao. Trainer: M.R. Chauhan.

**4. GADWAL PLATE:** PROUD MARY (A. Imran Khan) 1, Dyanosho (Surya Prakash) 2, Reigning Beauty (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Sound Echo (D.S. Deora) 4. Not run. Lights On: 73,1/4, 1/2 and 1-1/4. IM 14. 41s. 316 (w), 12, 54 and 15 (p). SHP: 234, THP: 36, SHW: 11 and 62, FP: 405, Q: 397, Tanala: 2,561. Favourite: Proud Mary. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

**5. RACHAKONDA CUP:** LUCKY ZONE (P. Ajeebh Kumar) 1, Royal Grace (Afroz Khan) 2, Amyra (A. Imran Khan) 3 and Unsung Hero (Neeraj) 4. 3/4, 6-3/4 and 1-1/4. IM 27. 19s. 319 (w), 13, 17 and 37 (p). SHP: 52, THP: 99, SHW: 19 and 32, FP: 91, Q: 71, Tanala: 687. Favourite: Lucky Zone. Owner: Mr. K.H. Vachha. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

**6. ROYAL REVIVE PLATE (Div. II):** TIGER MOUNTAIN (Akshay Kumar) 1, Ashwa Morocco (Sonu Kumar) 2, Carlisle (Afroz Khan) 3 and Superpower (S. Saqlain) 4. Hd, 4-1/2 and 3/4. IM 26. 77s. 315 (w), 11, 14 and 23 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 41, SHW: 10 and 32, FP: 54, Q: 40, Tanala: 75. Favourite: Tiger Mountain. Owners: Mr. Gurpal Singh rep. Mukteshwar Racing LLP & Mr. Shantanu Sharma. Trainer: M.R. Chauhan.

**7. NAWAB KHAJA MOINUDDIN KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (Div. II):** ABOVE THE LAW (Md. Ismail) 1, Red Snaper (Afroz Khan) 2, Morior Invictus (Kiran Naidu) 3 and Garnet (Sonu Kumar) 4. Hd, 1-1/4 and Nt. IM 14. 67s. 393 (w), 25, 29 and 21 (p). SHP: 120, THP: 61, SHW: 21 and 60, FP: 1,347, Q: 618, Tanala: 14,887. Favourite: Garnet. Owner: Mr. Rakesh Reddy Kondakalla. Trainer: Robin Reddy Kondakalla.

**8. ROYAL REVIVE PLATE (Div. II):** MYSTERIOUS ANGEL (P. Ajeebh Kumar) 1, Royal Grace (Afroz Khan) 2, Amyra (A. Imran Khan) 3 and Unsung Hero (Neeraj) 4. 3/4, 6-3/4 and 1-1/4. IM 27. 19s. 319 (w), 13, 17 and 37 (p). SHP: 52, THP: 99, SHW: 19 and 32, FP: 91, Q: 71, Tanala: 687. Favourite: Mysterious Angel. Owner: Mr. K.H. Vachha. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

**9. ROYAL WINDSOR PLATE:** JUST INCREDIBLE (Kuldeep Singh) 1, Lady Danger (D.S. Deora) 2, Fatima (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Sucker Punch (S.K. Paswan) 4. 5-3/4, Hd and 1. IM 29. 20s. 333 (w), 17, 20 and 32 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 109, SHW: 35 and



# A tale of Spanish resurgence and overwhelming emotion

Spain's success dwindled after the men won the 2010 World Cup, until now, with signs of glory showing again; the 2023 edition had the incredible highs and heartbreak lows – with fans showing up in unprecedented numbers to back the women, and institutional sexism rearing its ugly head once again

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

**B**e it Colombia's teenaged, cancer-survivor and ray of hope Linda Caicedo, Spain's 19-year-old impact player Salma Paralluelo, co-host New Zealand's first taste of victory or Morocco's dream run, the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup was a tale of overwhelming emotions.

Spain's success marked its re-emergence on the world map; a school of play which gave the world the tiki-taka en route the 2010 men's World Cup triumph. However, the nation has faltered since, managing to win only two major trophies until this year. The Spanish men marked their return with their UEFA Nations League title last month, while their women adorned the crowning jewel on Sunday, making Spain the second country after Germany to win both men's and women's world titles.

#### Culer mentality

The success of *La Roja*, like that of their male counterparts in 2010, lies in their Barcelona core. Two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas played a huge role on and off the field in bringing the side this far. Putellas' anterior cruciate ligament injury on the eve of 2022 Women's Euro proved disastrous for them, with the team eventually bowing out to England in the quarterfinal.

Putellas' return from injury in the tournament was subdued, something Spain recovered from, thanks to the likes of Aitana Bonmatí, tournament's golden ball winner, stepping up. The Barcelona midfielder, likened to Andres Iniesta by Pep Guardiola, is having a tremendous season so far and is among the favourites for this year's Ballon d'Or. Real Madrid midfielder Teresa Abelleira, arguably the best holding midfielder in the tournament, proved to be her perfect companion as Spain's midfield terrorised opponents, forming a 'black hole' in the middle of the park from where retrieving the ball was virtually impossible.

Barcelona *Femeni* has an iron grip on the domestic competitive scene. It lost just



**Having a ball:** Caicedo was in the thick of things for Colombia while Paralluelo was Spain's star. AP



one match and drew another on its way to clinching the domestic title this season before cruising to continental success in the Women's Champions League.

This not only gave Spain their metronome, but also handed them the perfect weapon to neutralise opponents in Paralluelo, who head coach Jorge Vilda used as a super sub especially in the business end of the tournament. She came on for Putellas against Norway in the semifinal to give *La Roja* the lead and was adjudged player of the match.

Coach Vilda admitted the plan was to use Putellas to wear out the opponents and then unleash Paralluelo's raw pace and intensity, a tactic that paid off well, earning her a spot in the starting XI in the final.

**Lionesses' share**  
Finalists England have no reason to be disappointed as their heroics have given fans hope that football is getting closer and closer to 'home'. Sarina Wiegman's stint as coach has been nothing short of a dream.

The Dutchwoman ended England's 56-year wait for a major trophy when she led the Lionesses to glory in the 2022 European Championship. Managing a team with heavyweights like Lucy Bronze, Ellen White and Jill

Scott and feisty youngsters like Lauren Hemp was no mean feat. Her measured and majestic presence on the sidelines and tactical genius earned her the 2022 FIFA Best women's coach award, her third after winning it in 2017 and 2020. Wiegman's skillset is so highly rated that chatter of her being considered to replace Gareth Southgate for the men's team gig when he decides to leave did the rounds ahead of the final.

#### Point to prove

FIFA brought in radical changes in the tournament format when it widened the playing pool from 24 to 32 countries, matching the number of teams in the men's version. This move was not without its critics, with concerns of the tournament being 'dull' or 'one-sided' and established teams racing away to victories sitting as prominent footnotes. But they could not have been any more wrong as the underdogs posed tough questions throughout the tournament. New Zealand shocked Norway and registered their first victory in a World Cup while Morocco brushed aside a thrashing at the hands of Germany to make the round of 16 ahead of the latter.

Signs of the turning tides in women's football were seen throughout the tournament. Close to 42,000 were present to watch New Zealand beat Norway, a record figure for both men's and women's football in the country. Australia's semifinal against England was watched by 75,000 in the gallery while streaming figures hit 11.5 million at one point, nearly half the country's population. Before the end of round of 16,

more than 1.4 million were recorded at stadiums.

#### The fault lines

Spain's entire campaign was embroiled in controversy. Months before the World Cup, a player mutiny saw 15 players taking on the federation and coach Vilda for poor training and team conditions. Only three of those, including Bonmatí, were present Down Under. But Putellas, Olga Carmona and Co. managed to weather the storm and take the Spanish armada to promised land.

Spain's win, which completed a world treble of sorts (U-17, U-20 and senior), was tainted by a barrage of criticism directed at Spanish Football Federation president Luis Rubiales and his questionable behaviour with players in the team.

Before the tournament, FIFA president Gianni Infantino threatened to black out broadcasting in five major European nations which was only resolved at the 11th hour. He criticised the double standard of broadcasters offering around \$1 million to \$10 million for the tournament while it had gone up to \$200 million for the men's tournament, however the larger conversation on getting to the bottom of that disparity never happened.

Several nations were in open dispute before and during the World Cup with their federations over pay and conditions. This ranges from runner-up England, which put aside a row over bonuses to reach the final, while Jamaica had to resort to crowdfunding to pay their bills.

FIFA's stand is that they are committed to equality, and standing up against broadcast disparity would suggest the same. But the women's winner gets around \$110 million while the men's champion Argentina took home around \$440 million from Qatar last year. Infantino added to his list of World Cup gaffes, saying that women should "pick the right fights" to "convince us men (about) what we have to do".

Norway's Ballon d'Or-winner Ada Hegerberg's response summed up the mood of the ecosystem to this positioning. "Working on a little presentation to convince men. Who's in?", she posted on X.

After the final, Putellas took the podium as a stage to demand for changes, especially in funding.

But at the end of the day the brave bunch, going up against institutional sexism, made the tournament a memorable affair with flared up matches throughout, and a phenomenal final.

## WORLD CUP IN NUMBERS

▼ Matches: 64; Teams: 32; Venues: 10 (in nine host cities)

▼ Goals scored: 164, most for an edition

▼ Golden Boot: Hinata Miyazawa of Japan (five goals)

▼ Top scorer: Spain (18 goals)

▼ Youngest player: Casey Phair (South Korea), 16y 26d, youngest in history

▼ Winner's prize money: \$4.29 million

▼ Total prize money: \$110 million

▼ Highest match attendance: 75,784 for four games in Sydney

▼ Total attendance: 1,978,274



## SCIENCE

# The story of how the deadliest virus to humans was revived

**Jeffery Taubenberger** wanted to understand why some flu strains caused pandemics, so he sought the genetic makeup of the virus that caused the 1918 disaster. He received help from Johan Hultin, a doctor who offered to retrieve samples from a mass grave at risk to his life

**Arun Panchapakesan**

This is part I of a two-part story on the virus that caused the Great Influenza epidemic. Part II will be published tomorrow.

In August 1997, the members of the village council of a small settlement in Alaska, called Brevig Mission, were faced with a peculiar request. A man named Johan Hultin wanted their permission to exhume a nearly 80-year-old mass grave. He claimed that he had done it before, 46 years earlier, and that he was back because his previous mission had failed.

The council gave him its blessing when its members heard what he was after. According to him, hidden beneath the frozen ground lay preserved the recipe to make the deadliest virus humankind had ever encountered.

#### A virus from scratch

Scientists routinely engineer new viruses in the laboratory. They make changes to the genetic material (DNA or RNA) of existing viruses to create new variants that may or may not exist naturally. Doing so allows scientists to compare the properties of the edited variants to their natural counterparts and infer the role of the changes that they made.

For example, if they observe that some patients have a higher viral load in their blood for a given disease, and a particular mutation is observed in the DNA of viruses isolated from those patients, they can introduce that mutation into the DNA of viruses that don't naturally harbour it, to see if it improves the viral output in the laboratory.

But while scientists can easily introduce changes to the genetic material of a virus, they can't create a virus from scratch. They have to rely on nature to do this.

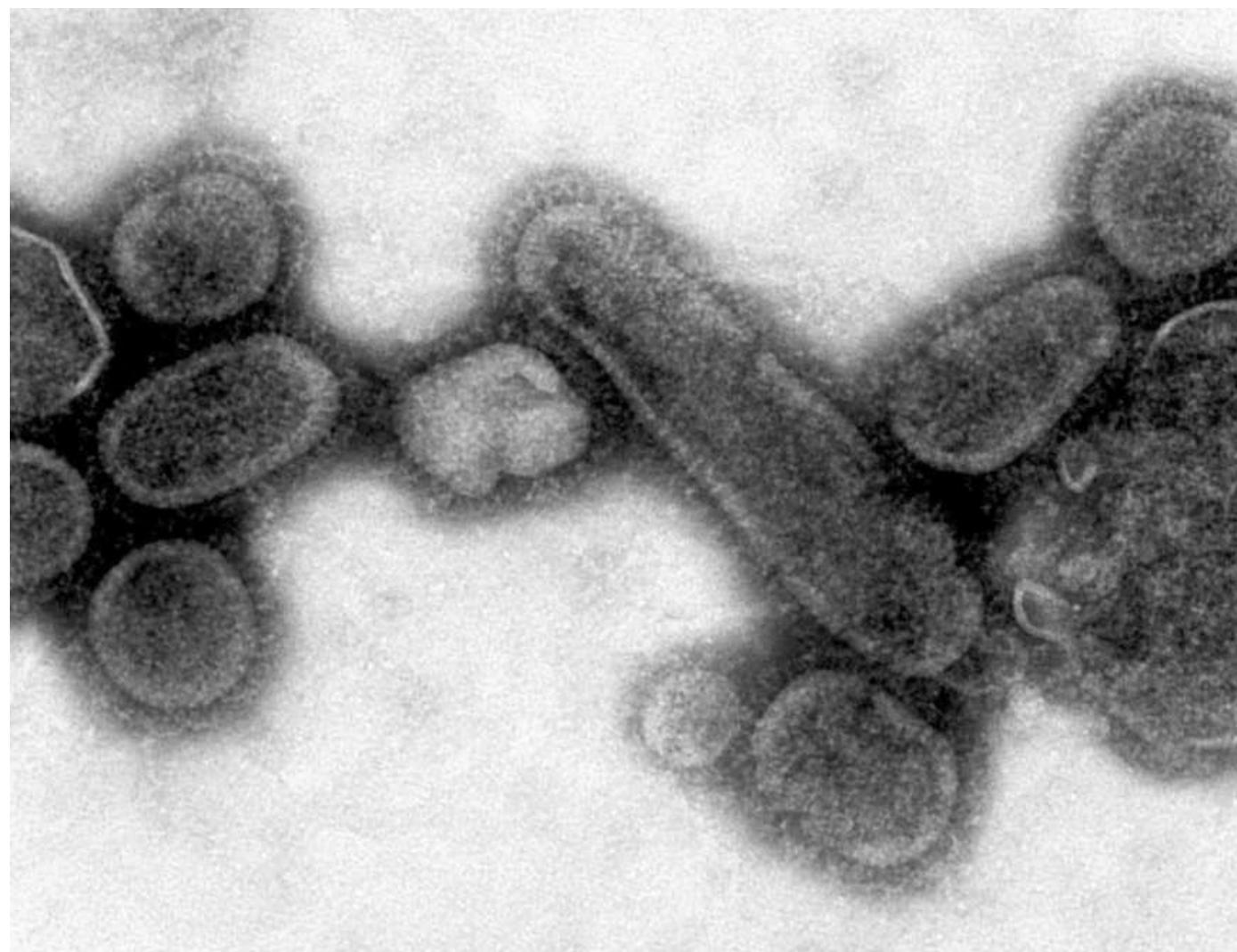
So, scientists take samples from patients, make more copies of the genetic material using a technique called a polymerase chain reaction, and use it to understand the sequence of bases that makeup its genetic material. Once they have the sequence, they can tweak it.

#### Meet H and N

In 1995, molecular pathologist Jeffery Taubenberger, who was working on the influenza virus, was trying to understand why some strains of the virus caused pandemics while others did not. Taubenberger realised that in order to do that, he needed to know the genetic makeup of the deadliest strain of influenza that had ever infected humans: the virus responsible for the 1918 disaster.

At the time, 105 years ago today, the virus was estimated to have infected 500 million people - a third of the world's population then. It was notorious for its ability to cause severe disease in people aged 15-34. It has been estimated that 50 million people died as a result. (To compare, the COVID-19 pandemic is thought to have caused around 6.9 million deaths.)

Researchers designate influenza strains using the types of two genes that the virus contains, named haemagglutinin and neuraminidase, designated 'H' and 'N'. There are 18 subtypes of haemagglutinin, labelled H1-H18, and 11 types of neuraminidase, N1-N11, in nature. An



A stained transmission electron micrograph showing recreated 1918 influenza virions collected from the supernatant of a 1918-infected cell culture 18 hours after infection. PUBLIC DOMAIN

influenza virus contains one of each and is classified accordingly.

For example, the 1918 epidemic was caused by the H1N1 variant; the 1957 Asian flu was caused by H2N2; and the 1968 Hong Kong flu was caused by H3N2. There exist further sub-variations of these primary classifications, where different mutations exist in the 'H' and 'N' genes and which can further modify a virus's properties. The 1918 flu and the 2009 swine flu were both caused by H1N1 - but they varied in disease severity due to the presence of changes on the H1 and N1 genes.

Taubenberger wanted the 1918 version of H1N1. But there was a problem. The virus had vanished after 1920, when the pandemic ended. While there were subsequent influenza outbreaks later in 1957, 1968, and 1977, those viruses were different and nowhere near as deadly as the 1918 strain. Taubenberger was adamant to use the worst of all influenza variants in his studies because studying that strain was imperative, he believed, to understanding influenza.

#### A letter from Johan Hultin

With great difficulty, he obtained the preserved lung samples of a soldier who had died of the disease in 1918, and extracted a small portion of the genetic material of the virus. However, because he was running out of starting material, Taubenberger couldn't generate the complete RNA sequence. So, together with another scientist named Ann Reid, he ended up publishing a small part of the sequence in March 1997.

A few months later, Taubenberger

received a letter from a doctor named Johan Hultin, who had read his article, and offered a solution to his small sample problem. Dr. Hultin claimed that in a small ocean-side village in Alaska, called Brevig Mission, there existed a mass grave in which 72 people who had all died due to the Great Influenza epidemic in 1918 had been buried. The Alaskan permafrost would have ensured the bodies were preserved almost perfectly - along with the virus.

Dr. Hultin continued that he had visited the site in 1951 and had brought a few samples back. But due to the long return journey, the samples began to thaw, and he had to refreeze them with carbon dioxide from a fire extinguisher. But despite his best efforts, he couldn't protect them, and the multiple freeze-thaw cycles destroyed the samples.

Over a telephone call, Dr. Hultin offered to go back to Brevig Mission to retrieve more samples at his own expense. Taubenberger agreed.

#### Full genetic sequence

And so, in August 1997, Johan Hultin, at the age of 72, went back to Brevig Mission to finish what he set out to do as a young graduate student 46 years earlier - to get the deadly 1918 H1N1 influenza virus. The task ahead of him was fraught with the risk of him contracting the deadly virus, and almost certain death after. But neither that nor the lack of specialised equipment proved to be a deterrent for Dr. Hultin. He went ahead with his mission just the same.

The samples he brought back allowed Taubenberger and Reid to determine the



The virus was estimated to have infected 500 million people. It was notorious for its ability to cause severe disease in people aged 15-34. It has been estimated that 50 million people died as a result

virus's full genetic sequence. The sequence allowed other scientists to unearth insights into the virus's beginnings. It appeared to have an ancestor that was avian in origin. But there were also tell-tale signs that the virus had adapted, by evolving, to infect mammals.

In other words, the ancestral virus that infected birds had switched to infecting humans or swine. It had also been circulating for a few years, getting better at its job, before it vanished. Sometime later, it reemerged as one of the deadliest pathogens ever to afflict humankind.

But for all these remarkable insights, the virus's genetic sequence revealed nothing dramatic about the virus itself. It failed to explain how it could infect people so quickly or why it killed millions. There were minor variations in the genetic material but this is to be expected for RNA viruses. There remained but one way to answer that question: to recreate the virus itself.

(Arun Panchapakesan is an assistant professor at the Y.R. Gaithonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai.)

## THE SCIENCE QUIZ

### Twilight time – the world between worlds

#### Vasudevan Mukunth

#### QUESTION 1

Twilight is the light visible above the horizon when the sun is below the horizon. It is civil twilight when the sun is 6° below the horizon; X twilight when 12° below; and astronomical twilight when 18° below. Name X.

#### QUESTION 2

At astronomical twilight in the evening, Y becomes visible in the sky, and at astronomical twilight in the morning, Y becomes invisible. What is Y?

#### QUESTION 3

An asura in Hindu mythology was slain by one of the avatars of Lord Vishnu at twilight because he had a

boon that he couldn't be slain at day or night. Name the asura.

#### QUESTIONS 4

When the sun is setting behind you, the shadow that earth's atmosphere casts will be in front of you, near the horizon. At civil twilight, this shadow has a faint pink border. It is sunlight diffracted in earth's atmosphere. What is this pink belt called?

#### QUESTIONS 5

During X (in Q1), the sunlight remaining in earth's atmosphere has a deep blue shade - the result of ozone molecules absorbing light of other frequencies. The absorption is weak, so its effects are pronounced when light has to travel longer through the

atmosphere, which happens at twilight. What effect is the absorption called?

#### Answers to August 17 quiz:

1. Name of aurora that occurs near the southernmost latitudes - **Ans: Aurora australis**
  2. Events that can move aurorae to earth's lower latitudes - **Ans: Geomagnetic storm**
  3. Expansion of 'K' in the K-index - **Ans: Kennziffer**
  4. Moon that has a significant influence on Jupiter's aurorae - **Ans: Io**
  5. Danish astronomer whom Walter Bryant wrote in a 1920 book - **Ans: Tycho Brahe**
- Visual: Nitrogen  
First contact: P.N. Moorthy | Arunvesha Majhi | Nuzla Sayed | Prashant Kalbender | Swadhin Ranjan Patra



Visual: The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), seen here in the U.S. on March 21, 2018, is most active at twilight. What is the adjective that describes such animals? AMOS OLIVER DOYLE (CC BY-SA 4.0)

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



Flooded farms and homes near Tazhao village, following heavy rainfall in Zuozhou, Hebei province, China, August 1, 2023. REUTERS

## Despite extreme weather, China skips climate talk

**Reuters**

Record heat and historic floods in China this summer have failed to ignite domestic public debate about how the world's top carbon polluter can mitigate climate change, leaving campaigners frustrated at an opportunity missed.

While state media and officials have said that climate change makes China more vulnerable to extreme weather, few have made the connection this year, and have been even more reluctant to link it to China's own emissions - now around a third of the global total and rising.

"I actually see that as a big missed opportunity, actually, for the Chinese government to garner enough social support for its climate agenda," Li Shuo, senior adviser with Greenpeace in Beijing, said.

There was no major spike in searches for 'climate change' in recent weeks on

#### A crackdown on civil society under President Xi has made grassroots climate change unlikely, forcing activists to try and influence an increasingly centralised leadership

the Weibo microblog platform or the search engine Baidu, according to their official indices.

This is despite widespread discussion about severe weather, in which at least 33 people died in Beijing alone. Several residents in Beijing and flooded areas in surrounding Hebei province said that they were aware of changing climate trends, but were reluctant to say more.

Chinese government spokespersons have long defended China's record on climate change and press freedom.

In economically developed countries, governments, seeking to be re-elected, have lowered climate ambitions after backlash from those resistant to the lifestyle changes needed to curb emissions.

China is in principle well-placed to impose top-down, state-led campaigns that support government policy that could make it a climate action leader.

But Fang Kecheng, from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said climate messaging was used differently.

"Like many other issues in China, climate change basically is used as an issue by media to glorify the state and the supreme leader and also to attack the U.S. and other western countries," he said.

Communications professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Pan Zhongdang, said part of the issue was fear of what could be unleashed by freedom of expression.

A crackdown on NGOs and civil society under President Xi Jinping has made grassroots climate change unlikely, forcing campaigners to try instead to influence an increasingly centralised leadership.

China has set some bold green targets, including a pledge to make the country carbon neutral by 2060, but experts want Beijing to act faster and worry that failure to engage the people could slow the transition.

China's CO2 emissions grew 10% in the first quarter of 2023 from a year earlier, rising by about 1% above record levels in 2021, according to research published on August 17.

#### For feedback and suggestions

for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'