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WORLD » PAGE 15



OPINION » PAGE 9



NEWS » PAGE 14



SPORT » PAGE 19

## India gets new Parliament House; PM says it's symbol of aspirations

Modi speaks of forging new paths to achieving India's dreams of becoming a developed country; representatives of 22 Opposition parties boycott function; in her message, President says she is happy that PM is inaugurating the building

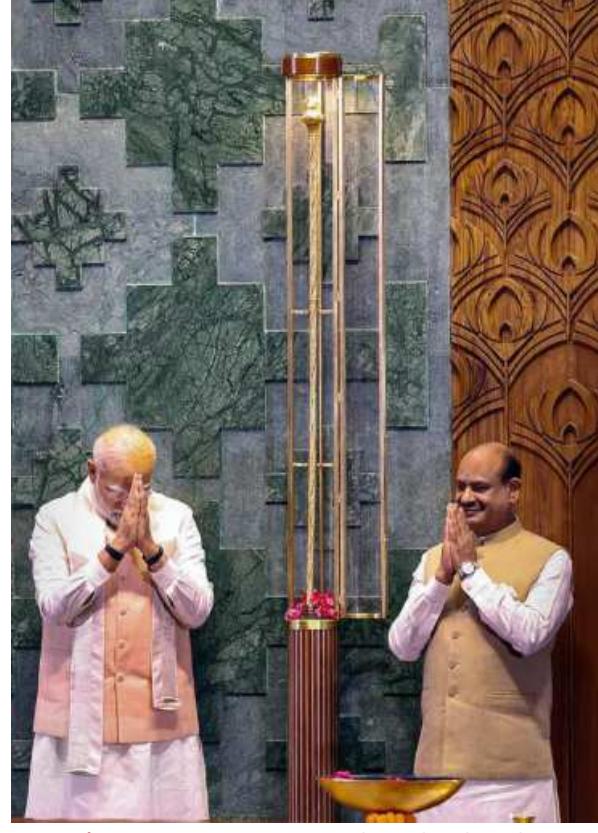
**Sobhana K. Nair**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated India's new Parliament building, and called it a symbol of the "aspirations" of 140-crore citizens and a vehicle that will drive India in the next 25 years towards its goal of becoming a "developed country" to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the nation's Independence.

The thrust of the Prime Minister's 35-minute address was about casting a "new India" that had left behind a "slave mentality" and was moving forward. The word "new" figured more than 40 times in his speech.

"It is not only a building. It is a reflection of the aspirations and dreams of 140 crore Indians. This is the temple of our democracy giving the message of India's determination to the world," he said.

Mr. Modi said there came a time in the history of every country when consciousness was awakened anew; the last such phase was 25 years before India gained Independence.



Sceptre in place: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Speaker Om Birla after installing the Sengol in the Lok Sabha chamber. PTI

"In 25 years, India will complete 100 years of its Independence. Together, we have to make India a developed nation in these 25 years. In the next 25 years, the new laws to be made in this new building of Parliament will make India a developed India," he said.

The new Parliament House will be a witness to the rise of an "atmanirbhar bharat" (self-reliant India), he said, adding that the new building was an example of the coexistence of

the ancient and the modern.

**Elaborate ceremony**

The inaugural ceremony was conducted in two phases. In the morning, Mr. Modi – dressed in a *dhoti* and *kurta* and accompanied by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla – offered floral tributes to the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the premises.

Then, amid Vedic chants by priests, he performed Ganapati *homam*. After prostrating before the *Sengol*, he sought blessings from the high priests of various *adheenams* in Tamil Nadu with the sceptre in hand. He then carried the *Sengol* in a procession to the new Parliament building, amid tunes of *nadaswaram* and chanting of Vedic mantras, and installed it in a special enclosure on the right side of the Speaker's chair in the Lok Sabha chamber.

A multi-faith prayer was also held to mark the occasion. Mr. Modi felicitated some of the workers with shawls and souvenirs for their key role in the construction of the building.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 12

Self-glorifying event, says Opposition

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Congress-led Opposition parties boycotted the inauguration of the new Parliament building, likening it to a "coronation" and a "self-glorifying" event conducted with utter disdain for scientific temper.

"Parliament is the voice of the people! The Prime Minister is treating the inauguration of the Parliament House as a coronation," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

Criticising the function, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said "*sengol* (sceptre) had no role in a democracy where people elected their government".

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati, who was among the few non-BJP leaders who opposed the boycott of the event, congratulated the government on the new Parliament building.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
» PAGE 13

### IN BRIEF

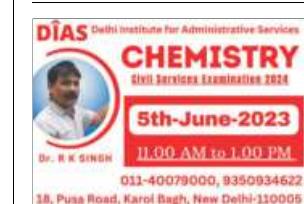


**Delhi turns into fortress; 9,000 officials deployed**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Capital turned into a fortress on Sunday, with the police working along with paramilitary forces to prevent protesters from marching towards the new Parliament to demand the arrest of WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharang Singh. » Page 2

**Kharge to meet Gehlot and Pilot in Delhi today**

**JAIPUR**  
Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge will hold separate meetings with Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot on Monday in Delhi to bring them on one platform ahead of the Assembly poll, which is due later this year, a senior party leader said. » Page 4



**EDUCATION PLUS** » PAGE 17

## 40 extremists killed in encounters, says Biren

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI/IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh on Sunday said that about 40 extremists had been killed in encounters with security forces following attacks on unarmed civilians on the periphery of the Imphal valley.

The encounters and attacks on villagers by armed groups coincided with Army chief General Manoj Pande's two-day visit to the violence-hit State on Saturday. Home Minister Amit Shah was scheduled to visit Manipur on Monday.



High alert: Army jawans keeping watch over a violence-hit area of Imphal town on Sunday. PTI

Mr. Singh told journalists in Imphal that the spurt in violent attacks on civilian houses on the periphery of the valley in the

past two days "seemed well-planned and simultaneous" as a show of strength. "The attacks are strongly condemned, espe-

cially when Union Minister of State for Home Nitaynanda Rai is in the State and group peace missions are being formed as part of efforts to bring back peace in Manipur," he said in the presence of eight Cabinet Ministers.

"The terrorists are shooting civilians using M-16 and AK-47 assault rifles and sniper guns besides burning down houses in many villages. We have started taking very strong action against them with the help of the Army and other security forces," he said.

"We have reports that

some 40 of these terrorists have been killed by the security forces," he said, lamenting the casualties on both sides and promising all possible steps to bring back normalcy in the State.

"Both sides" pertain to the Kuki group of tribes and the majority Meitei people caught in an ethnic battle since May 3 triggered by multiple reasons, one of them being a Manipur High Court order asking the State to pursue a move for granting Scheduled Tribe status to the Meiteis.

"The Central government is being fiercely neutral while dealing with all the

## Centre fiercely neutral in Manipur, says Assam CM

**Varghese K. George**  
NEW DELHI

The BJP governments at the State and the Centre will be able to resolve the ongoing conflict in Manipur through dialogue, says Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is the party's key troubleshooter in the northeast.

According to Mr. Sarma, the "unexpected" order of the Manipur High Court on April 20 to consider the request for Meitei community's inclusion on the Scheduled Tribes

communities. With the kind of time, kind of energy [Home Minister] Amit Shah is spending in northeast, I am sure that positive result will emerge," Mr. Sarma told *The Hindu* in an exclusive interview.

"The inter-ethnic dialogue has to be in a more matured manner, leading to more authentic cooperation. In the last five years, we had created that situation and a dialogue was beginning. But unfortunately the High Court order changed the course of events," he said.

list within four months derailed a plan for a comprehensive dialogue that the State was planning.

"The inter-ethnic dialogue has to be in a more matured manner, leading to more authentic cooperation. In the last five years, we had created that situation and a dialogue was beginning. But unfortunately the High Court order changed the course of events," he said.

**INTERVIEW ON**  
» PAGE 12

## Wrestlers detained during march to new Parliament; 35-day protest site cleared

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Amid the inauguration of the new Parliament building on Sunday, wrestlers protesting at Jantar Mantar were detained by security personnel as they tried to march to the venue.

Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia were among the top wrestlers who faced action.

The Delhi police and paramilitary personnel tried to bust their 35-day protest demanding the arrest of Wrestling Federation of India

(WFI) president and Bharatiya Janata Party MP Brij Bhushan Sharang Singh for alleged sexual harassment by dismantling their tents and removing personal belongings. Within minutes, the security personnel cleared the protest site, which saw hundreds of supporters joining the wrestlers every day.

The women protesters, including Ms. Phogat and Ms. Malik, were released around 7:20 p.m.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 12



Pinned down: Wrestlers Vinesh and Sangeeta Phogat being detained by security personnel in New Delhi on Sunday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## Recep Tayyip Erdogan returns to the helm in Turkey after winning run-off

**Associated Press**  
ANKARA

Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won re-election on Sunday, extending his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade in a country reeling from high inflation and the aftermath of a devastating earthquake.

With nearly 99% of ballot boxes opened, unofficial results from competing news agencies showed Mr. Erdogan with 52% of the vote, compared with 48% for his challenger, Kemal



Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul on Sunday. REUTERS

Kilicdaroglu.

In his first comments since the polls closed, Mr. Erdogan spoke to supporters on a campaign bus outside his home in Istanbul.

bul. "I thank each member of our nation for entrusting me with the responsibility to govern this country once again for five years," he said. He ridiculed his challenger for his loss, saying "bye bye, Kemal", as supporters booed.

**'Winner is Turkey'**

"The only winner today is Turkey," Mr. Erdogan said, vowing to work hard for Turkey's second century. The country marks its centennial this year.

With another term, he will have an even stronger

hand domestically and internationally, and the result will have implications far beyond Ankara. Turkey stands at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and plays a key role in NATO.

Mr. Erdogan, who has been at the helm for 20 years, came short of victory in the first round of elections on May 14. It was the first time he failed to win an election outright, but he made up for it on Sunday.

Mr. Kilicdaroglu said the poll was "the most unjust ever", with state resources mobilised for Mr. Erdogan.

## When the Prime Minister said *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*, we followed.

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<b>Garima Lohia IAS Rank - 2</b>	1910102924	CA 2022, MGP+ 2022, IGP 2022
Uma Harathi N IAS Rank - 3	1910059002	MGP 2020, 21, 22, AWFG 2022, Anthropology ATS 2022
Smriti Mishra IAS Rank - 4	1910059516	AWFG 2020 CA 2021, 22 Ethics+ 2022, MGP+ 2022, SFG 2022
Mayur Hazarika IAS Rank - 5	1910089229	MGP+ 2022, Anthropology ATS 2022, IGP 2022
Waseem A. Bhat IAS Rank - 7	1910073279	MGP 2022, IGP 2022
Kanika Goyal IAS Rank - 9	1910105164	MGP+ 2022
Rahul Srivastava IAS Rank - 10	1910007025	MGP 2021, SFG 2022, IGP 2022
Abhinav Siwach IAS Rank - 12	1910069923	AWFG 22, MGP 22, Sociology ATS 2022, PTS 2022, SFG 2022
Vidushi Singh IAS Rank - 13	1910096059	IGP 2022
Shishir K. Singh IAS Rank - 16	1910043725	IGP 2022, GS Simulator 2022
Avinash Kumar IAS Rank - 17	1910050934	CA 2021, 22, IGP 2021, MGP 2019, SFG 2020
Siddharth Shukla IAS Rank - 18	1910115901	IGP 2022
Laghima Tiwari IAS Rank - 19	1910099391	Prelims Simulator 2022
Anoushka S. IAS Rank - 20	1910103516	MGP 2022, IGP 2022
Shivam Yadav IAS Rank - 21	1910096148	IGP 2022
Pavan Datta GVS IAS Rank - 22	1910075927	IGP 2022, MGP+ 2021, Prelims Simulator 2022
Vaishali IAS Rank - 23	1910082757	IGP 2022, MGP 2021, Prelims Simulator 2022
Kashmira S. IAS Rank - 25	1910118770	IGP 2022
Ankita IAS Rank - 28	1910048041	IGP 2022, Prelims Simulator 2022
Pourush Sood IAS Rank - 29	1910101244	IGP 2022, Prelims Simulator 2022
Preksha Agrawal IAS Rank - 30	1910084757	MGP 2021, MGP 2022, IGP 2021
Priyansha Garg IAS Rank - 31	1910052190	IGP 2022, MGP 2019 SFG 2021
Nittin Singh IAS Rank - 32	1910102321	AWFG 2022, MGP 2022, IGP 2022
Anubhav Singh IAS Rank - 34	1910091389	IGP 2022, MGP 2022, EGP 2022
Ajmera S. Kumar IAS Rank - 35	1910091930	ETHICS+ 2022, IGP 2021, MGP 2021, 2022
Arya VM IAS Rank - 36	1910115545	IGP 2022
Anup Das IAS Rank - 38	1910104514	IGP 2022, EGP 2022
Garima Narula IAS Rank - 39	1910105067	MGP+ 2022, IGP 2022
Sri Sai Ashrit S. IAS Rank - 40	1910098658	IGP 2022, PRLIMS SIMULATOR 2022
Shubham IAS Rank - 41	1910115592	IGP 2022
Pranita IAS Rank - 42	1910092061	GS Foundation
Archita Goyal IAS Rank - 43	1910059627	IGP 2021, 2022, MGP 2020, 2022
Tushar Kumar IAS Rank - 44	1910047352	Prelims Simulator 2022
Manan Agarwal IAS Rank - 46	1910082934	AWFG 2022, MGP 2021, MGP 2022, Prelims Simulator 2022
Gauri Prabhat IAS Rank - 47	1910078266	MGP+ 2020, MGP 2022, IGP 2022
Aaditya Pandey IAS Rank - 48	1910104268	CSAT 2022 IGP 2022, MGP+ 2022
Sanskriti Somani IAS Rank - 49	1910102953	IGP 2022, MGP 2022

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**Pranita Dash**  
IAS Rank-42



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# Delhi turned into a fortress, 9,000 personnel deployed, 'entire police force on alert'

Over 800 protesters detained at various locations in the city; khap and farm leaders from U.P. and Haryana stopped from entering Capital; treatment meted out to wrestlers grossly wrong, says CM

#### Mehul Malpani

NEW DELHI

The national capital was turned into a fortress on Sunday, with the police departments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana working along with paramilitary forces to prevent protesters in the city and neighbouring States from marching towards the new Parliament building to demand the arrest of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharman Singh.

Around 800 hundred protesters, including wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, seeking the WFI chief's arrest for the past 35 days at Jantar Mantar, were detained at multiple locations in the city and were released later in the evening.

The police and paramilitary personnel also cleared the protest site at Jantar Mantar. Over 9,000 police and paramilitary personnel were deployed in the national capital throughout the day.

Hundreds of khap leaders and farmer activists, including Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charkhi) president Gurnam Singh Charuni, were detained in Haryana before they could leave for Delhi to express their support for the protesting wrestlers. Several Haryana activists headed to the Capital in trains alleged harassment by the police at



**Curtains down:** Delhi Police and paramilitary personnel clearing the protest site at Jantar Mantar, where wrestlers led a month-long sit-in seeking WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharman Singh's arrest. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the border soon after hearing about the detention of the protesting wrestlers. He called it off eight hours later after the grapplers were released. Huge traffic jams were reported in various parts of the city to maintain law and order.

Students of Jawaharlal Nehru University said they were detained soon after they stepped out of the university to join the protests.

Several khap and farm union leaders, including Bhartiya Kisan Union (Charkhi) president Gurnam Singh Charuni, were detained in Haryana before they could leave for Delhi to express their support for the protesting wrestlers. Several Haryana activists headed to the Capital in trains alleged harassment by the police at

Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order, Zone 1) Dependra Pathak said nearly 4,500 personnel of the Delhi police and as many from paramilitary forces were deployed in various parts of the city to maintain law and order. "Such treatment to the sportspersons who brought laurels to the country is grossly wrong and condemnable."

Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chairperson Swati Maliwal wrote to Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora demanding Mr. Singh's arrest. Meanwhile, Mayor Shelly Oberoi denied permission to the Delhi police to create a temporary jail at a school in Bawana near the Delhi-Haryana border. "Permission denied. It's high time that governance becomes sensitive to the future of this country, our children," the Mayor tweeted.

# Citizens' statement with over 1,100 signatories backs wrestlers

#### The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

#### The police action shows how scared a patriarchal state is of the sight of women standing shoulder to shoulder, the statement read

More than 1,100 citizens – including lawyers, academics, journalists, activists, former parliamentarians, ex-bureaucrats and various individuals – on Sunday issued a release in support of the wrestlers and their supporters who had been protesting at Jantar Mantar for over a month.

In a joint statement titled 'Dismantle the structures of sexual violence, NOT the protesters' tent!', the signatories demanded the immediate release of all protesters as well as the arrest of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharman Singh.

Mr. Singh faces sexual

harassment charges by some female wrestlers and two FIRs have been filed against him, including one under the POCSO Act. The protesters at Jantar Mantar have been demanding his arrest.

Slamming the "brutal" police action and blockades of the city borders, the statement said, "This is how scared a patriarchal state is of the sight of the women of India standing shoulder to shoulder with each other. Despite this

crackdown, the government was unable to block the flow of solidarity; activists and concerned citizens found ways of trying to reach the protest site."

"But in a rerun of how people's protests have been stifled in the past few years, many women have been taken into custody and many have been subjected to physical and verbal violence by the police."

The signatories said while the wrestlers were detained and their tents dismantled, the accused "remains scot-free".

They added, "Fittingly for this anti-women regime, this is happening even as a new Parliament building is being inaugurated by a Prime Minister whose 'Beti Bachao' slogan never rang hollower."

#### Restrictions in New Delhi cause jitters to UPSC aspirants

#### The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Several candidates appearing for the UPSC preliminary exam faced difficulties in reaching their examination centres in the New Delhi district, which was placed under heavy restrictions by the police on Sunday.

"I reached late due to traffic restrictions, which added to my nervousness. My first set of examinations did not go well," said Reema Singh, 22.

"I've come from Gurugram. As many roads near Sansad Marg and Udyog Bhawan were barricaded, it took me half an hour to find a route to my centre," Radhe, 23, said.

# CM meets Jain at Lok Nayak Hospital, calls him a 'hero'

#### The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre and the Foreign Regional Registration Office to provide medical care to a Rohingya refugee who is suffering from various ailments and is lodged in Daya Basti Ren Basera detention centre in the Capital.

Justice Prathiba M. Singh ordered that a competent doctor from any government hospital here examine the refugee, Senora Begum, and if any treatment is to be given, the same should be started without delay.

The apex court on Friday permitted Mr. Jain to undergo treatment at a hospital of his choice and



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal meeting his former Cabinet colleague Satyendar Jain on Sunday. PTI

directed him to not talk to the media during bail period that ends on July 11. He has been in Tihar jail since May last year, after his arrest in a money laundering case by the Enforcement Directorate.

# To free up prison spaces, authorities weigh plan to pay for undertrials' bail

Proposal may help decongest city's prisons by at least 20%, say Prisons Department officials; it will include suggestion to overhaul legal assistance system, effective implementation of probation law

**Mehul Malpani**  
NEW DELHI

To ease the burden on Delhi's three prison complexes, officials of the Prisons Department said they are working on a proposal to create a special fund to provide monetary assistance to undertrial prisoners (UTPs) who are unable to afford a lawyer or pay the bail amount.

According to a senior official, the proposal is at an early stage and, if approved by the Delhi government, could help decongest prisons by at least 20%. Another official pegged the number at "30-40%".

## Overcrowded jails

Official data showed that the three prison complexes – Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini – currently hold nearly 20,500 inmates; more than twice their total sanctioned strength of 10,026 prisoners.

Sources said this has caused many problems, such as crowded cells, fights among prisoners, unhygienic conditions, ineffective monitoring of inmates and failure to con-

## Packed to the rafters

The number of inmates lodged in Delhi's three prison complexes is more than twice the sanctioned capacity

Prison complex	Sanctioned strength	Inmates lodged*	No. of jails
Tihar	5,200	14,059	9
Mandoli	3,776	4,341	6
Rohini	1,050	2,058	1
Total	10,026	20,458	16

\*official figures as of last week Source: Delhi Prisons Department



Delhi Police personnel outside Tihar jail. FILE PHOTO

duct reformation activities.

The senior official told *The Hindu* that the department, in its proposal, will request the government to either create a new fund or allow using the Prisoners' Welfare Fund to provide legal assistance to UTPs or pay their bail bond.

"Many inmates who secure bail [in court] spend months in jail as they cannot afford to pay the bond

of ₹10,000-20,000.

"Our argument is: if the State is anyway spending on a prisoner for however long they are in jail, why don't we pay the bond if they have secured bail? We believe it will be less than what we spend on keeping an inmate for months," he added.

Asked about the screening process for inmates who are most in need of

bail, the official explained, "We take the details of all inmates when they come in. Whenever a prisoner applies for monetary help, we will conduct a proper background check, visit their house and then decide if monetary assistance should be given."

**Legal assistance system**  
The proposal will also suggest an overhaul of the system of legal assistance provided by the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA), the official said.

The DSLSA provides legal assistance to prisoners, with a majority of the inmates opting for the authority's aid at the time of their arrival in jail.

"In the proposal, we will demand for a stronger mechanism and better coordination for timely bails and completion of other formalities," the official noted.

Another Prisons Department official said that a section of the proposal will seek effective implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act, which is aimed at reforming amateur and first-time offenders after due admonition or warning with advice.

## Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

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(Short-term)

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1. Providing of oxygen facility including shifting / transportation of Bulk D Type Cylinders to Sonamarg, Baltal / Panjtar / Lower Cave/ Upper Cave from Central Kashmir for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra	22.20	2000	05	DHSK/Plg/ SANJY/ 2023/24/ 5628-32, Dt: 24-05-2023	MHCHD/ TS/11 Dated 05/23	44,400/-
2. Providing of oxygen facility including shifting / transportation of Bulk D Type Cylinders to Pahalgam/ Chandanwari / Sheeshnag from South Kashmir for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra	12.61	2000	05	DHSK/Plg/ SANJY/ 2023/24/ 5633-37, Dt: 24-05-2023	MHCHD/ TS/12 Dated 05/23	25,200
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RFP Reference no. : IN-JWT-343755-CS-QCBS  
Assignment Title : Hiring of Third Party Monitoring (TPM) Consultant (Safeguard Monitoring) for 4 Smaller Terminals at North Guwahati, Umananda (Guwahati Cluster) and Neamati, Aphalamukh (Majuli Cluster).

The Government of India has obtained financing from the World Bank towards cost of the Assam IWT Project. Under the project, State Project Director, Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society (AIWTS) invites Request for Proposal through National Open Competitive bidding process from eligible firms for the aforesaid assignment. Complete documents of the RFP shall be available on website [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in), <http://iwtdirectorate.assam.gov.in> and [www.aiwtsociety.in](http://www.aiwtsociety.in). Intending bidders are required to register at e-tender portal of the Assam Govt. [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) and participate through e-tender portal only. The last date and time of online submission of proposal is on 27/06/2023 at 14:00 HRS (IST).

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## IN BRIEF



## Jharkhand school removes Malala's photo after protests

A government school in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district, which had put up a picture of Pakistani education activist and Nobel peace prize winner Malala Yousafzai to motivate girl students, removed it following protests, an official said on Sunday. Panchayat representatives and locals demonstrated in front of the school after the management of the educational institution put up the picture of Malala. Jai Kumar Ojha, Mukhiya (village head) of Kujju West panchayat, who also joined the protest, said that it's globally known that Pakistan backs State-sponsored militancy against India and our country has paid heavily for the cross-border terrorism. Hence, there was no need to take peace lessons from the Pakistani activist, he said. PTI

## Mild tremors felt in parts of Punjab and Haryana

Mild tremors were felt in parts of Punjab and Haryana after a 5.2 magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan on Sunday. The tremors, which lasted for a few seconds, occurred around 11.30 a.m., seismologists said. "The tremors were mild. I felt a jolt as the tremors lasted for a couple of seconds," said Ajay Kumar, a resident of Chandigarh. On the night of March 21, strong tremors had jolted most parts of Punjab and Haryana after an earthquake of magnitude 6.6 struck the Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan, causing people to rush out of buildings. PTI

## Oil tanker crew held hostage since August 2022 in Nigeria gains freedom

The Hindu Bureau  
KOCHE

Families of the crew members of oil tanker Heroic Idun, who have been held in custody at a Nigerian port since early August 2022, are a relieved lot with news reaching here that the crew members have finally been given their freedom.

Information reaching here said that the crew members are now sailing to the port of Cape Town in South Africa before flying home. Among the 26 crew members, 16 are Indian nationals. There are three crew members from Kerala, of whom two are from Kochi and the other hails from Kollam.

Metilda Paulose, wife of Sanu Jose from Kadavathra, who is among the crew sailing to Cape Town,



The crew members of oil tanker Heroic Idun who were held in custody at a Nigerian port since early August 2022.

said she spoke to her husband on Sunday morning. She expressed great happiness at the development. Ms. Paulose said that according to information reaching here, there was a delay in the crew members getting their passports back after a Nigerian court had ruled them innocent of oil smuggling.

A message from Mr. Jose

## Shrinking snow cover continues to haunt Himachal Pradesh

Vikas Vasudeva  
CHANDIGARH

The trend of gradual reduction in snow cover in ecologically fragile Himachal Pradesh continues to haunt the hill State. Also, the mean maximum and minimum average temperature is on the rise in the Himalayan region.

In the past decade, Himachal Pradesh has been witnessing an erratic, inconsistent and decreasing trend of snowfall, besides a shift in its pattern and precipitation, triggered by climate change.

In the 2022-23 winter period (October-April), there was an overall reduction of about 14.05% in the total area under snow cover in Himachal Pradesh in comparison to 2021-22.

This has been revealed in the latest scientific report



conducted jointly by the Himachal Pradesh's State Centre on Climate Change (HIMCOSTE) and the Geo-Sciences, Hydrology, Cryosphere Sciences Applications Group (GHCAG) and the Space Applications Centre (SAC-ISRO).

## Dependability

Himachal Pradesh receives winter precipitation in the form of snow in the higher altitudes. About one-third

of the total geographical area of the State remains under thick snow cover during the winter season.

Most of the major rivers like the Chenab, Beas, Parvati, Baspa, Spiti, Ravi, Satluj and their perennial tributaries originating from the Himalayas, depend on the seasonal snow cover for their discharge dependability.

Given the importance of seasonal snow cover as a

major input in controlling the hydrology of the river basins, seasonal snow cover assessment in terms of its spatial distribution was carried out in different river basins during the winter season of 2022-23 from October to April. The total area under snow cover was estimated using Advanced Wide Field Sensor (AWIFS) satellite data during 2022-23.

The study under the title – "Seasonal Snow Cover Variations in Himachal during 2022-23 and its comparative analysis with reference to 2021-22" – showed that during 2022-23, there was early snowfall in October and November, resulting in positive trends in some basins.

However, during the peak winter months (December-February), all four basins – Chenab, Beas, Ravi

and Satluj had negative trends in comparison to the last winter period.

The total area under snow during 2022-23 (October-April) slightly increased in the early half (October-November) in some basins, whereas in peak winter (December-February), there was a drastic reduction in the area under snow.

The late snowfall, which extended to April this year, resulted in an increase in the area under snow, but the snowfall during this period may not be of much use as the rising temperature from April onwards may enhance the melting rate thereby affecting the discharge dependability of the major rivers that relied on the seasonal snow cover besides the glacier melt during the peak summer time, it said.

## Kharge to meet Gehlot, Pilot in Delhi today

Press Trust of India  
JAIPUR

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will hold separate meetings with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his bete noire Sachin Pilot on Monday in Delhi, a senior party leader familiar with the development said.

The Chief Minister's office has also released Mr. Gehlot's programme confirming his visit to Delhi, where he will also lay foundation stone of the Rajashan House.

The proposed meeting comes close on the heels of Mr. Pilot's "ultimatum" that if three demands he made from the State government were not met by the end of this month, he would launch a State-wide agitation.

Mr. Pilot has asked for a high-level inquiry into the alleged scams that took place during the tenure of the former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, as one of his demands.

According to the senior leader, a meeting of the Congress top brass with all the State leaders was scheduled on May 26 but was later postponed. He said that now the high command will meet Mr. Gehlot and Mr. Pilot separately to bring



Mallikarjun Kharge



The high command will meet Mr. Gehlot and Mr. Pilot separately to bring them on one platform ahead of the Assembly elections

## A SENIOR LEADER

them on one platform ahead of the Assembly election, which is due later this year.

Mr. Kharge was successful in bringing Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar together and the party now wants to try the same formula in Rajasthan, the senior leader said.

He also said that a few days ago a meeting of the Congress high command with the leaders of all poll-bound States was planned, which was postponed.

Workers from North coming to T.N. is good for State: CM

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

Labourers from various north Indian States coming to Tamil Nadu for employment is only beneficial to the State and not bad for it, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin told a Tamil newspaper in Singapore recently.

He was asked for his views on the increasing number of migrants arriving in Tamil Nadu for employment.

"Since Tamil Nadu is a developed and prosperous State, workers from northern States arrive there for employment. This is only beneficial to, and not bad for, the State. So, we cannot say that they are taking away the jobs of others," the Chief Minister was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

Mr. Stalin said: "The welfare of Tamils and Tamil Nadu is paramount [for the government]. We are implementing measures such as compulsory [learning of] Tamil and priority for Tamils in employment."

To a question on the Tamils in Singapore worrying over the increase in property tax in Tamil Nadu, Mr. Stalin said the revision was implemented following the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission.

This is the first time the State is seeing formation of a full-fledged Ministry

with maximum size of 34 Ministers, including the CM and Deputy CM

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

**T**he tussle among Ministers for some key portfolios is said to be the reason for the delay in issuing the final notification on allocation of portfolios by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to his ministerial colleagues, including Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

According to sources, the allocation of portfolios is likely to be made on Monday. The delay is said to be on account of a few Ministers seeking plum portfolios.

Actually, the allocation of portfolios was expected to be done on Sunday itself, as 24 Ministers had been sworn in on Saturday.

## Unhappy with roles

Eight-time MLA Ramalinga Reddy reportedly expressed displeasure on the likely allocation of Transport portfolio to him. Mr. Shivakumar called on Mr. Reddy at his residence on



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar along with Governor Thawarchand Gehlot and party leaders in Bengaluru after the swearing-in ceremony on Saturday. ANI

Sunday and held talks over allocation of portfolios in a bid to pacify him.

Similarly, senior leader G. Parameshwara seems to be not keen on the Home portfolio. He had held the portfolio earlier in the Congress government.

It is reported that Priyanka Kharge has expressed his desire to have Home portfolio.

Though a list of allocation of portfolios is doing rounds since Saturday, final approval on who

would get what will be known only on Monday.

Moreover, Governor Thawarchand Gehlot, whose final stamp is required for official allocation of portfolios, is said to be out of station, sources maintained.

It may be noted that for the first time after several years, Karnataka has seen formation of a full-fledged Ministry with maximum size of 34 Ministers, including the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister.

MP targets govt. over proposed removal of chapter from syllabus

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

tended the event, Mr. Ali was not present during the inauguration.

Born in 1877 in Sialkot in undivided India, Iqbal had written the famous song "Saare Jahan Se Achha". He is often credited with giving birth to the idea of Pakistan.

Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh had said on Saturday that those who laid the foundation of breaking India should not be in the syllabus.

In a meeting on Friday, the university's Academic Council passed the motion for the removal of the chapter titled 'Modern Indian Political Thought' that is part of the BA's sixth semester paper.

The matter will now be presented before the Executive Council of the university for a final call, according to officials.

## Arikompan is in Meghalai Reserve Forest: T.N. Minister

The Hindu Bureau  
CUMBUCK

Tamil Nadu Minister for Forests M. Mathiventhan. File THE HINDU

ople and entered the habitations. For instance, the use of a drone camera at Cumbum by a YouTuber had apparently irked the elephant. Likewise, when it entered a private farm, the workers there set fire to the dry leaves, forcing the elephant to move away.

With the help of a radio collar, the officials sighted the elephant inside the Meghalai Reserve Forest, he said.

The Minister explained that the movement could be monitored when the radio collar was active or when it moved within the signal area.

Medical teams ready

To a question, Mr. Mathiventhan said three *kumkhis* had arrived. In the event of Arikompan entering human habitations, officials would examine the situation and if need be, it would be tranquilized and taken into a deep forest area. Five medical teams were at the ready.

He clarified that wild animals strayed out of forests sometimes for lack of water and fodder. The situation could be handled smoothly with public cooperation. Arikompan is a 35-year-old male elephant, weighing about 5.5 tonnes and measuring 11 feet long, could not be handled carelessly, he said.

Officials said the prohibitory orders imposed in the Cumbum municipal limits would remain in force.

## 4 more held in attack on Abhishek's convoy, Minister's vehicle

Press Trust of India  
JHARGRAM (W.B.)

With these arrests, the total number of people apprehended in connection with the attack became eight.

"We have arrested Rajesh Mahato, his brother Rakesh, Shibaji Mahato and Anubhab Mahato in connection with the case. They were produced before a local court," the officer said.

Leader of the Opposition and BJP legislator Sudhendu Adhikari condemned the arrests and alleged that the "ruling TMC was targeting the leaders of Kurmi outfits, which are in no way involved in the attack" on Mr. Banerjee's convoy.



Tourists arrive at koksar snow point in Lahaul and Spiti. ANI

conducted jointly by the Himachal Pradesh's State Centre on Climate Change (HIMCOSTE) and the Geo-Sciences, Hydrology, Cryosphere Sciences Applications Group (GHCAG) and the Space Applications Centre (SAC-ISRO).

of the total geographical area of the State remains under thick snow cover during the winter season. Most of the major rivers like the Chenab, Beas, Parvati, Baspa, Spiti, Ravi, Satluj and their perennial tributaries originating from the Himalayas, depend on the seasonal snow cover for their discharge dependability.

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136 sluice gates of KRS replaced at ₹58.46 crore

R. Krishna Kumar  
MYSURU

Far from the media glare and during the heat and dust of the Assembly election in Karnataka, the project to replace 136 gates of the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) across the Cauvery and taken up in a phase-wise manner, was completed in what is a significant milestone in the history of the 91-year-old dam.

The work on replacing the final set of 25 sluice gates was completed during April, thus bringing to close an important phase of the project taken up under the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) at a cost of ₹58.46 crore.

Funded by the World Bank and implemented by the State Water Resource Department, the project was initiated in 2019 and the work on gate replacement used to take place only during the short window of two to three months when the water level in the reservoir used to deplete during summer.

Officials said the replacement of the 136 sluice gates overshot the deadline owing to outbreak of COVID-19 and its ripple effect.

H.S. Anand, Superintending Engineer, KRS Modernisation and Medium Irrigation Project circle, Mandya, told *The Hindu* that the 136 gate replacements were part of the DRIP to arrest seepage from the dam and also to strengthen the structure of the dam.

# Eight held for 'deliberate' attack on Income Tax officials in T.N.

Senior official says a woman official had suffered a fracture and three others had suffered internal injuries

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KARUR

**D**irector of Income Tax (Investigation) Sivasankaran said on Sunday that the attack on Income Tax Department officials, allegedly by DMK workers and supporters of Minister V. Senthilbalaji in Karur two days ago, was "deliberate".

The police arrested eight persons, most of them DMK men, on the charge of attacking the officials when they sought to carry out searches on Friday last.



CRPF personnel in front of the house of a DMK functionary in Karur on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Arun, 27, and Bupesh, 35, of Karur, who were said to have damaged the vehicle of IT officials, were among those arrested.

A police officer told *The Hindu* that the video footage, which was vital in identifying the attackers, was being verified. Steps

were taken to arrest all those involved in the incident.

The searches being carried out on the premises of

persons linked to Mr. Senthilbalaji continued for the third consecutive day on Sunday.

The house of Karur Deputy Mayor Tharani Saravanan at Rayanur, two more houses in the same area, two popular restaurants on Karur-Coimbatore Road, a company executing government contracts and a finance company at Vaiyapuri Nagar were among the places searched.

However, no search was made on Sunday at the house of V. Ashok Kumar, the brother of the Minister.

## Call for socialist-communist unity to check attack by BJP

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KOZHIKODE



Pinarayi Vijayan with Tejashwi Yadav at a memorial meet for the late M.P. Veerendrakumar in Kozhikode on Sunday. K. RAGESH

Tejashwi Yadav were among those present.

Opening the public meeting, Mr. Vijayan criticised the way in which the new Parliament building was opened in New Delhi

on Sunday.

Mr. Yadav, meanwhile, alleged that the BJP had no regard for the welfare of the SC, ST and the OBC, and that was why it was opposed to a caste census.

## TDP's seven-point manifesto promises a slew of financial aid

**The Hindu Bureau**  
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

In the run-up to the general elections, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday released the seven-point party manifesto during the closing ceremony of the *Mahanadu*, the annual party conclave, organised on the outskirts of Rajamahendravaram in Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing a mammoth gathering, Mr. Naidu said the seven promises were: *Maha Shakthi, Thalliki*

*Vandanam, Yuva Shakti, Annadatha*, access to drinking water, Act for backward classes, and Vision 2047. The first four schemes are financial aid for women, mothers, jobless youth and farmers, respectively.

He also said that a policy guaranteeing Minimum Support Price (MSP) would be brought out.

"This is the first of the two-part manifesto. The second part will be finalised by Dasara. I am prepared to receive feedback on this," added Mr. Naidu.



CM Sukhu addressing a rally at Dharamshala on Sunday.  
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Union government," the Chief Minister said.

**Key poll promise**  
The restoration of OPS was one of the key promises made by the Congress in the 2022 Assembly poll and a decision on it was taken at the first meeting of the Cabinet on January 13,

Mr. Sukhu said the OPS was restored to preserve the employees' self-respect. He said the Congress acknowledges the contribution of the State's employees to its development.

He said despite financial challenges, his government is committed to providing the benefits of OPS to its employees. "In the recent NITI Aayog meeting we have demanded the return of the NPS funds amounting to ₹9,242.60 crore. Soon this matter will be taken up with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the State government will fight for its rights with the cooperation of employees," he said.

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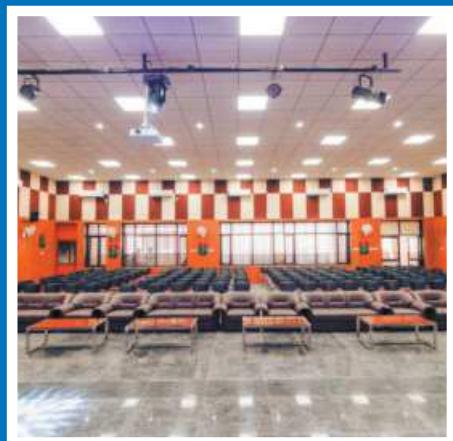
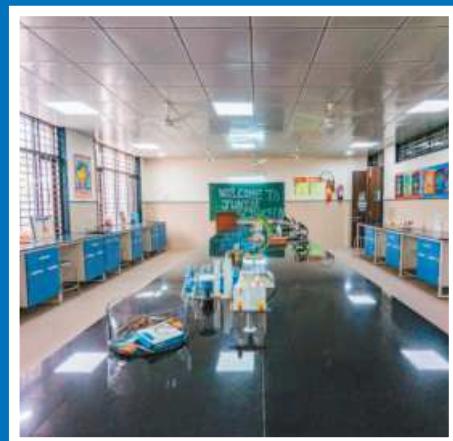


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## Alarming turn

Normalcy in Manipur requires concerted action by govt, civil society

**V**iolence has flared again in Manipur, merely three weeks after conflagrations resulted in scores of deaths and the displacement of people in Churachandpur and Imphal in particular. Alarmingly, what began as protests against an order by the High Court of Manipur, on March 27, seeking the inclusion of the Meitei community into the State's Scheduled Tribe list, has taken a grotesque turn, with representatives of the Kuki-Zomi community including BJP MLAs seeking a "separate administration". This situation should never have come to such a pass. While inter-community relations have occasionally led to flare-ups and remained tense for years together, the conflagrations in May mark a degradation in hill-valley relations and a complete failure of the government in curbing violence committed by radicals and miscreants present in the Meitei and Kuki-Zomi communities. Partially, this was a consequence of the inability of the State government led by the BJP Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, to rise above the fray and to act in a manner that was unbiased against particular communities. The government's so-called anti-poppy cultivation drives that were seen as moves against the Kuki-Zomi hill dwellers, raised their ire, while the High Court's single judge Bench's ill-thought-out order – as the Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, himself observed as being violative of a 23-year-old Constitution Bench judgment – exacerbated the situation. The government was unable to prevent the spiralling of violence in Churachandpur and Imphal, suggesting the current regime's incompetence.

The State government must get its act together, with the help of the Centre, to bring back normalcy by increasing patrolling of paramilitary and police forces in riot-torn areas, providing relief to displaced people and curtailing the influence of militant sections. A plan to allow the return of those displaced to their homes in the medium term must also be put into order with the help of the security forces. Not doing so only plays into the hands of chauvinists from either side who emphasise differences, disharmony and separation – all of which will be disastrous for the State in the long term. The Union government cannot remain nonchalant about the turn of events. Manipur, like some of the other north-eastern States, needs to promote a civic consciousness among its citizens that will allow them to rise above ethnic identities to differentiate themselves. With trust fraying between community leaders and State government representatives, it is incumbent upon civil society members, within and outside Manipur, to take up the cause of rebuilding inter-community ties and not letting chauvinist and militant groups hijack the role of representation.

## From the margins

Women in civil service have a challenging, exciting task before them

**F**or the second year in a row, the top three ranks of the Civil Services Examination, 2022, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission have been secured by women. In a spectacular achievement, results announced on Tuesday show that 12 women are in the top 20. The 26-year-old topper, Ishita Kishore, who graduated from Delhi University's Sri Ram College of Commerce and is a resident of Greater Noida, reached the pinnacle in her third attempt. Thanking her family for their support, Ms. Kishore said she read up on current affairs and practised writing at length because the examination process can be draining. The second-rank holder, Garima Lohia, 24, from Buxar and is also a Delhi University graduate, cleared the examination in her second attempt; and Uma Harathi N., 28, who stood third, is an engineering graduate from Telangana and cleared it in her fifth attempt. The young women's reflections on success and failure, the need to persevere against all odds and the importance of an empathetic ecosystem are significant pointers for future students, teachers and parents. For students, especially girls, the courage and commitment of these women is inspiring. One can only hope that teachers and parents will create the right environment for girls to fulfil their dreams; too many girls have had to give up half way in a largely patriarchal society.

This year, 933 candidates, of an approximate 11.5 lakh who took the examination, have been recommended by the UPSC for appointment to the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service, Indian Police Service and Central Services, Group A and B; 63% (588 candidates) are from the economically weaker sections, Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste categories. This should help fill the gaps in policy in key sectors such as education and health for the needy. For all the success in the classroom, the students will now have to test their strength on the field. In a country as diverse as India, the challenges are different every few kilometres; they may have to contend with hate, violence, prejudice, discrimination and other adverse circumstances. The trail-blazers in the IAS, many of them women, had their first postings, as is the norm, in rural or semi-urban areas, and by keeping their ear to the ground, picked the issues they would campaign for, like the right to education for children, to give just one example. As women civil servants forming the steel framework of the administrative system, they may have to work under pressure, but their service will be vital for the well-being of a young India, especially women who often find themselves on the margins.

**T**he intensifying head-to-head clash between the United States and China has set alarm bells ringing. Beginning with a trade war in 2018, U.S. policy towards China has morphed into a draconian technology denial regime aimed at hobbling China's rise. Simultaneously with a view of preventing any Chinese military venture to capture Taiwan, the U.S. has taken major steps across the Indo-Pacific to shore up its military edge.

The belligerence towards Beijing is a bit unsettling. This was a quasi-ally whose friendship cemented the rise of China, but, today, Washington wants to stop it on its tracks. For several years, its own allies such as Japan and the European Union (EU) resisted U.S. pressure to follow its new course, but the war in Ukraine and the very obvious Chinese support for Russia seem to have settled the debate.

### A détente is distant

The recent G-7 summit put forward a united West plus Japan view on China. Besides condemning its "economic coercion" and "militarisation activities", it created a new group to deal with hostile economic actions, mainly by China, to coerce nations. On the table was a more draconian measure to review all outbound investment to China on the issue of security.

At the end of the G-7 meeting, U.S. President Joe Biden announced that he expected to soon "see a thaw" but the relationship is hardly heading for any kind of a détente. Both countries are jostling for power and influence across the world. "Extreme competition" over technologies may have initiated the conflict, but their insecurities are increasingly bringing their military and nuclear instruments to the fore.

Mr. Biden is outlining what is called the new Washington Consensus designed to re-establish U.S. hegemony. The old one, which was based on free markets, embraced China with the hope it would, over time, integrate into the American-led liberal international order. But China, in a sense, went rogue.

Technology denial to China is one aspect of the strategy. The other is to turn the old Consensus on its head by protectionism and a new industrial policy based on state subsidies. A third element is to reach out to China and claim that all that Washington wants is to "de-risk and diversify" its economy, and guard its key technologies using a "small yard, [with a] high fence".

Just what the U.S. goal is, is not clear. Most experts say that while controls may slow China, it is impossible to prevent it from developing its



**Manoj Joshi**  
is a Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

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# Menstrual health is a public health issue

In a recent incident, a man from a city in Maharashtra allegedly killed his 12-year-old sister because he mistook period stains on her clothes as a sign of a sexual relationship. The incident is indicative of the extent of misinformation about periods in India's urban locales.

In urban India, girls and women navigate a good part of their life in the public domain – a young working woman travels for hours by public transport, a teenager living in slums makes her way to school through narrow lanes, a sanitation worker begins her day before dawn cleaning the city, a vegetable vendor spends hours by her stall, and a nurse works busy 12-hour shifts. Their lives are very different, but they all navigate public spaces on a daily basis while dealing with a private aspect of their lives: their periods.

Periods are normal, but continue to be shrouded by shame, stigma and discrimination. Consequently, people face barriers in getting accurate information about periods and related products, using toilets, and seeking help when needed. The popular belief is that rural areas are hubs for 'period poverty' – backward, steeped in superstitions and unsafe practices – while urban areas are progressive, with access to modern period products and related necessities. However, the lived experiences of many urban dwellers show otherwise.

The sanitation worker may not know much about her body or periods. She uses waste cloth during her periods and often throws away the cloth after one use as she cannot wash, dry and reuse the cloth hygienically. The teenager wears sanitary pads for 10-12 hours at a stretch. Both may not have a toilet in their homes, and use a community toilet or go to a secluded spot early in the morning or late at night. The community toilets close by 11 p.m. and are often unclean. During summer, the water supply is limited, and bathing daily may not



**Aruna Bhattacharya**

leads the urban health/public health domain at the School of Human Development, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru



**Arundhati Muralidharan**

is the founder of Menstrual Health Alliance India

be possible. The working woman wears extra pads as she may not have the time or a clean or separate toilet at work to change.

**Barriers to menstrual hygiene**  
India has been a front runner for action on menstrual hygiene – governments, NGOs and the private sector have all played an important role in spreading awareness and providing menstrual products. But the focus has often been on India's rural population, and for good reasons. However, India's large, rapidly growing urban population also calls out for attention.

Field insights and research show that certain groups of urban dwellers face a whole range of limitations that affects their menstrual health. The understanding of periods is still limited, especially among low-income groups. Period products may be more easily available in local kirana shops, chemists and online channels, but continue to be wrapped in paper or black plastic bags due to the associated shame. While many urban homes have toilets, residents of low-income slums, pavement dwellers, and some educational institutions and workplaces still do not have toilets, or have toilets that are not easily accessible, safe or clean and convenient.

Poor awareness, stigma and shame, limited access to products, lack of personal hygiene, poor toilet and water facilities, and difficulties in disposing pads can cause anxiety, discomfort, and infections, and long-term health problems. Menstrual waste management is a looming concern given the growing use of disposable sanitary pads. Routine garbage collection exists in many urban residential areas, but not in low-income areas. Where waste collection mechanisms exist, users don't always segregate pads. Sanitation workers are then forced to sort through waste with their bare hands. This task undermines their health and dignity.

Despite many initiatives by governments and NGOs, prominent gaps remain unaddressed in urban spaces

Doable actions can help improve menstrual health in urban India, especially for low-income groups and in public spaces. Awareness about periods is a key pillar of action, and must be continued, along with efforts to address harmful social and gender norms. Menstrual products, both reusable and disposable, must be more available through various access channels – retail outlets, social enterprises, government schemes and NGOs. People should have the information and right to choose the products that they want to use. Citizen movements such as 'Green the Red' support urban populations to use menstrual cups and cloth pads, providing that much-needed exposure to reusable products.

Female-friendly community and public toilets are gaining popularity. 'She Toilets' in Telangana and Tamil Nadu and 'Pink Toilets' in Delhi provide safe, private, clean facilities with essential amenities needed to manage periods. Waste disposal and management remain a challenge. Yet some promising practices include the provision of dustbins and incinerators in female toilets, which promote waste segregation at source through initiatives like the 'Red Dot Campaign' and innovations like 'PadCare Labs'.

**Closing gaps**  
Some prominent gaps remain unaddressed in urban spaces: reaching people living in unregistered slums, pavements, refugee camps and other vulnerable conditions in urban areas. Worksites, both formal and informal, need to cater to the menstrual needs of women who work. Support should continue for innovations in menstrual waste management that are safe, effective and scalable.

As we marked May 28 as Menstrual Hygiene Day, let us come together to shape the narrative on menstrual health as vital to personal health, public health, and human rights for all.

# Kudumbashree is at a crossroads

Twenty-five years since its inception, the mission faces some challenges

## STATE OF PLAY

**S. Anandan**

anandan.s@thehindu.co.in

**I**t was the people's planning movement in Kerala that laid the ground for the idea of fostering self-supporting women's groups as a means to eradicate poverty. In 1998, under the E.K. Nayara-led government, the State Poverty Eradication Mission was launched with the aim of empowering poor women financially and socially. A year later, it was renamed Kudumbashree Mission and began to function under the local self-government department.

But the mission was more than the scaling up of an experiment with thrift and credit societies – small community-based self-help groups of women – in Alappuzha and Malappuram districts. The informal banking system with microfinancing at its core got a fillip with NABARD chipping in with support, paving the way for other financial institutions to follow suit. The three-tier structure with neighbourhood groups called Ayalkottams having 10 to 20 women from as many families forming the lowest rung and the local body-level community development societies as its top layer gave Kudumbashree some autonomy even as it worked with local bodies.

From a mere credit programme, Kudumbashree became a multifaceted entity with footprints in all spheres of society. It promoted self-employment, entrepreneurship, skilling mainly for the service industry, extended critical gender support and helped mainstream the differently abled and marginalised sections. At least 20 States roped in Kudumbashree to re-



plicate the model of linking community organisations with their local governments.

In Kerala, Kudumbashree has touched people's lives through community restaurants, branded products in stores and on e-commerce platforms, micro and small scale industries, Haritha Karma Sena volunteers who collect non-biodegradable waste from households for disposal, Snehitha gender helpdesk and gender resource centres, e-service centres, all-women construction sites, and the workforce for the animal birth control programme for regulating the population of community dogs.

It's against this backdrop that Kudumbashree is focusing on skilling educated members of the auxiliary groups so that they take up employment or start enterprises. While it has launched over 26,000 enterprises under the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme, a sub component of the National Rural Livelihood Mission, just a few are noteworthy.

Also, criticism is rife that a majority of the 1.08 lakh micro enterprises facilitated by Kudumbashree stick to the gendered vocations of women. For the auxiliary groups to be productive, women should have more time for themselves. For that, a prerequisite would be setting up ward-level day care centres and day homes for the elderly. A deeper social change would be required to progress from mere victim protection in cases of gender violence to an uncompromising assertion of rights.

# Most soldiers killed in action during UN missions were Indian

The UN Operation in the Congo between 1960 and 1964 was the deadliest for Indian troops

## DATA POINT

**Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

The United Nations observed the 75th anniversary of its peacekeeping missions last Thursday. During a ceremony to pay tribute to the more than 4,000 peacekeepers who have died on duty, Secretary-General of the UN, Antonio Guterres, requested hundreds of military officers and diplomats in uniform to observe a moment of silence in their honour. He then awarded medals to ambassadors from the 39 home countries of the 103 peacekeepers who lost their lives in 2022.

The first military observers were sent by the UN Security Council to oversee the Israeli-Arab Armistice Agreement in May 1948. Indian troops and experts have played a significant role in the UN's peacekeeping missions. Data show that since the inception of UN peacekeeping missions, most of the lives lost during peacekeeping missions due to malicious acts were of Indian troops.

**Chart 1** shows the number of peacekeepers, country-wise, who died due to malicious acts during peacekeeping missions. In total, 1,115 peacekeepers have died on the field due to malicious acts, of which 69 were from India followed by Chad (64), Ghana (53), Nigeria (44) and Pakistan (44). In total, 4,298 peacekeepers have died – 1,481 due to illness, 1,386 due to accidents, 316 due to other causes, and the rest due to malicious acts.

The United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) between July 1960 and June 1964 proved to be the deadliest for Indian troops and experts, with 15 dying due to malicious acts. A front-page article published on November 24, 1960, in the *The Hindu* described the attack of the Congolese soldiers on Indian officers in detail. It spoke of how Indian Army Majors were taken out of their residences at bayonet

net point and severely injured with rifle butts. A colonel who was in charge of the Indian contingent was stopped by Congolese soldiers who had submachine guns and his car was taken away. By the end of March 1963, most Indian troops returned. The then Deputy Defence Minister, D.R. Chavan, said in the Lok Sabha that 36 Indian armed force personnel were killed during the mission.

**Chart 2** shows the Indian fatalities due to malicious acts across various peacekeeping campaigns. Following the ONUC, the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM) between March 1993 and 1995 resulted in the loss of 12 Indian troops and experts due to malicious acts. Among ongoing missions, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) recorded the deaths of seven Indian troops.

**Chart 3** shows the country-wise number of military/police personnel, mission experts and staff officers currently serving in UN peacekeeping missions. With 6,097 such personnel, India stands third after Bangladesh (7,237) and Nepal (6,264). It is followed by Rwanda (5,935) and Pakistan (4,334). Four of the top five contributions come from the Indian subcontinent. Notably, most of the troop and expert contributions have come from poor- or middle-income countries. The 71 operations conducted till date have seen participation from 2 million peacekeepers from 125 nations.

**Chart 4** shows the number of troops, experts, formed police units and staff officers from India who are part of the ongoing peacekeeping missions. Most Indians (2,426) are part of the UNMISS, followed by the UN stabilisation mission in Congo (MONUSCO: 1,971) and United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL: 875).

Mr. Guterres lamented that those striving to guide countries out of conflict are now situated "on the front lines in some of the world's most dangerous places."

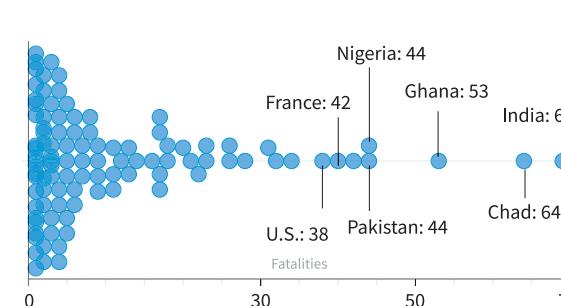
## Fighting for peace

The charts are based on data collated from the Department of Peace Operations, which provides political and executive direction to UN peacekeeping operations

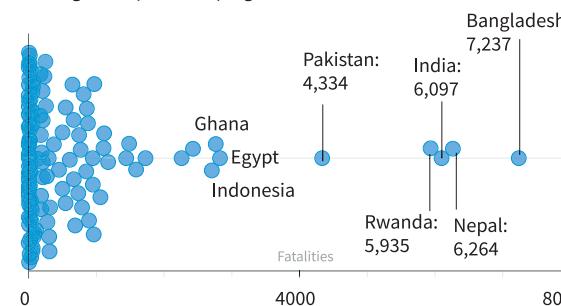


**Peacekeepers:** In 1963, six members of the Indian contingent of the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) prepare to leave for duty stations in the Jadotville area in Likasi, Congo. UN PHOTO

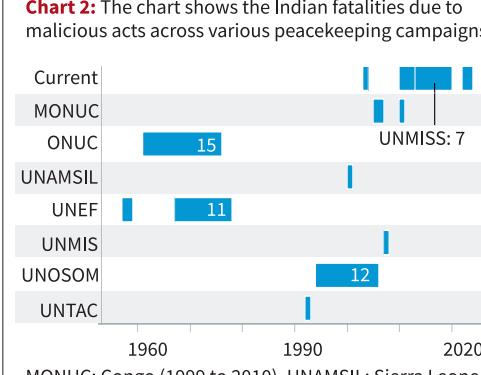
**Chart 1:** The chart shows the number of peacekeepers, country-wise, who died due to malicious acts during peacekeeping missions



**Chart 3:** The chart shows the country-wise number of military/police personnel, mission experts and staff officers currently serving in UN peacekeeping missions



**Chart 2:** The chart shows the Indian fatalities due to malicious acts across various peacekeeping campaigns



**Chart 4:** The number of troops, experts, formed police units and staff officers from India who are part of the ongoing peacekeeping missions

UNMISS	2,322
MONUSCO	1,792
UNIFIL	875
UNISFA	570
UNDOF	188
UNTSO	3
MINURSO	2
MINUSCA	2
UNFICYP	1
UNSMIS	1

UNDOF: Disengagement Observer Force (Golan)

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

**The Hindu**

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 29, 1973

## National institute to help handicapped

Gauhati, May 28: The Union Government to establish a comprehensive national institute for each major category of handicapped persons, the Vice-President, Mr. G.S. Pathak, said here today. The institute will undertake research, train key personnel, and in the process, impart education and training to a limited number of persons. Mr. Pathak said the first school for partially deaf children had been set up in Hyderabad as part of the national institute. He regretted that response to the incentives offered by the Union Government to physically handicapped students had "not been very encouraging." Mr. Pathak was inaugurating the Fourth Congress of the All India Federation of the Deaf here to-day. Mr. Pathak called for an all-out effort for the total removal of deafness to enable the disabled enjoy life as normal persons. With the high degree of sophistication attained in surgical treatment coupled with rapid advance in science and technology, this could be achieved in the near future, he said. Mr. Pathak said while the more robust among the deaf might survive the abysmal silence of their lives without damage, it might well lead to mental depression and the development of certain anti-social complexes in sensitive cases. "It is only natural, therefore, that the plight of the deaf should engage the attention not only of medical specialists and scientists, but also of social workers, educationists and psychologists all over the world," he said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 29, 1923

## Between India and Ceylon

Question of telephone connection: A scheme which the Indian authorities are just now considering, to connect Burma with India and all the principal towns in India with one another by telephone, writes the Ceylon "Daily News", naturally raises the question as to whether telephonic connection between India and Ceylon cannot be established. Such project is rendered more feasible than under ordinary circumstances by the fact that the Indian scheme is to extend to South India. Madras and Ootacamund and Cochin and Tuticorin are also to be connected by trunk lines. Once the Tuticorin installation is established, the question of connecting Ceylon with it through Talaimannar and Danushkodi is not a matter of great difficulty.

# Text & Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### The fall of the Bank of Maharashtra's net non-performing assets

**0.25** In percentage. The Bank of Maharashtra has emerged as the top performer in bad loan management. It was followed by the HDFC Bank with its net NPA falling to 0.27%. PTI

### The share of UPI transactions in retail payments by 2026-27

**90** In percentage. UPI transactions are likely to reach one billion per day by 2026-27, as per a report by PwC India. UPI accounted for about 75% of transactions in the retail segment in 2022-23.

### The excess SIM cards deactivated in Bihar and Jharkhand

**17,000** More than 2.30 lakh mobile numbers in Bihar and Jharkhand have been deactivated in April and May by the Department of Telecommunications. PTI

### The armed militants killed by security forces: CM Biren Singh

**40** militants. The CM said this in the backdrop of fresh clashes breaking out between armed groups and security forces in Manipur. He said that many Kuki militants have been captured by the Jat regiment. PTI

### The number of IPL games in which Ambati Rayudu played

**203** games. The Chennai Super Kings player who had retired from international cricket announced the IPL final will be his last game in the league. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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# Why is the 1.5 degree Celsius target critical?

What do the recent reports by the World Meteorological Organization say about the future of climate change? Why did international climate dialogues switch from the target of 2 degree Celsius above the baseline temperature of pre-industrial levels to 1.5 degree Celsius?

## EXPLAINER

Rashmi Ramesh  
Akriti Sharma

### The story so far:

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released two reports titled "Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2023-2027" and "State of Global Climate 2022." The decadal predictions of the WMO said that the annual mean global surface temperature between 2023 and 2027 will be 1.1-1.8 degree Celsius higher than the baseline temperature of 1850-1900 or pre-industrial levels. In 2022, it was 1.5 degrees above the baseline, and by 2027, the average will exceed 1.5 degrees, a critical point beyond which there may be no return.

**What is the 1.5 degree Celsius target?** The 1.5 degree Celsius target is the global climate target that aims to limit warming to said level by 2100, in order to prevent the planet from slipping into further climate crises. For decades, 2 degree was an acceptable level of warming. The idea of 1.5 degree was perceived as unrealistic and unachievable. However, the 2 degree target was unacceptable to small island countries as it implied that their survival was compromised.

In 2010, at the Cancun COP16, countries agreed to limit the global average warming to below 2 degree Celsius. In 2015, the parties to the Paris Agreement pledged to limit the average temperature rise to below 2 degree, while actively aiming for 1.5 degree above pre-industrial levels. This was endorsed as a global target by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2018 and since then has been pursued in all climate dialogues.

**Why is the 1.5 degree target critical?** In 2018, the IPCC released a special report on the impact of global warming when temperature reaches 1.5 degree Celsius above baseline. It also drew a comparison with the effects of 2 degree Celsius warming. It was estimated that anthropogenic activities would have already caused 1 degree of warming, likely to reach 1.5 degree between 2030 and 2052 at the current rate. Frequent and intense heat waves, droughts, heavy precipitation, an additional 10-centimetre rise in sea level, destruction of ecosystems and mostly irreversible changes can be witnessed at the 2 degree level.

However, discussions on the average temperature rise do not imply that the current warming is uniform across the planet. For example, warming greater than the global average is being experienced in the Arctic, with the term 'polar amplification' gaining more traction. The regional differences and the vulnerability factors spell more urgency for climate action which must limit the average planetary warming to 1.5 degree.

**Why are we missing the target?** Historically, developed countries are responsible for a major chunk of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Therefore, they are expected to assume more responsibility and implement climate action. However, the Climate Performance Index over the years has shown otherwise. Countries like Australia, the U.S., Japan, Russia and Canada have made little progress in meeting their pledges. Additionally, polluters like China, Iran and Saudi Arabia rank low in climate performance.

The pandemic pushed the world into a socio-economic crisis. On the road to



**Intense heat:** A man crosses the dry and cracked bed of the Koparli dam in Peth Taluka village, Nashik, Maharashtra on May 26. GETTY IMAGES

### According to the WMO, extreme weather anomalies have caused the deaths of two million people and incurred \$4.3 trillion in economic damages over the past fifty years

deaths. Climate change has been affecting crop yield negatively and the risks posed by agricultural pests and diseases have also increased in the past few years. Countries like Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and Afghanistan are facing acute food shortages resulting in malnutrition and hunger, demanding urgent humanitarian assistance. However, food insecurity in these countries is due to the complex interaction of climate conditions with other factors such as droughts, cyclones, and political and economic instability.

The heatwaves in Pakistan and India in 2022 also resulted in a decline in crop yields. The floods in Pakistan affected croplands in southern and central parts of the country and displaced eight million people within the country.

The Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya) has been witnessing extreme drought conditions since 2020, while at the same time, western African countries are seeing floods and heavy rainfall which has pushed millions into acute food insecurity. Such shortage of food has also led to mass displacement within and across borders. In Syria and Yemen, thousands have been displaced owing to the floods, storms, and heavy snowfall.

Aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems have also not been immune to such changes in climate patterns. Phenological shifts and mismatches have been recorded due to climate change. The population of migratory species has declined in Sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, the warming above 1.5 degree Celsius can prove lethal for coral reefs which are already prone to bleaching. According to the WMO, extreme weather anomalies have caused the deaths of two million people and incurred \$4.3 trillion in economic damages over the past fifty years. In 2020-2021, 22,608 disaster deaths were recorded globally.

### How is India impacted?

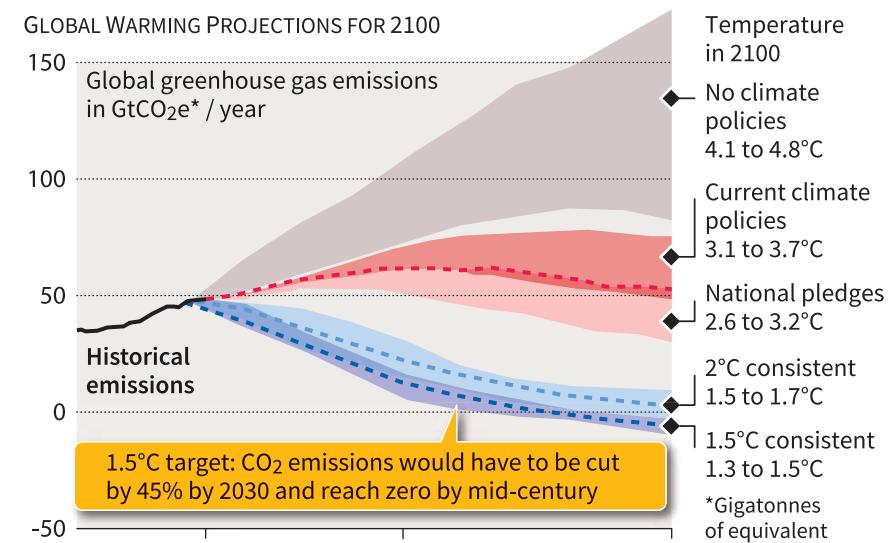
India has been increasingly facing the brunt of climate change. February 2023 was recorded as the hottest month since record-keeping began in 1901. In 2022, India witnessed extreme weather events for 80% of the days. Indian monsoons were wetter than usual last year after recording extreme heat during the pre-monsoon period, resulting in wildfires in Uttarakhand and acute food shortages.

According to the Climate Change Performance Index 2023, India ranked eighth with a high-performance after Denmark, Sweden, Chile, and Morocco. Being an emerging economy with development needs, it is attempting to balance its development needs with ongoing climate action both at the domestic and international levels. With domestic measures like the Green Hydrogen Mission and the introduction of green bonds, India is performing fairly well despite contributing only a minuscule to cumulative GHG emissions. At the international level, through the International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, India can prove to be a responsible climate player keeping in mind that it has a long way to go in very little time.

*The writers are doctoral scholars at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.*

### The threat of rising temperatures

In 2018, the IPCC released a report on the impact of global warming when temperature reaches 1.5 degree Celsius above the baseline temperature of pre-industrial levels. It also drew a comparison with the effects of 2 degree Celsius warming.



CLIMATE IMPACTS	Rise of 1.5°C	Rise of 2°C
Arctic: Sea ice-free summer	Once per century	Once per decade
Sea level rise: Exposure to flooding in 2100	31-69 million people worldwide	32-80 million people worldwide
Extreme heat: Exposure at least once every five years	About 14% of global population	About 37% of global population
Severe drought: Increase in urban population	+350 million people worldwide	+411 million people worldwide
Status of coral reefs	70-90% lost	99% lost
Plants and animals: Species losing more than half of their range	6% of insects, 8% of plants, 4% of vertebrates	18% of insects, 16% of plants, 8% of vertebrates

Sources: IPCC, The New York Times, Reuters, The Conversation

© GRAPHIC NEWS

recovery, countries pledged measures to build-back. However, in most cases there is little to no consideration for building-back in a sustainable manner. The Ukraine conflict has further added to woes and sparked an energy crisis threatening climate goals.

### Are extreme weather events linked to the global rise in temperature?

The predictions of the recently released reports point to precipitation anomalies and an increase in marine heat waves as compared to marine cold spells. The El Niño, which is currently brewing, will further strengthen this year, resulting in a

98% possibility of witnessing temperatures higher than 2016 at least in one of the years in the 2023-27 period. The cryosphere is shrinking, and there is a mass loss of glaciers in High-mountain Asia, Western North America, and South America. Due to the alarming rate of warming of the Arctic Ocean, the Greenlandic ice sheet is melting at a faster pace, contributing to the increase in sea level.

Climate risks and hazards impact human population and the ecosystem depending on exposure, vulnerability, and adaptive capacity. It has exacerbated food insecurity, displacement, and

## THE GIST

The decadal predictions of the World Meteorological Organization said that the annual mean global surface temperature between 2023 and 2027 will be 1.1-1.8 degree Celsius higher than the baseline temperature of 1850-1900 or pre-industrial levels.

For decades, 2 degree was an acceptable level of warming. The idea of 1.5 degree was perceived as unrealistic and unachievable. However, the 2 degree target was unacceptable to small island countries as it implied that their survival was compromised.

Climate risks and hazards impact human population and the ecosystem depending on exposure, vulnerability, and adaptive capacity. It has exacerbated food insecurity, displacement, and deaths.

## CACHE



REUTERS

## Can China's Micron ban benefit Samsung and SK Hynix?

A large market, coupled with the absence of a prominent third player, should be an easy contest for Samsung and SK Hynix. However, the trade conflict between the U.S. and China has put the Korean duo in a tight corner

**John Xavier**

**T**he latest in a series of tit-for-tat trade moves between the U.S. and China is the latter's ban on Micron Technology products in key infrastructure. Major Chinese companies are now not allowed from buying Micron Technology products.

The ban targeting the U.S. memory chipmaker comes after China's cyberspace regulator found Micron products sold in China as posing national security risks to the country. The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) initiated the investigation into Micron's products in early April to review China's supply chain in critical information infrastructure. The ban has now left Chinese firms scouting for an alternative memory chipmaker to source the critical component needed to build their technology.

Micron makes memory and storage chip sets that are used in flash drives, memory cards, and the computer. Memory chips are also used in data centres. These chip sets help in faster transfer of digital information and are used in automotive, electronics and telecommunication equipment.

The Chinese market is important for the U.S.-based memory chip maker as it accounts for about 10% of its annual sales in 2022 – a little over three billion dollars. Some other estimates point out that the American company has a 25% market share in China.

The memory chipmaker had

anticipated some amount of disruption from China as a result of ongoing trade manoeuvres. In its 2022 annual report, it noted that China's government may restrict it from competing effectively in the country.

### Korean presence

Closing the door on Micron could open a window of opportunity for Samsung and SK Hynix. The two Korean multinationals, along with Micron, are the top three memory chipmakers globally.

Among the three, Samsung has a clear lead in memory chips. It has a 43% market share in Dynamic Random-Access Memory (DRAM), and a 35% share in the NAND flash product. Its memory chip portfolio generated \$55 billion in revenue in 2022. The South Korea-headquartered company continues to ride the semiconductor wave as it pushes the boundaries of memory chip technology.

The electronics major also continues investing in infrastructure to meet mid- and long-term demand in the market. In the short-term, the company plans to optimise its production as it shifts to cater to companies that operate data centres, build autonomous vehicles and provide computing power for artificial intelligence (AI). Separately, Samsung has a large memory chip making facility in China. The unit based out of the Chinese city of Xian manufactures about 40% of the company's global NAND flash production. According to government estimates, this facility accounts for about 10% of the world's NAND flash production.

On the other hand, SK Hynix, another market leader in memory chip manufacturing, has a unique position in the U.S.-China trade war as Washington gave the Korean firm a one-year exemption from U.S. restrictions on exporting advanced technologies to China. This reprieve must be seen in the context of SK Hynix's operations. The company has a large memory chip making plant in Wuxi. And, according to some estimates, production in this facility accounts to about 13% of global DRAM chips. The company also owns Intel's NAND flash memory factory based in the Chinese city of Dalian. Last year, SK Hynix generated \$12 billion in revenue from sales in China while Samsung's sales touched \$24 billion in the country.

### Geopolitical shackles

A large market, coupled with the absence of a prominent third player, should be an easy contest for the Korean duo. But it is not. The two companies are in a tight corner as the trade conflict between the U.S. and China puts South Korea's technology firms at the centre.

In April, when the CAC initiated a review of Micron's memory products, Washington urged Seoul to not fill in the market vacuum that could result from a possible Micron ban. The U.S. had requested South Korea to coax Samsung and SK Hynix from boosting its sales to China, the *Financial Times* reported. This comes on the back of a one-year waiver it gave to South Korean firms with semiconductor fabrication units in China

from selling products from the country. However, such coaxing and trade leverages could fall short at a time when the global memory chip industry is facing overcapacity and high inventories.

Since the second quarter of 2022, global NAND flash prices have fallen by up to 25%, according to research company TrendForce. The average selling price (ASP) is expected to decline further in the June ending quarter as production cuts to DRAM and NAND flash have not kept pace with weakening demand, the research firm noted in a separate blog. This decline tracks previous quarter's price drop as demand for servers, smartphones and laptops remained weak at the end of March.

Memory chip prices went sky-high at the peak of the pandemic, and then started cooling off in late 2021. Following this period, quarter-on-quarter decline got steeper due to microeconomic woes and geopolitical uncertainties.

### Chinese options

While geopolitics and market dynamics play out, China may have home-grown alternatives to fill Micron's vacuum. Yangtze Memory Technologies (YMT) makes NAND flash chips and ChangXin Memory Technologies (CXMT) makes DRAM chips. These firms are poised to fill Micron's shoes in the region.

China's large businesses may start making a connection with YMT and CXMT to beef up their technologies as Samsung and SK Hynix choose between patriotism and business.

## THE DAILY QUIZ

On May 29, 1953, 70 years ago, humans first stood atop the tallest peak on land. A quiz on the historic ascent of Mount Everest

**V. V. Ramanan**

### QUESTION 1

It is well known that Sherpa Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary were the first humans to be on top of the mountain. But who led the historic expedition?

### QUESTION 2

Tenzing was an accomplished climber, having reached 28,210 feet (8,598 meters) on the Southeast Ridge in 1952 before turning back. But what was the profession of the New Zealander Hillary?

### QUESTION 3

Who were Tom Bourdillon and Charles Evans?

### QUESTION 4

What explanation did Hillary later give when asked why there is only the iconic photograph of Tenzing, with his flag-attached axe raised,

and none of his own on the summit?

### QUESTION 5

What offerings did Tenzing and Hillary leave on the summit before starting their descent after spending 15 minutes on the top?

### QUESTION 6

As the two made their way down, what was Hillary's legendary greeting to teammate George Lowe?

### QUESTION 7

There was an 'informal, gentleman' pact where the two record-setters agreed not to tell who stepped on the summit first. Later, Tenzing revealed in his autobiography that Hillary had in fact preceded him. Name his autobiography.

### QUESTION 8

What historic event was happening on the day on which the news broke about the success on Everest?



### Visual question:

On May 26, 2023, these golden statues of Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were unveiled at the Tenzing-Hillary airport. In which town is the airport located? **Ans: Lukla**

### Questions and Answers to the May 26 edition of the daily quiz:

1. This actor played Tina Turner in the 1993 biopic titled *What's Love Got to Do With It?*. **Ans: Angela Bassett**

2. The song Turner, Cher and Elton John came together to perform at the New York's Beacon Theatre for VH1's Divas Live! **Ans: 'Proud Mary'**

3. Tina Turner never had a US number 1 single. Is the statement true or false? **Ans: False**

4. The year the singer was inducted into the rock and roll hall of fame as a solo artist. **Ans: 2021**

5. 'Steamy Windows', 'The Best', 'Undercover Agent for the Blues' are all songs from this album. **Ans: Foreign Affairs**

6. The number of Grammys Turner received. **Ans: She has eight Grammys**

Visual: This British singer-songwriter wrote Turner's hit song 'Private Dancer'. **Ans: Mark Knopfler**

Early Birds: Indra Sharma| Vaibhav Jain| Manda Kalavati



## KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

*If this goes on,  
I might just  
jump ship*

She had to deliver the envelope to the house enveloped by vines, creepers and flowers

**S. Upendran**

**What is the meaning of 'jump ship'?** **(K. Ramesh, Vizag)**

As the word 'ship' suggests, this is an expression that was first used in the Navy. When a sailor 'jumps ship', he gets off the vessel without getting the required permission from the person in charge. He leaves with no intention of returning.

*According to the Captain, the sailor jumped ship in Singapore.*

Nowadays, the expression has begun to be used in everyday contexts as well. When people realise that the company they are working for is in trouble, what do they do? Many quit and join another firm. This act of abandoning the old company because of the difficult situation it is in is called 'jumping ship'.

**Is there a difference in pronunciation between 'envelope' and 'envelop'?** **(K. C. Anuradha, Trichy)**

Yes, there is. There is not only a difference in pronunciation, but also in meaning. 'Envelope' is a noun, and 'envelop', a verb. There are different ways of pronouncing both words. Envelope is a cover in which you enclose documents; it comes in different shapes and sizes. Some people make the first syllable rhyme with 'pen', 'ten' and 'hen', and the third with 'hope', 'soap' and 'cope'. The vowel in the second syllable sounds like the 'a' in 'china'; the word is pronounced 'EN-ve-lope' with the stress on the first syllable.

*When you go to the stationery shop, buy a few large envelopes.*

*The documents arrived this morning in a sealed envelope.*

In the case of 'envelop', the first syllable is pronounced like the word 'in', while the vowel in the second sounds like the 'e' in 'bell', 'sell' and 'tell'. The final 'o' is like the 'a' in 'china'. The verb is pronounced 'in-VE-lep' with the stress on the second syllable. The word is mostly used to mean 'wrapped or surrounded by'.

*In the early mornings, the woods are usually enveloped in mist.*

*Rain clouds enveloped the mountain.*

**What is the difference in meaning between 'blackout' and 'brownout'?** **(Rajesh Mittal, Pune)**

When there is a blackout, there is no power/electricity; we cannot run any of our gadgets at home. I understand the term was first used in the world of theatre. All the lights in the auditorium, including those on stage, were switched off when the scenery between acts had to be changed. Since the auditorium was in total darkness during this period, it was called 'blackout'.

'Brownout' is a term coined by the Americans. During a brownout, there is electricity, but the voltage is rather low. This dip in voltage results in the lights burning rather dimly.

*Don't use any of the electrical appliances during a brownout.* **upendrankye@gmail.com**

## Word of the day

### Feeble:

generally incompetent and ineffectual; not fit to assume responsibility

### Synonym:

inept

**Usage:** I was watching his feckless attempts to repair the plumbing.

**Pronunciation:** bit.ly/fecklesspro

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /fekləs/

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

## From Page One

## India gets new Parliament House

The second part of the ceremony began at noon when Mr. Modi, along with Mr. Birla and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, entered the new building.

MPs from 22 Opposition parties were absent. Former President Ram Nath Kovind, Supreme Court judges, Chief Ministers Y.S. Jagan Reddy, Yogi Adityanath, Eknath Shinde and Neiphi Rio and other distinguished guests attended the event.

Mr. Modi recited a Sanskrit *shloka* to underline that luck runs out for those who stop moving forward but the fate of those who keep moving continues to soar, in an oblique reference to the Opposition leaders who were criticising the construction of the new Parliament. He said the ultramodern complex was the "need of the hour" in view of the expected increase in the number of MPs. Under attack from the Opposition for bringing into Parliament the "monarchical" *Sengol* and for his alleged autocratic ways, the Prime Minister spent a significant amount of time talking about "democracy". "Democracy is not just a system for us, it is a culture, an idea, a tradition." The *Sengol*, he said, was considered a symbol of the "kartavya path" (path of duty), "seva path" (path of service) and "rashtra path" (path of the nation).

While President Droupadi Murmu and Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar were not invited to the event, messages from them were read out during the ceremony. Ms. Murmu said, "The architects of our Constitution imagined a nation whose form was constructed on the edifice of legislative discretion of the Parliament made up of democratically elected representatives. I am deeply happy that the symbol of Parliament's trust, Prime Minister is inaugurating the building."

Mr. Dhankhar echoed similar sentiments. "As I always say that Lok Sabha is the north star of democracy. It is the most authentic constitutional forum reflecting the mandate of people. Its decisive role in law making and shaping the destiny of Bharat is inviolable and it is the basic mantra, nectar and essence of democracy," his message read.

Mr. Birla applauded the building's architecture, which he said showcased the excellent and diverse cultural heritage of the whole of India.

Mr. Modi also unveiled a commemorative postage stamp and coin on the occasion.

## Wrestlers detained, protest site cleared

Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order Zone I) Dependra Pathak said that men would be released later. The police booked Ms. Malik, Ms. Phogat and Mr. Punia and their supporters on charges of rioting and obstructing public servant in discharge of duty.

The WFI chief was present for the inauguration of the Parliament building.

The Delhi Police had increased the security around the new Parliament after the call by khan panchayats to hold a mahila mahapanchayat in front of the building was answered by the wrestlers' decision to attend it.

A tension situation prevailed at Jantar Mantar around 11.30 a.m. when the wrestlers and other protesters carrying the Tiranga began to march towards the new Parliament and jumped the first set of barricades.

The protesters were stopped as they tried to cross over the second barricading, leading to a scuffle between them and the security personnel. Several protesters, including wrestlers Ms. Vinesh Phogat, Sangeeta Phogat and Ms. Malik, could be seen being dragged by women personnel.

Gopal Tiwari, one of the protest organisers, said he and nearly 100 others were taken to the Bawana police station.

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar said it was "painful" to see the wrestlers being manhandled and detained while seeking justice and termed it an "act of brutality". "I strongly condemn the reckless behaviour of Delhi Police towards our athletes who are the pride of our nation," he tweeted.

Mr. Pawar is the president of the Maharashtra Amateur Wrestling Association, which is affiliated to the Wrestling Federation of India.

## 40 extremists killed in encounters: Biren Singh

Talking tough against Manipur's "enemies of all 34 communities" trying to break the State and disrupt peaceful coexistence, Mr. Singh said the government was firm on facing such challenges. "The government will not allow the disintegration of Manipur and uproot these armed terrorists from the State," he added.

At least four civilians have been killed by armed groups that attacked five areas in and around the Imphal Valley since 2 a.m. on Sunday, officials said. These areas are Sekmai, Sugnu, Kumbi, Phayeng and Serou. Following the attacks, the authorities in Imphal East and Imphal West districts reduced the curfew relaxation by 4.5 hours from 5 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. The relaxation hitherto was up to 4 p.m.

According to local media reports, three people were killed and more than 200 houses torched in the Sugnu area of Kakching district while one person was killed in the Sekmai area of Imphal West district. Villagers claimed gunfights were going on in more areas and unclaimed bodies were lying on the streets.

Eight political parties in Manipur have demanded the dismissal of the BJP-led coalition government in the State for its alleged failure to control the law-and-order situation.

## 'Assam is enjoying peace and progress'

Threat of militancy has ended and the economy is witnessing growth, says Assam Chief Minister; there is no discrimination based on religion, he adds; the BJP government is in touch with TIPRA Motha in Tripura and that in Manipur, inter-ethnic dialogue has to happen in a mature manner, he says

## INTERVIEW

**Himanta Biswa Sarma**

Varghese K. George

**A**ssam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is a key strategist of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the northeast and beyond. He was a star campaigner of the party in the recent Gujarat and Karnataka Assembly elections. He speaks about the conflict in Manipur, Opposition parties uniting against the BJP, and why the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will bring communal harmony in Assam and the country. Edited excerpts:

**You have completed two years as Chief Minister. What do you count as your achievements and do you have any regrets?**

In two years, we could establish near complete peace in Assam. I think that is my biggest achievement. Threat of militancy has ended, there is *bhaichara* (fraternity) among all. Secondly, in the past five years, our economy grew at an average of 13%. Last year, we recorded 19% growth. Finally, we have put up an outstanding performance in all Central schemes. I have no regrets. This is the best two years in Assam's history.

**Assam was so volatile that the visit of a foreign dignitary (Japan PM Shinzo Abe) had to be cancelled in 2019. What happened to anti-CAA protests and Assamese sub-nationalism?**

I work with the youth and tell them that Assamese subnationalism will not be successful if it is used to keep a distance from mainland India. But if used in a positive way, it will create energy. In the past two years, we have done a lot of work to invoke Assamese identity. We brought Lachit Borphukan (a 17th-century Ahom general who defeated the Mughals) to the centre stage of In-

dian history. We have presented Bihu (Assam's cultural festival) in a spectacular manner to the world. So Assamese identity is about aspiration and constructive competition with other States. I am trying to transform frustration into pride, and it is working.

**You were pretty tough with policing. You have demolished madrasas and even defended encounter killings?**

We are the most peaceful State in terms of Hindu-Muslim unity. When I speak about banning polygamy, I get maximum support from the Assamese Muslim community. We have not demolished madrasas... people themselves demolish them when the government finds them doing anti-national activities.

Yes, we act tough when anti-national activities come to our notice. But there is no discrimination based on religion in Assam. You can see that in recruitment for government services. We are building Assam's biggest medical college in the heart of minority areas. We are winning hearts and taking all the programmes started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the last mile, and Muslims are big beneficiaries.

Today, if you talk to the average Muslim, they will say their lives are being transformed, with better roads, healthcare and education. We are bringing Muslim girls to schools and Muslim women are getting due respect. I keep meeting Muslim delegations and listening to them. Even in comparison with south Indian States, known for communal harmony, Assam presents a better picture.

**You being an open supporter of the CAA was not very popular in Assam. How big is the issue now?**

Let's wait for the Supreme Court to give its judgment. Let's agree to whatever the SC says. In a democracy, we agree to disagree, or build consensus.



**The BJP was able to win a second term after the CAA protests. Have the concerns around Bengali speakers now mellowed?**

There is a feeling that Bengali Hindus were not given due respect by mainstream Assamese people. I am not generalising that all Assamese people are against Bengali-speaking people. But there was a part in our history when we had a bitter fight – at the intellectual and street level. Now the situation is such that Assamese people are also appreciating the concerns of Bengalis. They have the right to run their educational institutions and practise their culture. Gradually, we are developing into a multilingual State. Now, Bengali is accepted and tribal languages are being respected. So, from an Assamese language-based society, we are now transforming into a multilingual State.

**How do you see the violence in Manipur?**

There are certain basic issues. The distribution of population is such that 70% people occupy 30% of the land. Kukis and Nagas can come to the Valley, but Meiteis cannot go to the hills. It is the same situation in Assam with regard to Bodoland. Assam is a big State and we have accepted that it is better than being a separate State. I think in Manipur, too, inter-ethnic dialogue has to happen in a mature manner. In the past five years, a dialogue was beginning to take place, but the High Court order (suggesting tribal status for the Meiteis) changed the course of events. Before the State could respond in a political

manner, there were protests and violence. In the northeast, if two communities start fighting, it is not easy to end it because all are very emotive. There are many areas where the paramilitary cannot reach.

**Do you think a political settlement is still possible?**

Union Home Minister Amit Shahji is trying his best. He is visiting Manipur on May 29 and staying there for three days. Let us hope the situation calms down. The Centre is fiercely neutral while dealing with all communities. I believe with the kind of time and energy Mr. Shah is spending in the northeast, a positive result will emerge. There is never a linear formula in the northeast. Tribal communities are friendly, but when an issue flares up, you can't resolve it by just sitting across the table over coffee.

**You have a role in Tripura also. Do you expect TIPRA Motha to be part of the BJP government soon?**

It is important to keep a line of communication open with the TIPRA Motha. After all he [Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma of the erstwhile Tripura royal family who is chairman of the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance] won 14 seats. We have to respect the people's verdict. We are engaging with him to resolve the issues of tribal people, but we have not made up our mind on making a political adjustment. If you join hands without resolving the bigger issue [of autonomy for tribal regions], people will see it as opportunism. It will not be good for the BJP and the TI-

PRA Motha. The Union Home Minister and the State government are in touch with the party.

**You are not planning to revise the NRC in Assam?**

We should not discuss CAA and NRC together. CAA is just about giving citizenship to people who fled neighbouring countries because they don't belong to a particular religion. So, giving citizenship to the minority population of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh has nothing to do with revision of NRC or NPR [National Population Register]. These two issues are fundamentally different and the Government of India is on record denying any move to have a nationwide NRC. We want to include Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, Jains... If they are granted citizenship of this country, then their names will be automatically entered in all documents. The so-called secular people are making this into a battle of prestige. They also know that it is not going to dramatically change anything in India, we are talking about people who are already here. No fresh people will come. Now you say, 'Give to Muslims also'.

Now, giving citizenship to Muslims means you are inviting people. Yes, suppose tomorrow we identify some Muslim as a foreigner, and Bangladesh says, 'We are not going to accept them', how can you push them away? They will be here only, but methodology will be different to deal with that situation. So, I think the Muslim community or the so-called secular people should engage in that discussion, rather than opposing the law. Every day, we see what is happening in Afghanistan, and what happened in Bangladesh. Let's bring lasting communal harmony. Most of the Muslims are not taking it as a prestige issue.

This is not a BJP agenda. Even former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh advocated for citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Christians suffering in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. This is a bipartisan issue. I don't know how it has become a partisan issue. (Full interview on [bit.ly/3MLgpl](http://bit.ly/3MLgpl))

## On the draw



## PM holds meeting with BJP CMs on good governance agenda

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday held a meeting with the Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled States at the party headquarters here. The meeting is part of the BJP's good

governance agenda in which Chief Ministers share their best practices in governance and implementation of various welfare schemes.

J.P. Nadda was present at the meeting. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Haryana's Ma-

nohar Lal Khattar, Assam's Himanta Biswa Sarma, Madhya Pradesh's Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Uttarakhand's Pushkar Singh Dhami also attended the meeting.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was also present.

## Savarkar could not tolerate mindset of slavery, says Modi

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar, saying his personality exuded strength and his fearless and self-respecting nature could not tolerate the mindset of slavery. Paying homage to Savarkar on his birth anniversary during the 101st *Mann ki Baat* broadcast, Mr. Modi said his sacrifice, courage and determination continued to inspire us.

Mr. Modi also paid homage to Kabir, whose birth anniversary is on June 4, saying the mystic poet opposed every evil practice that divided people and tried to awaken society.

Paying tributes to Savarkar, Mr. Modi said, "Today is the birth anniversary of Veer Savarkar. The stories related to his sacrifice, courage and resolve inspire us all even today. I cannot forget the day when I went to the cell in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying tribute to Savarkar on Sunday. PTI

Andaman where Savarkar served the sentence of 'Ka-la paani'.

"Savarkar's personality exuded strength and magnanimity. His fearless and self-respecting nature could not tolerate the mindset of slavery. Not only in the freedom movement, whatever Savarkar did for social equality and social justice is remembered even today," Mr. Modi said.

Mr. Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and Union Ministers paid floral tributes to Savarkar in the Central Hall of the old Parliament building.

Opposition parties may meet in Patna on June 12

**Press Trust of India**  
PATNA

The much-awaited meeting of parties opposed to the BJP may be held in Patna on June 12, according to hints that emanated from a meeting of Bihar's ruling JD(U) here on Sunday.

While no significant office-bearer confirmed or denied the same, many present at the meeting said on condition of anonymity that the disclosure was made by Chief Minister and JD(U) veteran Nitish Kumar himself.

Mr. Kumar has been pitching for "Opposition unity" ever since he snapped ties with the BJP in August last year.

Mr. Kumar, who is heading an alliance government that includes the RJD, the Congress as well as the Left, has reached out to leaders such as Arvind Kejriwal, Mamata Banerjee and Akhilesh Yadav, all of whom are opposed to the BJP but not very comfortable with the grand old party either.



**Ceremony unfurls:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi receiving the historical Sengol (sceptre) from seers from Tamil Nadu in New Delhi on Sunday; Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Pralhad Joshi and other dignitaries standing for the National Anthem; the Prime Minister felicitating some workers who were involved in the construction of the new Parliament. ANI, PTI

# An opulent House: art lines ₹200-crore interiors

The building is centrally air-conditioned and closed; features include a digitised voting system, well-engineered acoustics and state-of-the-art audiovisual systems in the two chambers



**Revamped glory:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the dignitaries at the inauguration of the new Parliament House on Sunday. ANI

**Sobhana K. Nair**  
NEW DELHI

**A**n artistic interpretation of a section of the night sky over New Delhi on January 26, 1950, the day India became a republic, and a Foucault pendulum inside the new Parliament building drew crowds on Sunday, with several MPs and other dignitaries posing for pictures against them.

The Foucault pendulum, named after French physicist Léon Foucault, is used to demonstrate the earth's rotation. At the latitude of Parliament, it takes 49 hours, 59 minutes and 18 seconds for the pendulum to complete one rotation.

Above the pendulum, on the ceiling, six individual panels depict the artistic interpretation of the section of the night sky and celestial bodies present over New Delhi on the mid-

night of January 26, 1950. The new Parliament is dotted with many such installations, murals and other works of art. Roughly ₹200 crore was spent to decorate the interiors, an area of 64,500 square metres.

#### Akhand Bharat

A photograph of a mural depicting what is believed to be a map of ancient India marking important kingdoms and cities of the past extending up to the present-day Pakistan has gone viral. Sharing the picture, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi tweeted: "The resolve is clear – Akhand Bharat."

The gallery, *Shapasya Deergha*, has murals on protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India and on the UNESCO list. Different yoga *asanas* are digitally projected on the top of these installations.

The new Parliament building varies in several ways from the old one. The entire building is centrally air-conditioned and closed, though there are skylights for sunlight to stream in at intervals.

On Sunday, after the inaugural function ended, MPs and guests fanned out. Much of the building still needs finishing touches, with unscripted sandstone floors and beige benches lining the walls still wrapped in plastic. The building remains a maze for the first-time visitor in the absence of signboards, and most of the security staff were still clueless about the layout.

The Ministers' chambers can be accessed through corridors running parallel to the triangular boundary of the building. Their chambers are fitted with motion sensor lights and have dark wood panelling. These rooms are

the only ones that open to a balcony. The only other open space is the central courtyard, which has a banyan tree at its centre, and encircling it are lounges for MPs and a library. Each of the three entrances of the building is also decked up with art.

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers boast a digitised voting system, well-engineered acoustics, and state-of-the-art audiovisual systems.

The building has three ceremonial foyers where huge brass images of Mahatma Gandhi, Chanakya, Gargi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, B.R. Ambedkar, and the chariot wheel from the Sun Temple at Konark are on display.

The interiors of the Lok Sabha are based on the theme of the national bird, peacock, while the Rajya Sabha depict the national flower, lotus.

(With PTI inputs)

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## IN BRIEF



## Kashmiri Pandits celebrate annual Kheer Bhawani mela

Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits on Sunday paid their obeisance at the famous Ragnya Devi temple in Ganderbal district in the Valley and celebrated the annual Kheer Bhawani mela. The temple witnessed massive crowds of devotees, most of them Kashmiri Pandits, who made the journey from across the country. The mela, a symbol of communal harmony, passed off peacefully as the administration had made elaborate arrangements, including security-related, for the devotees. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti, who also paid obeisance at the temple, said that she prayed for the dignified return of the Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley. PTI

## Rahul gets new passport, set to begin his U.S. tour today

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi received a new ordinary passport on Sunday, two days after a local court granted its "no objection" to the issuance of the same, sources said. The former Congress president is set to travel to San Francisco in the United States on Monday evening. He had applied for an ordinary passport after surrendering the old diplomatic passport issued to him when he was a Member of Parliament. Starting with San Francisco where he is scheduled to interact with students at Stanford University, Mr. Gandhi will address a press conference and have meetings with lawmakers and think tanks in Washington DC. PTI

## NIA seeking death penalty for Yasin Malik deeply disturbing'

The Hurriyat Conference on Sunday said the National Investigation Agency (NIA) seeking the death penalty for Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik was "deeply disturbing" for the people of J&K. The NIA has approached the Delhi High Court seeking capital punishment for the separatist leader, in a terror funding case. "Unfortunately, such directives and decrees are brought in by the authorities who claim peace and development as their agenda, which seems to be a deliberate attempt to provoke and intimidate people and add to their concerns and fears," it said in a statement. PTI

## ISRO to launch navigation satellite on board GSLV today

Scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) commenced at 7.12 a.m. on Sunday the 27.5-hour countdown to the launch of a navigation satellite on board a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) rocket from Sriharikota on Monday. The space agency is all geared up to launch the second-generation navigation satellite series, a significant launch which would ensure the continuity of NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) services – an Indian regional satellite navigation system, similar to GPS, providing accurate and real-time navigation in India and up to 1,500 km around the mainland. PTI

# India sees reduction in stunting; but wasting, obesity are concerns: report

1.6 crore fewer stunted children aged under five in 2022 than in 2012, show Joint Malnutrition Estimates released by UNICEF, WHO and World Bank; prevalence of obesity marginally increased during the decade, report says

**Iagriti Chandra**  
NEW DELHI

**C**ommensurate with global and regional trends, India continues to show a reduction in stunting and recorded 1.6 crore fewer stunted children under five years in 2022 than in 2012, according to the Joint Malnutrition Estimates released by the UNICEF, the WHO and the World Bank.

However, wasting continues to remain a concern and so does growing levels of obesity.

Stunting among children under five years in India dropped from a prevalence rate of 41.6% in 2012 to 31.7% in 2022 with the numbers dropping from 52 lakh to 36 lakh. This was accompanied by India's share of the global burden of stunting declining from 30% to 25% in the past decade.

The overall prevalence

## Persisting challenges

The Joint Malnutrition Estimates underscore India's mixed progress in battling malnutrition



- India saw 1.6 crore fewer stunted children under five years in 2022 compared with 2012
- Despite reduced stunting, wasting remains an issue with a prevalence rate of 18.7% in 2022 in India
- Prevalence of overweight children increased from 2.2% in 2012 to 2.8% in 2022 in India
- Global stunting declined from 26.3% in 2012 to 22.3% in 2022, but obesity prevalence increased from 5.5% to 5.6%

of wasting in 2022 was 18.7% in India, with a share of 49% in the global burden.

The prevalence of obesity marginally increased in a decade from 2.2% in 2012 to 2.8% in 2022 with the numbers growing to 31.8 lakh from 27.5 lakh, thereby contributing to 8.8% of the global share. But the overall classification for obesity is low and much lower than the global prevalence of 5.6%.

Globally, stunting declined from a prevalence

rate of 26.3% in 2012 to 22.3% in 2022.

There was no improvement on the weight issue worldwide, as its prevalence rate grew from 5.5% to 5.6%. There was a global prevalence of 6.8% in 2022, but there is no comparison available for past years as it is based on national-level country prevalence data.

The JME report says there is insufficient progress to reach the 2025 World Health Assembly

global nutrition targets and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 targets and only about one-third of all countries are 'on track' to halve the number of children affected by stunting by 2030. Even fewer countries are expected to achieve the 2030 target of 3% prevalence for overweight.

## In line with NFHS

The decline in stunting in India is commensurate with National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 (2019-2021) data which estimated its prevalence at 35.5% as against 38% in NFHS-4 (2016) and 48% in NFHS-3 (2006).

"This is the first time I noted in a global report that the problem has started to shift from South Asia. The relative contribution of India's global burden from 29 to 24 was interesting. NFHS-5 showed evidence of continued reduc-

tion of stunting and instances of underweight children, though anaemia was disappointing. It also showed an improvement in access to health services – family planning, ante-natal care, deworming, breastfeeding counselling," said Arjan Wagt, Chief of Nutrition and UNICEF India Deputy Representative, Programmes, adding that he remained hopeful of a further improvement in NFHS-6.

Wasting though is an outlier, Mr. Wagt explains.

"In the past few years, we have learnt more about it. It is a challenging indicator, which assesses acute malnutrition over short periods... In India, on the basis of our analysis of a small cohort, we have found that two-thirds of children at 12 or 24 months had wasting at birth or at one month of age. This means two-thirds of the wasting is caused by maternal malnutrition."

Congress will make Centre implement OPS: Gehlot

**Press Trust of India**  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday said the Congress will "compel" the Centre to implement the old pension scheme (OPS) in the entire country, asserting that the committee on the new pension scheme (NPS) was constituted under pressure mounted by the party.

He also announced an increase in old-age pension from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 in Rajasthan if the Congress retains power in the State.

"Under the chairmanship of Finance Secretary, the Centre has formed a committee to find out a way forward for what can be done after combining OPS and NPS. They formed the committee after we mounted pressure," he said, and added that OPS will not be reversed. "If our government comes again, then we will uphold it. We will compel the Centre to implement it in the entire country," Mr. Gehlot said.

## From prevalence in eight States in 2001, dengue now a nationwide infection'

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**  
NEW DELHI

Faced with a shortage of entomologists, a trickier vector, increased travel, and less optimal public participation for prevention, the infection geography of dengue, which was restricted to eight States in 2001, currently covers all the States and Union Territories in India. Dengue has now breached the country's last bastion, Ladakh (with two cases in 2022), senior health officials say.

As the country gets ready to welcome the southwest monsoon, which is associated with the rise of certain diseases, including malaria, dengue and zika, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) confirmed that dengue's infection geography has grown.

"During the past two decades, there has been a significant geographical spread of dengue with an 11-fold increase and repeated outbreaks. ...Rural areas contributed approximately 32% of the total cas-



The WHO says half of the world population is at risk. AFP

es in 2015-16 and have increased to 41%-45% now," experts maintained.

## Half of world at risk

The World Health Organization estimates the global incidence of dengue has grown over recent decades, with half of the world population now at risk. The ICMR said that this risk from dengue, which is now endemic in more than 100 countries, has been propelled by several factors, including climate change, increased urbanisation and increased travel.

Himmat Singh, from the ICMR-National Institute of

Malaria Research, notes that the problems in the control of the Aedes-borne disease are manifold. "Day-biting habit, multiple biting, long incubation period, fast transport, eggs retained up to one year, container breeding, human environment, and intermittent water supply and poor waste management at construction sites add to the problem," Dr. Singh said.

According to the Central government's paper on dengue outbreaks in India, the dengue vector is very different from the malaria vector and so, bio-environmental strategies alone will not work. This, coupled with the shortage of entomologists in the country, works to help the spread of dengue.

ICMR officials said that besides the work on vaccines, they were also looking at increasing awareness and promoting prevention, people's participation, and the use of the latest technology, including satellite imaging and drones to map vulnerable areas.

Justice Prathiba M. Singh, in her order dated May 15, observed, "...there is a need for some urgent

## Delhi HC sets up panel to implement Centre's rare diseases policy

**Soibam Rocky Singh**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has set up a five-member panel to implement the Centre's rare diseases policy in an efficient manner and ensure that its benefits reach patients.

The National Rare Diseases Committee will also look into the case of these patients, enrolled with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, and the manner in which their treatment can begin.

Under the National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021, hundreds of patients – mostly children – are registered with the "digital portal for crowdfunding and voluntary donations for patients of rare diseases by the Union Health Ministry. However, the government has been unable to fully finance their treatment due to high costs, resource constraints, and competing health priorities.

Justice Prathiba M. Singh, in her order dated May 15, observed, "...there is a need for some urgent

steps to be taken in close coordination between the medical community, the providers of therapies for rare diseases and government agencies".

"Under the current framework, the Centres for Excellence are not centrally coordinated, leading to lack of timely availability and adequate therapies for patients with rare diseases," she added.

+

The court ordered the panel to explore procurement of therapies and drugs, and the creation of associated logistical framework to administer treatment. It has been hearing a batch of petitions by rare disease patients and their caretakers, which contend that medicines and therapies are exorbitantly expensive.

+

Over the years, the number of patients on the Health Ministry's list has risen to 574, but mere registration does not guarantee timely treatment.

Tarush Goel, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Amroha, suffers from Hunter Syndrome (MPS II), a genetic disorder that causes skeletal abnormalities, respiratory issues and other problems. His father, Abhishek Goel, said they had visited AIIMS several times, but the doctors had told him there were no medicines to treat the six-year-old.

"Now, we are not giving him any medication or treatment," he added.

On December 2021, the Delhi HC had urged the Centre to look into the matter, saying that patients identified under the National Policy for Rare Diseases cannot be made to suffer due to lack of funds.

In its latest order, the High Court ordered the National Rare Diseases Committee to take up on an "urgent basis" the immediate requirement of patients to commence the treatment stopped due to lack of funding.

## FAITH

## Glory of Srirangam

As far as material benefits are concerned, the more we derive pleasure, the more we become averse to them over a period of time. But in the case of divine ecstasy, the more we enjoy, the more we become elated. Except Sri Vaikuntam, all the places in the universe are mixed with comforts and sorrows. It is said that only in Sri Vaikuntam can we ever enjoy divine bliss without a tinge of heartache.

Pleased with the ferocious penance of Brahma, the God of creation, Lord Narayana manifested in the form of Archa as Sri Ranganatha with Ranga Vimana, and the abode of the Lord, Srirangam, is called Bhuloka Vaikuntam. Brahmandapuram describes the glory of Lord Ranganatha in 10 chapters. "Aadhyam Proktham Swayam Vyaktham Ranga Vimana".

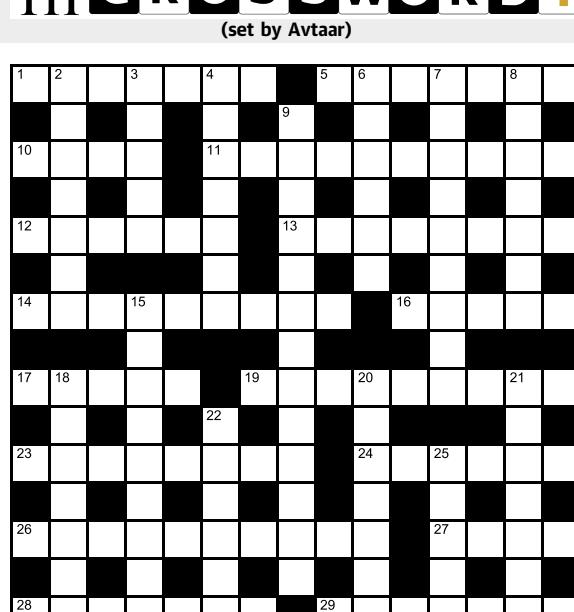
God also resides in Archa form in our pooja room, however small it may be, with the same amount of happiness as in Paramapadham, Srirangam and Thiruvanthipuram, Sri Parasara Badri Bhattar Swamy said in a discourse.

Thondaradipadizhwar says in 'Thirumala' that chanting the name of Lord Ranga will clear off our sins and will prevent us from entering hell. The great acharya, Sri Parasara Bhattar, says on our behalf that Lord Narayana suffered a lot to save the elephant Gajendra from the clutches of one crocodile but, "I am caught by five crocodiles in the form of the sensual faculties. Oh Lord Ranganatha! I do not know how much you would suffer to save me."

It is said that, as holy as the Ganges, the river Cauvery embraces both sides of the temple and washes the divine feet of the Lord everyday. It is good to take a dip in that river to cleanse our sins.

### TH CROSSWORD + 13877

(set by Avtaar)



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



## SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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2	4	6	5	1	7	8	3	9
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4</td								

## BERLIN

Jewish groups to protest against Roger Waters concert in Frankfurt



REUTERS

Several Jewish groups, politicians and an alliance of civil society groups are planning a protest against a concert by Roger Waters in Frankfurt on Sunday. They accuse the Pink Floyd co-founder of anti-Semitism. Waters has also drawn their ire for his support of the BDS movement, which calls for boycotts against Israel. AP

## MADRID

Spain votes in local elections that put pressure on PM Pedro Sanchez



AP

Spaniards were voting Sunday in local and regional polls seen as a barometer for a year-end general election which surveys suggest Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will lose, heralding a return of the right. The polls find Sanchez facing several obstacles such as voter fatigue, soaring inflation and falling purchasing power. AFP

## MOGADISHU

Somalia to introduce direct universal suffrage in 2024



AP

Somalia's government and federal member states said on Sunday that direct universal suffrage would be introduced with local elections set for June 2024. The move follows a pledge by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in March to end a complex indirect system in place since 1969. AFP

## BEIJING

China's homegrown passenger jet makes maiden commercial flight



AP

China's first domestically produced passenger jet made its maiden commercial flight on Sunday, a milestone event in the nation's decades-long effort to compete with Western rivals in the air. Beijing hopes the C919 commercial jetliner will challenge foreign models though many of its parts are sourced from abroad. AP

## One killed as Russia launches largest drone attack on Kyiv

The strike, using Iranian-made Shahed drones, comes as city prepared to mark its founding day; air defence claims to have shot down 40 drones deployed over the course of five hours

Associated Press

KYIV

**U**kraine's capital was subjected to the largest drone attack since the start of Russia's war, local officials said, as Kyiv prepared to mark the anniversary of its founding on Sunday. At least one person was killed.

Russia launched the "most massive attack" on the city overnight on Saturday with Iranian-made Shahed drones, said Serhi Popko, a senior Kyiv military official. The attack lasted more than five hours, with air defence reportedly shooting down more than 40 drones.

A 41-year-old man was killed and a 35-year-old woman hospitalised when debris fell on a seven-story nonresidential building and started a fire, Kyiv



**Damage control:** Rescuers put out the fire in an industrial facility after a Russian drone strike in Kyiv on Sunday. AP

the city's 1,541st anniversary.

The timing of the drone attacks was likely not coincidental, Ukrainian officials said.

"The history of Ukraine is a long-standing irritant for the insecure Russians," Ukraine's chief presidential aide, Andriy Yermak, said on Telegram.

"Today, the enemy decided to 'congratulate' the people of Kyiv on Kyiv Day with the help of their deadly UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles)," Mr. Popko said.

Russia's southern Belgorod region, bordering Ukraine, also came under attack from Ukrainian forces on Saturday, local officials said. Regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov reported Sunday that a 15-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy were wounded in the shelling.

Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. Ukraine's air force said that Saturday night was also record-breaking in terms of Shahed drone attacks across the country. Of the 54 drones launched, 52 were shot down by air defense systems.

In the northeastern Kharkiv province, regional Governor Oleh Syniehubov said a 61-year-old woman and a 60-year-old man were killed in two separate shelling attacks.

Kyiv Day marks the anniversary of Kyiv's official founding. The day is usually celebrated with live concerts, street fairs, exhibitions and fireworks. Scaled-back festivities were planned for this year,

## Biden, Republicans arrive at last minute agreement to raise U.S. debt ceiling

**Agence France-Presse**  
WASHINGTON

Top Republican leader Kevin McCarthy and President Joe Biden announced a deal on Saturday to raise the debt ceiling, dragging the United States from the precipice of default with only a few days left to go.

The Congress will vote on the deal to extend the government borrowing authority on Wednesday, just shy of the June 5 "X-date" when the Treasury estimates the government will no longer be able to pay its bills, plunging the world's biggest economy into turmoil.

"After weeks of negotiations we have come to an agreement in principle," Mr. McCarthy, the Speaker of the Republican-held House of Representatives, said.

Mr. McCarthy, who



**Sticking points:** Kevin McCarthy, left, said he would consult again with Joe Biden on Sunday about the drafting of the final Bill. AP

spoke with Mr. Biden on Saturday to close the deal, said he would consult again with the President on Sunday and oversee final drafting of the Bill. The House will "then be voting on it on Wednesday."

## Work left

Despite the breakthrough, Mr. McCarthy cautioned there was "still a lot of work to do" in getting Con-

gress to give its backing. Raising the debt ceiling allows the government to keep borrowing money and remain solvent.

According to U.S. media reports, the outline of the deal includes freeing up the debt ceiling for two years, meaning there will be no need for negotiations in 2024, when the nation is in full presidential election swing.

Republican A-G removed by GOP-led Texas House

**Associated Press**  
AUSTIN

Texas' Republican-led House of Representatives impeached State Attorney General Ken Paxton on Saturday on articles including bribery and abuse of public trust, in a sudden, historic rebuke of a GOP official who rose to be a star of the conservative legal movement despite years of scandal and alleged crimes. The impeachment triggers Mr. Paxton's immediate suspension from office.

The 121-23 vote constitutes an abrupt downfall for one of the GOP's most prominent legal combatants, who in 2020 asked the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn U.S. President Joe Biden's electoral defeat of Donald Trump. It makes Mr. Paxton only the third sitting official in Texas' nearly 200-year history to have been impeached.

Pak. ruling coalition rejects Imran's offer for talks

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's ruling coalition rejected former Prime Minister Imran Khan's offer for dialogue, saying that talks were held with politicians, not terrorists.

The development came as Mr. Khan constituted a seven-member team to hold talks with the government – for developing consensus on a date for elections. A crackdown launched after the May 9 violent protests has led to dozens of key leaders from Mr. Khan's PTI party jumping ship every day.

### A 'green' out of the blue



**Sudden spectacle:** A stretch of Venice's Grand Canal turned bright green on Sunday, prompting the police to investigate amid speculation about a stunt by environmentalists. Gondoliers waded through the phosphorescent waters, while tourists took photographs. AP

## U.K. journalists and publishers to boycott Tory conference over fees

**Sriram Lakshman**  
LONDON

Several bodies representing journalists and publishers in the U.K. have decided to boycott, for now, the U.K. Conservative Party's annual meeting in the autumn, following the party's decision to charge journalists fees for attendance. A coalition of industry bodies, including the Foreign Press Association (FPA), called the measure "undemocratic" and "detrimental" to societal interests.

"In a democratic society, all party conferences are of considerable political and public importance and, as such, there should be no charging barrier for

journalists to be able to act as the eyes and ears of the public by freely reporting at such events," a statement by the FPA, the News Media Association, the Society of Editors and the News Media Coalition said. The Conservative Party began charging fees for press attendance since last year.

**£137 fees**

Industry representatives have challenged the £137 conference fee. The decision by newsrooms to withhold from registering for this event was also being supported by the Press Gallery of Westminster political correspondents, according to the media coalition.

The statement cited the government's own recent contention that it was supporting press freedoms – a claim at odds with the reality of charging journalists access fees for its main annual event.

"As a government we are taking steps to increase press freedoms and make sure journalists can do their jobs effectively," Lucy Frazer, a government minister in charge of the media, sports and culture portfolio, told the Enders Media & Telecoms Conference last week, as per the statement.

No other political party in the U.K. charges journalists fees for accreditation, the coalition said.

## Justine Triet becomes only the third woman to win Palme d'Or at Cannes

**Agence France-Presse**  
CANNES

A tense courtroom drama about a writer accused of her husband's murder took the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival on Saturday, capping a strong year for women filmmakers.

French director Justine Triet became only the third woman ever to win the festival's top prize with the icy tale *Anatomy of a Fall*, led by a riveting performance from German actress Sandra Hüller.

Hüller used her acceptance speech to slam the government of President Emmanuel Macron for the "shocking" way it imposed a law increasing the retirement age in France.

But she said she was "deeply touched."

"I am very pleased to be the third woman who has gotten this prize – things are truly changing and for the best," she told reporters.

**Record for women**

There were a record seven women among the 21 entries competing at Cannes this year, and many featured complex female characters.

*Anatomy of a Fall* included a standout performance by "Messi" – the border collie who plays a pivotal role in the film, and won the Palm Dog award a day earlier.

Though Hüller did not win an award – Cannes traditionally only gives one

prize per film – she was arguably the big winner on the night since she also starred in *The Zone of Interest*, based on the book by Martin Amis and directed by Britain's Jonathan Glazer, which took the runner-up Grand Prix.

The harrowing and unique look at the private life of a Nazi family at the Auschwitz concentration camp never shows the horrors of the camp directly, leaving them implied by disturbing background noises and small visual details.

Hüller chillingly portrays the wife of the Nazi commandant, happily tending her garden and boasting she is "the queen of Auschwitz".

The jury of nine film

professionals was led by last year's winner Ruben Ostlund (*Triangle of Sadness*), and included Hollywood stars Paul Dano and Brie Larson.

"We had a lot of intense, fun discussions," Ostlund told reporters, adding that

but seemed to leave most local pundits cold. He thanked his star Juliette Binoche, saying she was "quite extraordinary in the film".

Best actor went to Japanese Koji Yakusho for *Perfect Days*. He thanked German director Wim Wenders for creating "a magnificent character" in the touching tale about a Tokyo toilet cleaner with a complex backstory.

There was a surprise choice for best actress in Turkey's Merve Dizdar for *About Dry Grasses*, the latest from previous Palme-winner Nuri Bilge Ceylan.

Presenting the Palme d'Or, Hollywood legend Jane Fonda recalled the first time she came to Cannes in 1963.

"There were no women directors competing at that time and it never even occurred to us that there was something wrong with that," she said.

"We have come a long way."

The third-place Jury Prize went to Aki Kaurismaki for his sweet, deadpan and very Finnish film *Fallen Leaves* that garnered huge cheers from festivalgoers.

**Array of seniors**  
The 76th edition of the world's leading film get-together was a particularly glitzy affair, with world premieres for the new Indiana Jones and Martin Scorsese films playing out of competition.

Glazer received his

award from Quentin Tarantino and 97-year-old cult director Roger Corman.

The festival often felt like a dream retirement home populated by ageing male icons from Hollywood. Harrison Ford, 80, got weepy when he received an honorary Palme d'Or ahead of the premiere of *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*.

Scorsese, also 80, said he was happy to stay out of the competition with his Native American epic *Killers of the Flower Moon*, joking to AFP: "It's time for others. I got to go. There are kids around."

European auteurs Ken Loach, 86, Marco Bellocchio, 83, and Victor Erice, 82, all brought new films to the festival.



**Big feat:** Justine Triet poses with The Palme D'Or Award at the 76th annual Cannes film festival in France on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

THE HINDU

# MONEYWISE

**ASKUS**

**K. Nitya Kalyani**

**Q** I am 31 years old and working in a MNC. My company is providing me health insurance cover of ₹6 lakh per year. Since there is no free cover for my parents, I have opted for voluntary contribution and pay ₹39,000 per year for both of them from my pocket. My mother has diabetes. However, as this is corporate policy, pre-existing diseases are covered.

After a few years, if my employment is over or if I plan to quit the job for some reason, there won't be any active health insurance. If I purchase one then, there won't be coverage for pre-existing diseases from day one and we need to be on waiting period.

Adding to it, the premium amount will also be too high. I would like to hear your suggestion on the following: Should I stop the corporate health insurance and purchase one in the outside market now and continue with that (this is my third company, I may switch jobs again after a few years). Also please advise a preferred website to buy long-term health and term insurance policies, without visiting the insurance company's branch office.

Also, I am looking to purchase a term insurance for myself, please let me know your views on the riders one can select. Will it be fine if I opt for "With Return of Premium" in term insurance? Till what age can one take term insurance?

**MANICKABABU S.**

**A** When you have employer-provided health insurance, you should opt for it and use it as the anchor for your coverage. Since you plan to change jobs in the future, your idea of taking separate health insurance is wise, but if you cancel the corporate policy now, the new policy will cover you for pre-existing conditions only after the waiting period. This is clear in the case of your mother who will lose the diabetes cover she has now for four years or so.

Health insurance premium rates go by age slabs. Whether a new policy or old, at a particular age, a specified premium will apply. There could be loading, of course. In life insurance, on the other hand, it is age at inception of the policy that is a factor in the premium rate, so the higher emphasis on buying a policy earlier. There are multiple platforms for buying insurance online with efficient and interesting features to compare across policies and insurance companies and buy with a click of a button from the comfort of your home. You can check out the leading portals and see what they offer and don't forget to check what the insurance companies' own websites offer before finalising your buy. While you are at it, take an e-insurance account so you have your policy details on the cloud and at your fingertips, with renewals, changes, and all administration and even claims and renewals made that much easier. Any feature in an insurance policy comes with a cost attached. Your question is whether to take a term policy with a return of premium option and the reply to that is please check the extra premium for that option, see if the logic appeals to you and then make your choice.

The age up to which you should take term insurance depends on your financial obligations and when your dependents will be financially independent.

If your children are going to be well established financially when you are 70 years-old, then choose 70 with a few added years for buffer if you want. You can opt for an older age as well, just remember that you will be paying premium throughout the term you choose.

(The author is a business journalist specialising in insurance and corporate history)

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

# Growth vs. value, the age-old investing debate

Lack of sufficient growth stocks poses a challenge for Indian investors who have to contend with value stocks that come with low price-to-earnings ratios and lower profit margins

## CHOOSING STOCKS

**Anand Srinivasan  
Sashwath Swaminathan**

**T**here are two broad classifications for long-term equity investments: growth and value stocks.

Growth stocks are those that offer higher-than-market average growth in terms of earnings and revenue. They are generally characterised by high price-to-earnings ratios (reflecting the higher growth rate), low-cost structures due to network effects (hence lower capital requirements), low dividend yields and lower reliance on debt to fund capital requirements.

Therefore, these companies tend to have manageable debt levels and raise capital predominantly through issuing equity rather than borrowing (lower cost of capital due to low dividend yields).

### Value companies

On the other hand, value companies tend to have higher working-capital requirements, greater reliance on borrowing to fund capital requirement, high dividend yields and low price-to-earnings ratios. They generally have lower profit margins than growth companies due to many factors. Value companies tend to operate in commodity markets (resembling perfect competition) rather than the technology industry leading to low product differentiation reducing pricing power (thus, lowering profit margins). Companies in India such as Tata Steel, Tata Chemicals and Vedanta fall in this category.

These firms would prefer to fund capital

requirement through borrowing rather than equity due to high capital requirements stemming from capital expenditure and working capital necessities.

### Some exceptions

There are, however, exceptions to the rule with firms such as ITC, which have low debt and an average growth rate.

Over the past decade, the interest rate in the U.S.



had been next to zero leading to treasuries not being a viable option to yield returns. Value stocks, with low price-to-earnings ratio and high dividend yields, proved to be a way of capturing higher returns.

Growth stocks showed remarkable increases in revenue and profit but did not pose a great alternative to treasuries due to the low dividend yield. Moreover, growth stocks require one to engage in discounted cash-flow valuations (covered in an earlier piece), which prove to be scarcely reliable. A change in the discount rate by a few basis points leads to vastly differing company valuations. Additionally, it is difficult to accurately predict a

company's growth percentages over a few years. Value stocks' earnings are not volatile and tend to be more predictable than growth stocks. Therefore, value stocks seemed like an attractive prospect to an investor looking to produce reliable returns.

### Rising interest rates

However, interest rates in the recent past have been rising, leading to the real debt of value companies to increase. The effect of rising interest rates on value companies can be seen as twofold.

The first effect is the curbing of inflation erosion in their value of debt (lower commodity prices), and the second effect is lower profit from muted economic activity. On the other hand, growth companies are not as adversely affected due to low borrowings and high free cash flow, notwithstanding the rise in interest rates.

In the past year, the U.S. has seen a resurgence in growth stocks despite layoffs and a decline in the performance of value stocks. The case for Indian investors stays entirely different to those in the U.S.

Indian investors will find they do not have access to the growth companies mentioned above. Most high-growth companies in India (apart from a handful such as Infosys and Dr. Reddy's in the past) tend to

prefer private equity funding rather than a public listing.

For example, companies such as Paperboat have made headway in the FMCG industry over the past decade and have chosen to remain privately owned. The supposed growth companies publicly listed in India, such as Nykaa, have done extremely poorly since listing. Others such as Zomato and Paytm are not worth mentioning, with negative profit and cash flows. Another problem Indian investors find is a lack of transparency in financial documents such as balance sheets (with some exceptions such as ITC and Tata firms), leading to poor decision-making.

The Indian retail investor, therefore, is left playing a value game without wanting to do so and must navigate a minefield of non-transparent balance sheets. However, the lack of access to growth stocks does not imply a lack of returns for the investor.

One must heed the advice of the erudite investor Howard Marks who stated that any asset is an excellent asset at the right price. The Indian investor stands to make exceptional returns through prudent and meticulous analysis of stocks and patiently waiting for appropriate prices.

(Anand Srinivasan is a consultant while Sashwath Swaminathan is a research assistant at Aionion Investment Services)

# Spending vs. saving

## COVERNOTE

There is always a battle between the desire to spend and the urge to save. Saving for the future is behaviourally difficult. However systematic investment plans help address this issue

**Venkatesh Bangarawuswamy**

Spending seems natural whereas saving appears to be a forced habit. Here, we discuss the primary reason why saving for the future is behaviourally difficult. We also show how systematic investment plans (SIPs) help us address this issue.

### Present happiness

Our primary goal is to improve our (financial) well-being. All decisions we take are geared towards increasing pleasure or reducing pain, as this is the optimal way to improve our well-being. It is in this context you must consider spending and savings habits.

Spending on products and services today gives us immediate happiness. Saving today can provide happiness in the future. But saving is likely to cause pain today because you must spend less today to save for the future. Also, happiness in the future depends on how skillful and lucky you are with your investments, as the outcome of your savings decision is uncertain.

Suppose you save continually to make a down payment for a house in the future. Your investment may not generate the required return to achieve the goal. Or your investment may generate the desired return, but housing inflation could push up property prices. Therefore, the amount you accumulate in investment account may not be enough to make the down payment. You understand the uncertainty of the outcome. Your brain, therefore, battles between present and future happiness, and the former mostly triumphs over the latter. Small wonder we are biased towards spending. Online shopping and electronic payments have only made it easier for us to spend.

There is an optimal way to spend and save. You must set aside savings first through SIPs (auto debits to bank account) and then spend the rest from your post-tax monthly income.

### Conclusion

All of us desire to continually improve our well-being. So, it is tempting to increase spending. But, it is more important to increase savings every year. This is because you must reduce equity investments in your goal-based portfolio to reduce the risk of losses as your approach the end of the time horizon for a life goal.

Because bond investments earn lower returns, you must save more in bonds to match the higher expected return on equity investments.

This higher savings must come from the incremental increase in your monthly income every year. Therefore, increase your SIP amount every year and spend only the rest of the increase in your annual income.

(The author offers training programs for individuals to manage their personal investments)

## Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
<b>Small Finance Banks</b>				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.75	8.00	7.20
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.60	7.60	7.15	7.10
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.20	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.50	6.00	6.75	6.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	8.41	7.50	8.00	8.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.15	7.25	7.35	6.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	9.10	6.85	7.25	9.10
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	6.50	7.20	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.25	7.75	8.25	7.50
<b>Private Sector Banks</b>				
Axis Bank	7.10	6.75	7.00	7.00
Bandhan Bank	8.00	7.25	7.25	5.85
CSB Bank	7.25	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	6.25	6.50	6.50
HDFC Bank	7.10	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.75	6.75	7.75	7.00
IndusInd Bank	7.75	7.50	7.75	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.10	7.10	6.50	6.50
Karnataka Bank	7.30	7.00	6.50	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.50	7.00	7.00	6.25

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
<b>Public Sector Banks</b>				
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.20	7.10	6.50	6.20
Nainital Bank	7.05	6.70	6.25	5.75
SBM Bank India	7.80	7.05	7.65	7.65
South Indian Bank	7.40	6.60	6.50	6.00
City Union Bank	7.00	6.75	6.50	6.25
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.25	7.25	6.50	6.50
<b>Foreign Banks</b>				
Deutsche Bank	7.75	7.00	7.75	7.25
HSBC Bank	7.50	4.00	7.00	6.00

## Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.)		
	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
(In %)			
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India*	8.50-10.15	8.50-10.05	8.50-10.05
Bank of Baroda	8.60-10.65	8.60-10.65	8.60-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.50-10.75	8.50-10.95	8.50-10.95
Punjab National Bank	8.65-9.60	8.60-9.50	8.60-9.50
Bank of India	8.45-10.75	8.45-10.75	8.45-10.75
Canara Bank	8.85-11.25	8.85-11.25	8.85-11.25
UCO Bank	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30

THE HINDU

# EDUCATIONPLUS

GET THE EDGE Follow us [facebook.com/thehindu](https://facebook.com/thehindu) [twitter.com/the\\_hindu](https://twitter.com/the_hindu) [instagram.com/the\\_hindu](https://instagram.com/the_hindu)**Aruna Sankaranarayanan**

**C**ollege is a time of seeking and searching. As students gain deeper insights into various fields, forge bonds with different kinds of people, and craft identities as individuals, they are likely to encounter the harsher realities of life. While they may have been largely shielded from discomfiting and disturbing information in school, students gain a more adult and uncensored perspective in college.

However, given that mental health issues among young people are more widespread nowadays, should colleges offer trigger warnings before introducing disturbing topics such as caste discrimination, domestic violence, genocide, or psychiatric conditions?

I teach a hybrid course for educators who would like to upskill themselves and one of the online lectures focused on mental health issues. Before launching into a discussion, I put up a slide saying that if anyone found the content disturbing, they could take a break and return after some time. The session went smoothly though I wasn't aware if any participant needed to avail of a break.

**During role play**

Subsequently, during face-to-face classes with the same group, participants formed smaller groups for an assignment requiring

them to write a script and perform role play.

The topic revolved around emotional and behavioural issues that crop up in a classroom. After discussing in small groups, the class reconvened and each group performed.

I didn't notice anything was amiss until the debriefing session at the end when one group confessed that it had a tough time, as two members became very emotional while recounting their own personal experiences during the discussion. Though the members felt they had a very productive exchange with each other, their role-play didn't capture the depth of their earlier discussion.

While I could have given a trigger warning at the beginning of the session, I am not sure whether this would have changed the outcome.

In an article in *The New York Times*, Katherine Rosman quotes Amna Khalid, a professor of history at Carleton College, who believes that trigger warnings are "ineffective" in addressing students' mental health concerns.

I also told the participants that, as they were all adult learners, they could have explained what had transpired before performing the role-play. This would have been an excellent opportunity for the class to practice what we had been discussing: handling socio-emotional issues in a classroom as and when they arise.

Recently, Cornell University decided that pro-

&lt;/div

**MUSCLEMAN**

**Maxwell has the highest strike rate in IPL 2023**



Glenn Maxwell has scored 400 runs at an impressive strike rate of 183.49, which is the highest amongst batters with a minimum of 200 runs in IPL 2023. The only other player with a 180-plus strike rate is Suryakumar Yadav (181.14). Scoring runs at a quick pace is an essential aspect of T20s.

**BIG MATCH PLAYER**

**Gill will emulate Virat, Rohit and Dhoni, says Suresh Raina**



Former India cricketer Suresh Raina heaped high praise on Shubman Gill for his knock in Qualifier 2. "I loved his body language, his self-confidence, self-belief and the calmness we saw.... whenever we have big games, he will perform as Virat, Rohit, and M.S. Dhoni have," said Raina.

**SUPER HIT**

**Dhoni's No. 7 CSK jersey in great demand this season**



M.S. Dhoni's presence in the CSK team has filled venues all over the country this season and the Narendra Modi Stadium was expecting a grand finale on Sunday before rain pushed it to Monday. Sharif, a T-shirt seller, said: "Last year it was just [Hardik] Pandya jerseys that were sold but this time Dhoni's No. 7 shirt is equally in demand."

**VITAL COGS**

**Kohli and Rohit are key to India's chances in WTC Final: Hussey**



Michael Hussey feels it is "hard to see past Virat Kohli" if India is to win the World Test Championship final against Australia at the Oval in London from June 7. Besides Kohli, skipper Rohit Sharma will be key to India's chances in the WTC final, the former Australia batter said. Hussey did not pick a favourite for the one-off game.

# Final runs into rough weather, to be played today

Unrelenting rain forces the match to the reserve day, leaving the fans disappointed; the same playing conditions as it was for the original day will apply

**IPL-16**

**N. Sudarshan**  
AHMEDABAD

**T**orrential rains led to the postponement of the Indian Premier League final between Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings to Monday.

Dark clouds started hovering around the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday an hour-and-a-half before the scheduled start time of 7.30 p.m.

**Scurrying for cover**  
And within 30 minutes, fans who had nearly filled three-fourths of the humongous stadium, went scurrying for cover, as a heavy downpour, accompanied by strong winds, lashed the premises.

The rain eased up at around 9 p.m., and much to the supporters' joy, the covers went off and players trooped on to the turf for their warm-ups.

**Miniature pools**  
But their hopes of some cricketing action were quickly dashed as heavens opened up again, and the unrelenting rain lasted well into the night, turning vast swathes of the ground into miniature pools.

For Monday, the same playing conditions as they were for the original day of the final will apply.

In case there is a weather disruption again – a few forecasts are predicting a 30% chance of precipitation – the final can start as late as 9.35 p.m. without any reduction in the number of overs.

A five-overs-a-side contest can begin at 12.06 a.m. (Tuesday).

According to IPL's Match Playing Conditions Briefing Note – circulated for the 2022 edition but not available in the public forum for 2023 – in the eventuality of there being no chance of holding even a five-overs-a-side match on the reserve day, the destination of the trophy can be decided via a Super Over, conditions permitting.

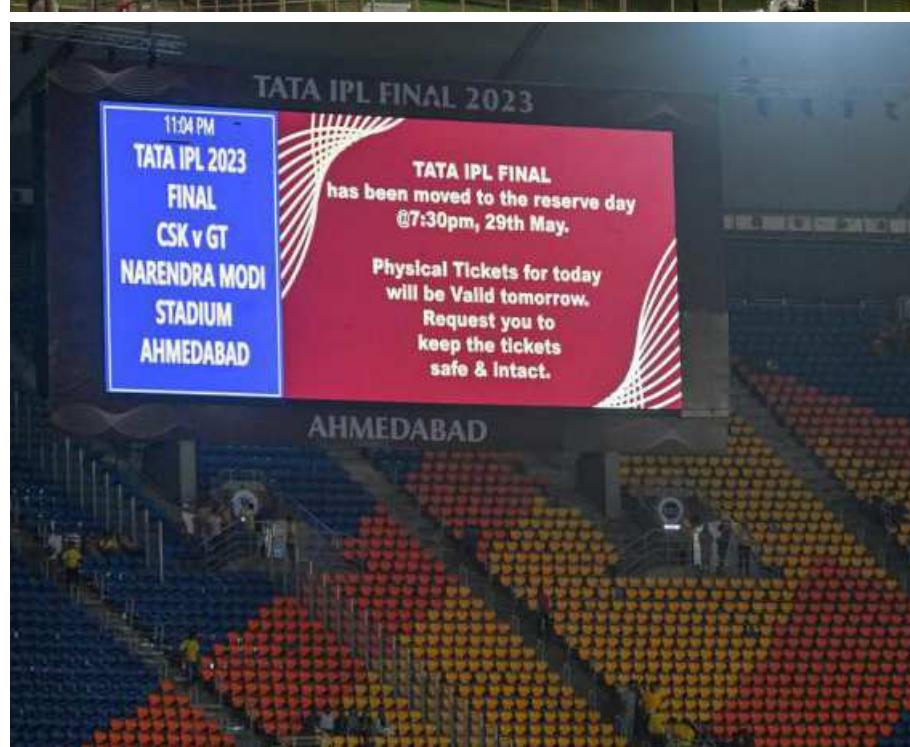
If there is no play, GT will be declared champion by virtue of having finished ahead of CSK in the league table (20 points to 17).

**Fair and square**  
Those thousands of fans, who waited well into the night to catch a glimpse of their favourite cricketers dazzle under the night sky, will definitely want the title to be decided fair and square, and on the pitch.

"Fans who had their tickets for the Tata IPL Final on May 28 will now be able to enter the stadium with their existing physical tickets on May 29," a statement from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said.



A STYLISH GAMECHANGER.  
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**Dampener:** Rain had the final say as the summit clash was called off even as the fervent hopes of the fans at least for a truncated game were dashed. K.R. DEEPAK

# Rayudu, winner of five IPL titles, decides to quit; Monday's final his last



**Pulling his weight:** Known for his big-hitting abilities, Rayudu, who was part of five successful campaigns, played a pivotal role in the middle-order for Mumbai Indians and Super Kings. AFP

**S. Dipak Ragav**

CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings batter Ambati Rayudu on Sunday announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League hours before the start of the final which was eventually forced into a reserve day owing to rain.

In a 14-year career, the 37-year-old played 203 matches since making his debut for Mumbai Indians in 2010. Rayudu was bought by Super Kings in 2018 and again in the mega auction held before the 2022 season.

**3 with MI, 2 with CSK**  
The former India cricketer is one of the most decorated players in the league's history, having been part of five title-winning campaigns; three titles with Mumbai (2013, 2015, 2017) before adding two more with the Chennai side (2018, 2021).

Known for his big-hit-

**Rayudu's IPL numbers**

Seasons: 14   Playoffs: 11
Finals: 8   Trophies: 5
Matches: 203   Innings: 186
Runs: 4239   HS: 100*
Sr: 127.29   50s: 22   100s: 1
For MI (2010-2017)
Matches: 114
Inns: 107   Runs: 2416
HS: 81*   50s: 14   100s: 0
For CSK (2018-2023)
Matches: 89
Inns: 79   Runs: 1913
HS: 100*   50s: 8   100s: 1



COMPILED BY MAITHREYI S

beaten 100 (62b, 7x4, 7x6) in Pune. Besides his abilities with the bat, Rayudu has donned the big gloves a few times.

**Vital cameos**  
This year, while Rayudu has not been in the best of form, he has played a few vital cameos and has primarily been used as an Impact Player. After being snubbed for the 2019 World Cup, Rayudu called it quits from all forms of cricket before deciding to play in the IPL and domestic competitions.

Last year, midway through the season, he tweeted that 2022 would be his final season before he was coaxed out of the decision by the Super Kings management.

His knocks against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the two league games that year were among the best of his career in the competition. It was against SRH that Rayudu recorded his highest score, smashing an un-

ting abilities, Rayudu has played a vital role in the middle-order for Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings.

His most successful outing came in 2018 when he smashed 602 runs for CSK.

That season, he often opened the innings and forged a terrific partner-

ship with Shane Watson as the two powered Super Kings to its third IPL title.

His knocks against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the two league games that year were among the best of his career in the competition.

It was against SRH that Rayudu recorded his highest score, smashing an un-

## IN BRIEF



## New mum Svitolina wins first title since comeback

Former World No. 3 Elina Svitolina completed a winning return from maternity leave on Saturday by lifting her 17th WTA trophy in Strasbourg. The Ukrainian, who returned to action last month after more than a year away, swept past Russian Anna Blinkova, 6-2, 6-3.



## Paris St. Germain claims a record 11th Ligue 1 crown

Paris Saint-Germain clinched a French record 11th league title on Saturday as Lionel Messi scored in a 1-1 draw away at Strasbourg. The result gave PSG an unassailable four-point lead over second-placed Lens with one match of the season remaining. PSG moved ahead of the previous record of 10 titles set by Saint-Etienne in 1981 and which it equalled a year ago. It is PSG's ninth title in the last 11 seasons.

## Rishab loses final to top seed

Top seed Benjamin Lock of Zimbabwe proved too good as he beat Rishab Agarwal 6-2, 6-2 in the final of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Sunday.

**The result:** \$15,000 ITF men, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:  
**Final:** Benjamin Lock (Zim) bt Rishab Agarwal 6-2, 6-2.



## Jarry downs Dimitrov in straight sets to win in Geneva

Outsider Nicolas Jarry beat Grigor Dimitrov 7-6(1), 6-1 in straight sets in the Geneva Open final on Saturday, sending him into next week's French Open bolstered by a clay court title.

## Crouser smashes world shot put record with 23.56m throw

Olympic and world shot put champion Ryan Crouser smashed his own world record on Saturday, throwing 23.56m at the Los Angeles Grand Prix track and field meeting. Crouser obliterated his previous mark of 23.37m set in Eugene in 2021.



## Haaland is player of the season and FWA's footballer

Erling Haaland, the Norwegian, was named Premier League 'Player of the Season' after a combined voting involving the general public, the captains of all 20 Premier League clubs and experts. Haaland had an incredible debut season in which he scored 36 goals in 35 games. City players have now won the award four years in a row. Haaland was also named the Football Writers' Association 'Footballer of the Year'.

## LIVE TELECAST

**Roland Garros:** Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards

CM YK

## Prannoy ends a long wait for a title

The Indian claims his maiden BWF World Tour title with a three-game win over Weng Yamaguchi takes the honours in the women's section

## MALAYSIA MASTERS

**Press Trust of India**  
KUALA LUMPUR

**H**.S. Prannoy ended a six-year-long title drought with a three-game win over China's Wang Hong Yang in a pulsating men's singles finals at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here on Sunday.

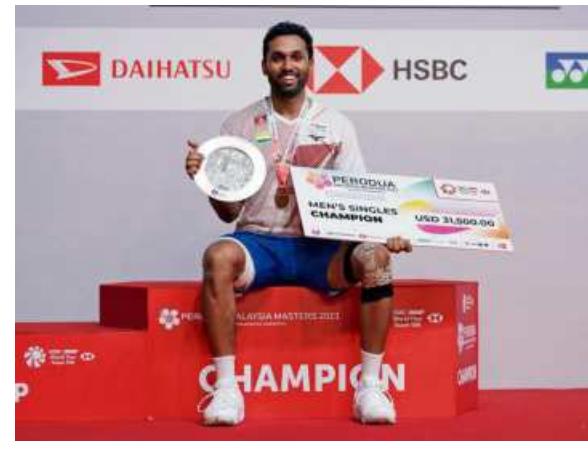
The 30-year-old Indian showed great composure and resolve during a 94-minute battle to notch up a 21-19, 13-21, 21-18 victory against China's World No. 34 Weng, a 2022 Asian Championships bronze medallist.

The win not only helped Prannoy claim his maiden BWF World Tour title but also the first singles crown of the year for India. He was also richer by \$31,500 for being the champion.

This week, Prannoy gave ample display of his physical and mental fortitude as he outfoxed World No. 5 Chou Tien Chen, All England champion Li Shi Feng and Japan's Kenta Nishimoto in three games.

On Sunday, all his hard work paid off as the World No. 9 Prannoy dished out a superlative performance against the 23-year-old from China in a battle of attrition.

His plan was simple: keep up a consistent attack, retrieve everything and wait for the opponents



**Happy tidings:** Joy is writ large on Prannoy's face as he poses with his reward for claiming the Malaysian Masters crown on Sunday. AP

tude as he outfoxed World No. 5 Chou Tien Chen, All England champion Li Shi Feng and Japan's Kenta Nishimoto in three games.

On Sunday, all his hard work paid off as the World No. 9 Prannoy dished out a superlative performance against the 23-year-old from China in a battle of attrition.

His plan was simple: keep up a consistent attack, retrieve everything and wait for the opponents

mistake. The Indian used his angled returns to create chances and his economical court mobility helped him to keep pace with his quick left-handed opponent through the exciting final clash.

## Yamaguchi reigns

In the women's singles final, top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan got the better of Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung 21-17, 21-7.

## Indian junior women leave for Asia Cup

**ANI**  
BENGALURU

The Indian Junior women's hockey team left for the prestigious Junior Asia Cup from the Kempegowda International Airport on Sunday morning.

The Junior Asia Cup, a qualifying event for the FIH Junior World Cup, is scheduled to begin on June 2 in Kakamigahara, Japan.

The Indian team will be up against Korea, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan in Pool-A during the group stage. Pool-B consists of hosts Japan, China, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong China and Indonesia.

The semifinals will be held on June 10 while the final will be on June 11.

## Northern Lights obliges in feature

**BENGALURU:** P. Shroff-trained Northern Lights (P.S. Chouhan up) won the Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Sunday (May 28). The winner is owned by Mr. & Mrs. Vijay B. Shirke, Mr. Jay V. Shirke & Darashaw Bloodstock Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Girish Mehta & Mr. K. Mahaveer Chand. Trainer: Parvati Byramji.

**4. RAMKIRPAL PLATE (DIV. II):** OPUS ONE (S. Saqlain) 1, The Omega Man (Rayan) 2, Air Display (Vivek) 3 and Foi (Vishal Bunde) 4. 1/2, 2/1 and 2/4. Im, 14.08s. 226 (w), 12, 21 and 32 (p), SHP: 61, THP: 69, FP: 279, Q: 108, Trinella: 2,842, Exacta: 25,868. Favourite: Opus One. Owner: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr. Jayendra. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

**5. V.T. VELU MEMORIAL TROPHY:** CHRISTOFLE (Trevor) 1, Place Vendome (Akshay K) 2, Splendido (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Ramiel (Hindu S) 4. 1-3/4, 1 and 5-1/4. Im, 37.83s. 313 (w), 10, 15 and 36 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 70, FP: 46, Q: 35, Trinella: 314, Exacta: 1,561. Favourite: Christofle. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. Vijay B. Shirke, Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Vispi R. Patel. Trainer: P. Shroff.

**6. JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR CUP:** NORTHERN LIGHTS (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Cool Rider (Zervan) 2, A Star Is Born (Yash) 3 and Imperial Blue (S. Saqlain) 4. 1-3/4, 1-1/4 and 1-3/4. Im, 23.09s (record time). 220 (w), 11, 25 and 18 (p), SHP: 81, THP: 56, FP: 147, Q: 144, Trinella: 785, Ex-

acta: 3,517. Favourite: Northern Lights. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. Vijay B. Shirke, Mr. Jay V. Shirke & Darashaw Bloodstock Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Dara K. Mehta & Mr. Bhupinder Singh S.S. Trainer: P. Shroff.

**7. BEAUTIFUL BABE PLATE (DIV. I):** NEIZIAH (P.S. Chouhan) 1, River Of Gold (Trevor) 2, Double Scotch (Akshay K) 2 and Pneuma (Hindu S) 4. Not run. Knight Defensor: 3-1/2, 5 and 2. Im, 25.39s. 317 (w), 10, 11 and 17 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 35, FP: 28, Q: 17, Trinella: 107, Exacta: 526. Favourite: Neiziah. Owners: Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, M/s. Deciding Factor LLP & Mr. S. Thiruvanukkarasu & Mrs. Rina Mahindra. Trainer: James McKeown.

**8. RAMKIRPAL PLATE (DIV. I): ALCIDES SYNERGY (A. Imran) 1, Seoul (Bhawani S) 2, Schafenberg (Rayan) 3 and Remontoir (A. Ramu) 4. 1-1/4, 1 and 1-1/2. Im, 13.40s. 315 (w), 11, 17 and 36. SHP: 48, THP: 87, FP: 46, Q: 44, Trinella: 817, Exacta: 2,407. Favourite: Alcides Synergy. Owners: Mr. Balasubramanya R, Mr. T. Chetan Prasad & Mr. Lohith Anand. Trainer: Neil Darashah. Jackpot: \$235 (512 tkts.). Runner-up: 59 (866 tkts.). Treble (i); 181 (50 tkts.); (ii): 63 (557 tkts.).**

## Jaiswal added as stand-by to India's squad



**Golden opportunity:** Jaiswal, who has been in prolific form, will be keen to grab the chance. FILE PHOTO: M. PERIASAMY

## WTC FINAL

**ANI**  
LONDON

Yashasvi Jaiswal has been added to the Indian squad for the upcoming World Test Championship (WTC) final as a stand-by player as Rituraj Gaikwad would be getting married on June 3, it was reported on Sunday.

In his absence, Jaiswal who holds a UK visa will be part of the Indian squad of the WTC final which will be held between June 7 to June 12 at Oval in England.

The Indian players left for the WTC Final in batches. India was a WTC finalist

## The confirmed squads:

**Australia:** Pat Cummins (Capt.), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Josh Inglis, Todd Murphy, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, and David Warner; **Reserves:** Mitchell Marsh and Matt Renshaw.

**India:** Rohit Sharma (Capt.), R. Ashwin, K.S. Bharat, Shubman Gill, Ravinda Jadeja, Virat Kohli, Ishan Kishan, Axar Patel, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Mohammad Shami, Mohammad Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Jaydev Unnatkar, and Umesh Yadav; **Reserves:** Yashasvi Jaiswal, Mukesh Kumar, and Suryakumar Yadav.

in the year 2021, but lost to New Zealand.

The result means India, with seven points from three matches, stays second in Pool-A behind Pakistan (same points) but is ahead on goal difference.

Japan, which beat Chinese Taipei 10-1 earlier on Saturday, is third with six points from three outings.

India had earlier thrashed Chinese Taipei 18-0 before beating Japan 3-1 in its second match.

Both teams came close to scoring quite a few times, but neither side was able to find the back of the net.

## India splits points with Pakistan, stays second in Pool-A

## HOCKEY

**Press Trust of India**  
SALALAH (OMAN)

India played out a thrilling 1-1 draw against Pakistan in their third Pool-A game to continue its unbeaten run in the men's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament here.

Sharda Nand Tiwari (24th minute) gave India the lead on Saturday night, but it was nullified by Basharat Ali in the 44th minute.

The result means India, with seven points from three matches, stays second in Pool-A behind Pakistan (same points) but is ahead on goal difference.

Japan, which beat Chinese Taipei 10-1 earlier on Saturday, is third with six points from three outings.

India had earlier thrashed Chinese Taipei 18-0 before beating Japan 3-1 in its second match.

Both teams came close to scoring quite a few times, but neither side was able to find the back of the net.

## Siva continues to dominate the pool

## Sports Bureau

NEW DELHI

Siva Sridhar of Jain University took his tally of medals to seven, including five gold, to headline swimming on Day Six of the Khelo India University Games 2023 on Sunday. Siva also set a new meet record in the 400m medley, completing in 4.37.21 minutes.

**Day Six Results: Football: Men:** Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam bt Sant Baba Bhag Singh 2-0; Adamas bt Panjab, Chandigarh 3-1. **Women: Guru Jambeshwar** bt Mumbai 6-0.

**Swimming: Men: 4x100m medley:** Jain (4:55.29), Jadvapur (5:05.99), Madras (5:13.68).

**Shooting: 10m Air Rifle Mixed team:** R. Karthik Sabari Raj (Madras), Anshika Gupta & Samarth Singh (DU), Mehuli Ghosh & Sriyaj Datta (Adams); **Trap Mixed team:** Manavadiya Singh Rathore & Kirti Gupta (Manav Rachna), Daksh Singh & Aashima Ahlawat (DU), Aditya Bhardwaj & Neeru.

**Wrestling: Greco-Roman: 97kg:** Shivayya Pujari (Rani Chenamma), Sonu (GNDU), Pushkar Sehrawat (RTM); **72kg:** Tarun Vats (RTM), Ravi (Guru Kashi University), Ram Pravesh Yadav (VBS Purvanchal); **59kg:** Manju (Delhi), Ankita (MDU), Priyanka (Bir Tikendrajit); **62kg:** Nitika (DU), Simran (Guru Jambeshwar University), Kajal (GNDU); **72kg:** Manju (GNDU), Nikita (Bharti Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya), Navita (MDU).

**Freestyle: 55kg:** Sweety (GNDU), Swati Sanjay Shinde (Shivaji University), Heenaben Salimabai Kalifa (Swarnim Gujarat Sports University); **59kg:** Manju (Delhi), Ankita (MDU), Priyanka (Bir Tikendrajit); **65kg:** Ayush Kumar (Chaudhary Charan Singh), Naveen (GNDU), Deepak Kumar (Guru Gobind Singh University); **74kg:** Deepak (GJU), Deepak (Kurukshetra), G.

**Women: 800m freestyle:** Preetha (Bangalore University), Anumati Choughale (Jain), Madhura BG (Visvesvaraya University); **200m butterfly:** Shristi Upadhyaya (Jadvapur University), Uttara Gogoi (DU), Kalyani Saxena (Sarvajaniq University); **200m freestyle:** Preetha (Bangalore), Pratyasha Ray (Utkal University), Maanyamukta Manesh (Madras University); **100m butterfly:** Shristi Upadhyaya (Jadvapur University), Uttara Gogoi (DU), Kalyani Saxena (Sarvajaniq University); **92kg:** Ashish (Kurukshetra), Ankit (Indira Gandhi University), Ajay (MDU).



## Walcott set to leave Southampton

**ANI**  
SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton's English winger Theo Walcott is set to leave as a free agent after spending nearly three years with the club. The 34-year-old took to Twitter to announce his final appearance for the Saints.

"Today marks my last appearance in a Saints shirt and I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone at @SouthamptonFC - it's a fantastic club with incredible people. I would like to wish the team and fans every success for the future. My aim is to continue playing and I'm looking forward to the next challenge..." Walcott wrote in his tweet.

## Mehuli Ghosh eyes a spot among the world's elite

## SHOOTING

**Kamesh Srinivasan**

NEW DELHI

Mehuli Ghosh is on a mission. The Youth Olympics silver med



**Unsportsmanlike:** Ukraine's Kostyuk, left, walked off without shaking hands with Sabalenka. AP

## Tsitsipas survives a Vesely scare

Kostyuk jeered after she honours her pledge not to shake hands with Sabalenka in protest at Russia's invasion of Ukraine

### FRENCH OPEN

**Agence France-Presse**

PARIS

**S**tefanos Tsitsipas held off a spirited comeback from Jiri Vesely to reach the second round of the French Open on Sunday.

The Greek fifth seed won 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(7) on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Andrey Rublev, the seventh seed, defeated Laslo Djere of Serbia 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Rublev has made the quarterfinals in Paris on two occasions.

Earlier, Aryna Sabalenka eased into the second round with a straight-set win over Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk who honoured her pledge not to shake

hands with her Belarusian opponent, a decision greeted with jeers at Roland Garros.

World No. 2 Sabalenka came through 6-3, 6-2 in a match for which the build-up had been overshadowed by the continuing sporting fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

However, the 25-year-old Sabalenka was unfazed on Court Philippe Chatrier,

winning 10 of the last 12 games to reach the second round. At the conclusion of the match, Kostyuk walked quickly to her chair, ignoring her opponent even as Sabalenka performed a theatrical bow to the sparse crowd.

Eighth-seeded Greek Maria Sakkari fell at the first hurdle, losing 7-6(5), 7-5 to Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic.

(Swe) 7-5, 6-2, 6-4; 7-Rublev bt Djere (Srb) 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.  
**Women:** Frech (Pol) bt 29-Zhang (Chn) 6-1, 6-1; 2-Sabalenka bt Kostyuk (Ukr) 6-3, 6-2; Muchova (Cze) bt 8-Sakkari (Gre) 7-6(5), 7-5; Fernandez (Can) bt 21-Linette (Pol) 6-3, 1-6, 6-3; 28-Merten (Bel) bt Kuzmova (Svk) 6-1, 6-4; 24-Potapova bt Townsend (USA) 6-1, 6-2; 19-Zheng (Chn) bt Tamara Zidansek (Slo) 6-3, 6-1.

### IMPORTANT RESULTS

**First round: Men:** 13-Hurkacz (Pol) bt Goffin (Bel) 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; 11-Khachanov bt Lestienne (Fra) 3-6, 1-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-3; Kokkinakis (Aus) bt 20-Evans (Gbr) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; 24-Korda (USA) bt McDonald (USA) 6-4, 7-5, 6-4; Borges (Por) bt Isner (USA) 6-4, 5-7, 7-6(3), 4-6, 7-6(9); 5-Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Vesely (Cze) 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(7); 17-Musetti (Ita) bt Ymer

## Leicester and Leeds relegated



**In roaring form:** Osimhen now has scored 25 goals in the Serie A this season. AFP

### EURO LEAGUES

#### Agencies

LONDON

Leicester and Leeds were relegated from the Premier League as Everton won the fight for survival on a dramatic final day of the season on Sunday.

Everton's 1-0 win over Bournemouth condemned Leicester and Leeds to join already-relegated Southampton in the Championship next season.

Leicester, Premier League champion just seven years ago, crashed into the second tier for the first time since 2014 despite a 2-1 victory over West Ham. Leeds' three-year stay in the top-flight ended with a 4-1 defeat against Tottenham.

Napoli forward Victor Osimhen scored in each half but the Serie A champion was held to a 2-2 draw at Bologna. Napoli missed out on the opportunity to surpass its club record of 91 points in a season, set in 2017-18, and now has 87 with one match remaining. The league's leading scorer

Osimhen has now netted 25 goals this season.

#### The results:

**Premier League:** Arsenal 5 (Xhaka 11, 14, Saka 27, Jesus 58, Kiwior 78) bt Wolves 0; Aston Villa 2 (Luiz 8, Watkins 26) bt Brighton 1 (Undav 38); Brentford 1 (Pinnock 85) bt Manchester City 0; Chelsea 1 (Trippier 27-og) drew with Newcastle 1 (Gordon 9); Crystal Palace 1 (Hughes 66) drew with Nottingham 1 (Awoniyi 31); Everton 1 (Doucoure 57) bt Bournemouth 0; Leeds 1 (Harrison 67) lost to Tottenham 4 (Kane 2, 69, Porro 47, Moura 90+5); Leicester 2 (Barnes 34, Faes 62) bt West Ham 1 (Fornals 79); Manchester United 2 (Sancho 39, Fernandes 55) bt Fulham 1 (Tete 19); Southampton 4 (Ward-Prowse 19, Sulemana 28, 47; Armstrong 64) drew with Liverpool 4 (Jota 10, 73, Firmino 14, Gakpo 72).

**Serie A:** Bologna 2 (Ferguson 63, De Silvestri 84) drew with Napoli 2 (Osimhen 14, 54); Verona 1 (Gaich 62) drew with Empoli 1 (Magnani 90+6-og); Monza 0 lost to Lecce 1 (Colombo 90+11); Lazio 3 (Hysaj 4, Milinkovic-Savic 37, 89) bt Cremonese 2 (Galdames 54, Lazzari 58-og).

**On Saturday:** **Serie A:** Inter Milan 3 (Lukaku 1, Barella 3, Martinez 77) bt Atalanta 2 (Pasalic 36, Muriel 90+1).

**LaLiga:** Sevilla 1 (Mir 3) lost to Real Madrid 2 (Rodrygo 29, 69).

## It's Verstappen all the way; Alonso finishes second

### MONACO GP

**Reuters**  
MONACO

Double World champion Max Verstappen led a soggy and slippery Monaco Grand Prix from start to finish on Sunday to stretch his Formula One lead to 39 points and earn Red Bull a sixth win in as many races this season.

In a race livened up by a downpour after a procession of laps in dry conditions, Spaniard Fernando Alonso finished second for Aston Martin but a massive 27.9 seconds behind at the chequered flag.

Frenchman Esteban Ocon completed the podium in third place for Renault-owned Alpine, their first of the season, with Mercedes' seven-times World champion Lewis Hamilton fourth and taking a bonus point for fastest lap.

#### Super difficult

"That was a real Monaco," Verstappen said after a 78-lap race that lasted an hour and 48 minutes. "It was incredibly slippery and when you are that far in the lead you don't want to push too hard but also you don't want to lose too much time so it's quite difficult in that scenario."

"I clipped the wall a few times and it was super difficult out there. But that's Monaco."

The win was Verstappen's fourth of the season, second in Monaco and 39th of his career. Mexican teammate Sergio Perez, his closest title rival, started in last position after a qualifying crash and finished two



**Bull run:** Verstappen, who drove to his fourth win of the season, with Prince Albert II. AFP

laps down in 16th.

The only other driver not running at the finish was Haas' Kevin Magnussen, whose teammate Nico Hulkenberg was 17th in the team's 150th race and collected a five-second penalty for causing a collision with Williams' Logan Sargeant.

**The results:**  
Verstappen (Red Bull) 1:48.51.980; 2. Alonso (Aston Martin) +27.921s; 3. Ocon (Alpine) 36.990; 4. Hamilton (Mercedes) 39.062; 5. Russell (Mercedes) 56.284; 6. Leclerc (Ferrari) 61.890; 7. Gasly (Alpine) 62.362; 8. Sainz Jr. (Ferrari) 63.391; +1 lap: 9. Norris (McLaren); 10. Piastri (McLaren); 11. Bottas (Alfa Romeo); 12. de Vries (AlphaTauri); 13. Zhou (Alfa Romeo); 14. Albion (Williams); +2 laps: 15. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri); 16. Pérez (Red Bull); 17. Hülkenberg (Haas); 18. Sargeant (Williams); **DNF:** Magnussen (Haas); Stroll (Aston Martin).

**Standings: Drivers:** 1. Verstappen 144; 2. Perez 105; 3. Alonso 93; 4. Hamilton 69; 5. Russell 50.  
**Constructors:** 1. Red Bull Racing 249; 2. Aston Martin 120; 3. Mercedes 119; 4. Ferrari 90; 5. Alpine 35.

Some have the heart to make a change. Others, the eye to spot it.



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# Dream went up in smoke, but MI emerged stronger

After an insipid start followed by a roller-coaster ride to its campaign, Rohit's men made the most of a formidable batting line-up to reach Qualifier 2 where they finished second best to Hardik's side

## IPL-16

## Keerthana Shankar

Mumbai Indians has the legacy of being the most successful franchise in the Indian Premier League, the biggest T20 league in the world.

The recipe to such effective campaigns had been diligent scouting to pick uncapped players and calculated buys which added immense value to the roster. However, after a dominant run in the preceding two years, MI stumbled in the 2021 season, narrowly missing out on a playoffs spot because of an inferior net run rate compared to Kolkata Knight Riders.

When the mega auction came calling in 2022, MI's carefully curated strategy split at the seams. The franchise had to choose among its stalwarts, retaining Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah and Kieron Pollard. This meant it had to let go off a few members of its core squad such as Hardik Pandya, Quinton de Kock, Trent Boult and Ishan Kishan, though the last-named was bought back later for a whopping ₹15.25 crore. A greatly diminished purse resulted in a poor show for the remainder of the auction.

## Rock bottom

The 2022 season saw MI hit rock bottom when it went home with the wooden spoon. In spite of such a disappointing campaign, there was a silver lining – the discovery of Tilak Varma, a young middle-order batter who scored 397 runs (14 matches) and emerged the star in the absence of Suryakumar.

MI had a few tough calls to make during the auction preceding IPL 2023 and it did so with renewed vi-



**Takeaways:** Green justified his price tag with all-round performances, seamer Madhwal turned out to be the surprise packet of the bowling unit and Suryakumar played the aggressor role to perfection... factors that would have pleased skipper Rohit. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM, GETTY IMAGES, R.V. MOORTHY

gour. Once again it splurged, this time on Cameron Green, buying him for a colossal ₹17.25 crore. With 452 runs and six wickets (16 games) to his credit, the Australian all-rounder justified the move and proved a suitable replacement for the retired Pollard.

Despite the 2022 debacle, MI fans awaited the 16th season with much enthusiasm as they were promised the mouth-watering combination of Bumrah and Jofra Archer. The two have been among the best pacers of their generation and to see them bowl in

tandem would have been a sight to behold. However, injuries have plagued the former since mid-2022 and though the latter did make a comeback, he was but a shadow of his former self. This not only threw MI's bowling unit into disarray, but also the balance of the side.

Not surprisingly, MI's performance in the first two games was nothing short of shoddy. In the opening match against Royal Challengers Bangalore, Virat Kohli and Faf du Plessis effortlessly guided their side home with 22 balls to spare. Similarly,

Ravindra Jadeja and Ajinkya Rahane starred for long-standing rival Chennai Super Kings as it easily breached Fort Wankhede. Skipper Rohit turned up in the third game with a classy half-century, taking MI to victory against Delhi Capitals.

The biggest disappointment of the season till the fourth match, against KKR, was Suryakumar's form.

The swashbuckling batter,

ranked first in ICC's T20I

rankings, was struggling to

connect the ball and was

even out for a golden duck while scoring only 16 runs in three games.

For MI, the tipping point was Suryakumar's return to form. Despite Venkatesh Iyer's scintillating ton, Mumbai finally flaunted its batting muscle to cruise to victory in just 17.4 overs. The outfit registered its third straight win by defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad, courtesy a consummate bowling performance. Green was at the forefront with bat and ball.

The next two games – against Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans – did not end in jubilation for MI. On both occasions, Rohit's bowlers leaked too many

runs and the batters

couldn't save the side despite a valiant effort during chases.

However, in the next

game versus Rajasthan Royals where Yashasvi Jaiswal took the attack to the cleaners, the MI batters clinically gunned down a mammoth target of 213. MI charted a similar course against Kings in the return fixture.

Yet, when the team met CSK in the latter's home ground, MI once again faltered. With only four games left in the league phase, MI had to rally its troops to earn a berth in

the business end. The next two matches saw MI simply blow away RCB and GT. The momentum shifted against Lucknow Super Giants where the batters narrowly missed out on taking the team over the line. Now MI's playoffs chances did not rely only on a victory in its last game but also on the results of other fixtures.

But Green stamped his

authority with a fantastic

century in pursuit of 200

posted by SRH. When RCB

lost its last league game to

Shubman Gill's brilliance on a rain-addled day, MI

had achieved its first tar-

get. At the halfway stage, MI had won only three out of seven games. Seven more contests later, it had qualified for the playoffs in what was one of the most competitive editions ever.

MI met LSG at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in the Eliminator. Despite losing all its three previous encounters against Super Giants, this one turned out to be a walk in the park for Mumbai. Akash Madhwal demolished the Lucknow outfit, returning stupendous figures of five for five.

The next challenge was against the defending champion, Gujarat Titans, which MI had bested twice in three games before. What ensued was a breathtaking and majestic display by Gill who exposed the inconsistent bowling attack. It was ironic that Gill, whose century knocked out RCB, eliminated MI too!

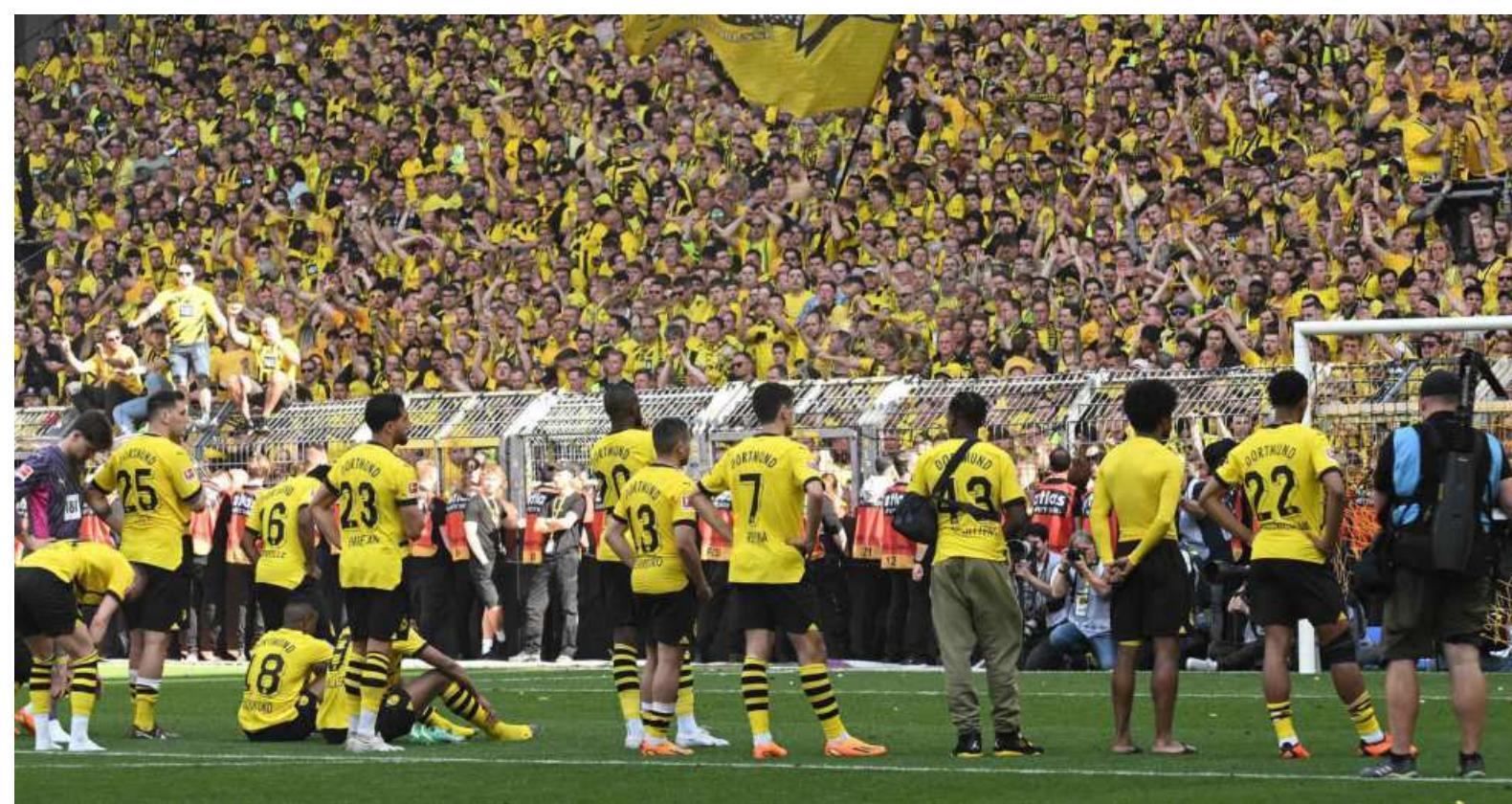
MI was in cruise mode in the first half of the chase but lost its way to fall short by a distance. Once a torch-bearer for the side, Hardik Pandya became MI's nemesis as his men extinguished the hopes of the five-time champion.

**Never write off**  
However, MI showed time and again why it has been a formidable side by displaying grit, resilience and determination. From lagging at the bottom to marching up the table, MI proved that it can never be written off. There have been lessons to learn from a season of contrasts.

The batters established a record for the most 200-plus totals (six times) by a team in a single edition while the bowlers conceded the most 200-plus totals (six again) in a season.

+  
But Green stamped his authority with a fantastic century in pursuit of 200 posted by SRH. When RCB lost its last league game to Shubman Gill's brilliance on a rain-addled day, MI had achieved its first tar-

## A case of so-near-yet-so-far for Borussia Dortmund once again



**Sea of emotions:** Dortmund's famed Yellow Wall gives its unflinching support to the players after a heartbreaking result, while coach Edin Terzic consoles his dejected wards. For Marco Reus, the outcome was particularly harsh as his decade long wait for the title with his boyhood club lingers. The clubs fans, too, will have to pick themselves up from this disappointment and come back stronger next season. AFP, GETTY IMAGES, REUTERS

## Aneesh Dey

Dortmund was nine points behind its archrival. The gap seemed too big to recover, given Munich's ruthless nature in the league. But Bayern lost the plot, owing largely to internal issues, which also saw coach Julian Nagelsmann getting sacked. Thomas Tuchel – his replacement – found the initial days with the Bavarians challenging.

**Run of wins**  
Beginning 2023 in style, Dortmund picked up 10 wins in a row in all competitions between January and the beginning of

March, and suddenly it was snapping at Bayern's heels. A run of favourable fixtures also aided the Black and Yellows.

Heading into the final three games, Dortmund was just a point behind Bayern. Terzic and his men were on the lookout for one slip-up from Bayern, and they got it when the defending champion succumbed to RB Leipzig. With a 3-0 win against Augsburg on the penultimate matchday, Dortmund climbed to the summit with a two-point lead going into the final day. Down 0-2 inside

The occasion was perfect. The famous 'Yellow Wall' – picturesque as ever – was booming and chants reverberated the feeling of hope around Signal Iduna Park. Making their way onto the pitch, surrounded by a sea of fans garbed in the fabled colours of Black and Yellow, the Dortmund players knew what to do. Three points at the end of 90 minutes against Mainz and another glorious chapter would be written in the history books.

But Dortmund got a harsh reality check on the final day. Down 0-2 inside

the first 25 minutes, it could only salvage a 2-2 draw. It would have been enough if Bayern had also dropped points against Cologne. When Dejan Ljubicic equalised to cancel Kingsley Coman's opener, it seemed like the stars had aligned for Dortmund, but Jamal Musiala's late strike tilted the bragging rights Bayern's way again.

The city of Dortmund, which has always been dominated by the working class, was primarily known for its production of coal and beer. When the wave of modernisation hit, the

city got all the amenities that one expects in the 21st Century.

People moved away from the traditional way of doing things and embraced the present. What remained unchanged was the dogged attitude – the most distinct character trait of the working class. Every day was a fight for survival, and harping on disappointments wasn't a luxury many had.

**Never give up**  
This 'never give up' attitude is something that has seeped into the core foun-

dation of the club. Dortmund did not give up on Sunday when it trailed Mainz, but it just wasn't its day – like it hasn't been on many occasions over the years.

Since Bundesliga's inception, Dortmund has won five times and been runner-up on 10 occasions while Bayern has a staggering 32 titles.

Over the years, the club from the Ruhr has seen its players move for greener pastures. Yet, during every match, the Black and Yellow banners fly high. The Wall stands tall.

It isn't certain if Dortmund will challenge for the title again next season or even come so close.

It could most likely lose another star player in Belhingham, who is poised for a Real Madrid move in the summer.

What is certain is that the fans would serenade their players on the opening day of next season just as passionately as they did after losing out on the title on Sunday.

The Bundesliga wasn't to be this season, but for Dortmund, next season might just be it.

## SCIENCE

# Antarctic alarm bells over slowing down of 'overturning circulation'

Antarctica drives a network of ocean currents that redistributes heat, carbon and nutrients around the globe. There are signs this circulation is slowing down decades earlier than predicted, with profound consequences for the earth's climate, sea level, and marine life.

Kathy Gunn  
Matthew England  
Steve Rintoul

## EXPLAINER

**A**ntarctica sets the stage for the world's greatest waterfall. The action takes place beneath the surface of the ocean. Here, trillions of tonnes of cold, dense, oxygen-rich water cascade off the continental shelf and sink to great depths. This Antarctic "bottom water" then spreads north along the sea floor in deep ocean currents, before slowly rising, thousands of kilometres away.

In this way, Antarctica drives a global network of ocean currents called the "overturning circulation" that redistributes heat, carbon and nutrients around the globe. The overturning is crucial to keeping Earth's climate stable. It's also the main way oxygen reaches the deep ocean.

But there are signs this circulation is slowing down and it's happening decades earlier than predicted. This slowdown has the potential to disrupt the connection between the Antarctic coasts and the deep ocean, with profound consequences for Earth's climate, sea level and marine life.

Our new research, published today in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, uses real-world observations to decipher how and why the deep ocean around Antarctica has changed over the past three decades. Our measurements show the overturning circulation has slowed by almost a third (30%) and deep ocean oxygen levels are declining. This is happening even earlier than climate models predicted.

We found melting of Antarctic ice is disrupting the formation of Antarctic bottom water. The meltwater makes Antarctic surface waters fresher, less dense, and therefore less likely to sink. This puts the brakes on the overturning circulation.

## Why does this matter?

As the flow of bottom water slows, the supply of oxygen to the deep ocean declines. The shrinking oxygen-rich bottom water layer is then replaced by warmer waters that are lower in oxygen, further reducing oxygen levels.

Ocean animals, large and small, respond to even small changes in oxygen. Deep-ocean animals are adapted to low oxygen conditions but still have to breathe. Losses of oxygen may cause them to seek refuge in other regions or adapt their behaviour. Models suggest we are locked in to a contraction of the "viable"



A view of the waters off the Antarctic landmass. TORSTEN DEDERICH/SPLASH

"viable" environment available to these animals with an expected decline of up to 25%.

Slowdown of the overturning may also intensify global warming. The overturning circulation carries carbon dioxide and heat to the deep ocean, where it is stored and hidden from the atmosphere. As the ocean storage capacity is reduced, more carbon dioxide and heat are left in the atmosphere. This feedback accelerates global warming.

Reductions in the amount of Antarctic bottom water reaching the ocean floor also increases sea levels because the warmer water that replaces it takes up more space (thermal expansion).

## Signs of a worrying change

Making observations of bottom water is challenging. The Southern Ocean is remote and home to the strongest winds and biggest waves on the planet. Access is also restricted by sea ice during winter, when bottom water forms.

This means observations of the deep Southern Ocean are sparse. Nevertheless, repeated full-depth measurements taken from ship voyages have provided glimpses into the changes underway in the deep ocean. The bottom water layer is getting warmer, less dense and thinner.

Satellite data shows the Antarctic ice sheet is shrinking. Ocean measurements taken downstream of regions of rapid melt show the meltwater is reducing the salinity (and density) of coastal waters.

These signs point to a worrying change, but there are still no direct observations of the deep overturning circulation.



More ice loss will mean more freshening, so we can anticipate the slowdown in circulation and deep oxygen losses will continue.

## What did the scientists do?

We combined different types of observations in a new way, taking advantage of each of their strengths.

The full-depth measurements collected by ships provide snapshots of ocean density, but are usually repeated about once a decade. Moored instruments, on the other hand, provide continuous measurements of density and speed, but only for a limited time at a particular location. We developed a new approach that combines ship data, mooring records, and a high resolution numerical simulation to calculate the strength of Antarctic bottom water flow and how much oxygen it transports to the deep ocean. Our study focused on a deep basin south of Australia that receives bottom water from several sources. These sources lie downstream of large meltwater inputs, so this region is likely to provide an early warning of climate-induced deep ocean changes.

The findings are striking. Over three decades, between 1992 and 2017, the overturning circulation of this region slowed by almost a third (30%) causing less oxygen to reach the deep. This slowing was caused by freshening close to

Antarctica. We found this freshening reduces the density and volume of Antarctic bottom water formed, as well as the speed at which it flows.

The observed slowdown would have been even greater if not for a short-lived climate event that drove a partial and temporary recovery of bottom water formation. The recovery, driven by increased salinity, further illustrates the sensitivity of bottom water formation to salinity changes on the Antarctic continental shelf. Worryingly, these observations show that changes predicted to occur by 2050 are already underway.

## What next?

Ice loss from Antarctica is expected to continue, even accelerate, as the world warms. We are almost certain to cross the 1.5 degree Celsius global warming threshold by 2027. More ice loss will mean more freshening, so we can anticipate the slowdown in circulation and deep oxygen losses will continue.

The consequences of a slowdown will not be limited to Antarctica. The overturning circulation extends throughout the global ocean and influences the pace of climate change and sea level rise. It will also be disruptive and damaging for marine life.

Our research provides yet another reason to work harder - and faster - to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(Kathy Gunn, CSIRO; Matthew England is Scientia Professor and deputy director of the ARC Australian Centre for Excellence in Antarctic Science, UNSW Sydney; and Steve Rintoul is CSIRO Fellow, CSIRO. This article is republished from The Conversation.)

## THE GIST

▼ Ocean animals, large and small, respond to even small changes in oxygen. Deep-ocean animals are adapted to low oxygen conditions but still have to breathe. Losses of oxygen may cause them to seek refuge in other regions or adapt their behaviour. Models suggest we are locked in to a contraction of the "viable" environment available to these animals with an expected decline of up to 25%.

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## BIG SHOT



The Yenakiyeve Iron and Steel Works in the Donetsk region. Experts have said that locating green-hydrogen facilities next to steel plants could wean the latter – a sector that emits 7% of the world's carbon – away from fossil fuels. REUTERS/ALEXANDER ERMOCHEV

## WHAT IS IT?

## Gravitational waves: ripples in space-time produced by the universe's celestial phenomena

Since time immemorial, humans have looked up at the universe and pondered its secrets. In the past few centuries, many of these secrets have started to unravel. One such mystery we began to pry apart very recently is the gravitational wave. Gravitational waves are ripples in space-time produced by some of the most intense phenomena in our universe.

In 1915, Albert Einstein's theory of relativity predicted the existence of gravitational waves. According to this theory, celestial objects such as black holes and neutron stars could send gravitational energy thrumming through the fabric of space-time in every direction, moving off at the speed of light.

Six decades later, in 1974, two scientists discovered two dead stars orbiting each other. After extensive research, they found that the stars were slowly moving towards one another at the exact rate predicted by the theory – a sign that they were losing energy in the form of gravitational waves.

These waves contain information about the events that emitted them, so studying them can give scientists a glimpse of distant cosmic affairs.

To study them, scientists developed the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO)



A black hole. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

in 1999. They directly observed gravitational waves for the first time in 2015, proving Einstein's theory. A third LIGO will be built in India this decade.

—Arkatapa Basu

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'.