



# Drishti IAS

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OVERLOOKED FACT

## The increasing subordination of Parliament

The issue of power and a dominant executive

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INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS

PM Prachanda arrives on 4-day visit to further ties

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Kejriwal to meet Stalin, Soren over ordinance

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Wednesday that he will meet his Tamil Nadu counterpart M.K. Stalin on June 1 and then proceed to Jharkhand the next day for a meeting with CM Hemant Soren to garner support against the Centre's ordinance on control over administrative services in the national capital.

Mr. Kejriwal has been travelling across the country to garner support from Opposition parties to defeat the ordinance when introduced as a Bill in the Rajya Sabha. So far, he has been assured of support from Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

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# GDP expanded 6.1% in 2022-23's last quarter

Full-year manufacturing GVA slid to 1.3% from 11.1%; only three of eight sectors, including farming and services, recorded higher GVA for FY23; despite Q4 uptick, consumption remained tepid

Vikas Dhotu  
NEW DELHI

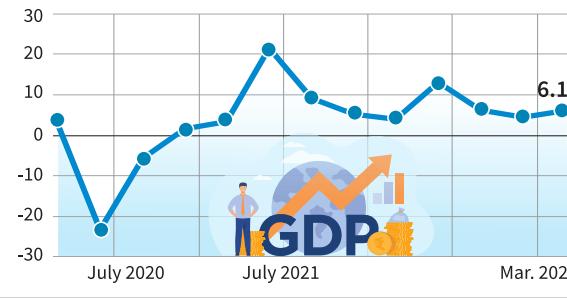
India's GDP growth accelerated to 6.1% in the January to March 2023 quarter, lifting the economy's expansion in 2022-23 to 7.2% from 7% estimated earlier, according to the provisional national income data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Wednesday.

The Gross Value Added (GVA) in the economy is reckoned to have risen 7% in 2022-23, compared with 8.8% in 2021-22. Manufacturing GVA growth slid to just 1.3% from 11.1% a year earlier, despite a 4.5% rebound in the final quarter after six months of contraction.

Economists noted that though several sectors delivered a positive surprise, especially in the last quar-

## Slow expansion

India's quarterly gross domestic product growth accelerated to 6.1% in the first three months of 2023, from 4.5% in the preceding quarter, while yearly economic growth for 2022-23 was 7.2%, compared with 9.1% in 2021-22, according to data released by the National Statistical Office



ter of the year, consumption remained tepid and the overall growth pattern remains uneven.

## Farm, services growth

The farm and services sectors buoyed economic outcomes as just three of eight broad economic activity

in 2021-22. The GVA of the trade, hotels, transport, and communication sectors, as well as services related to broadcasting grew 14%, marginally faster than in the previous year.

## Revised GDP, GVA

The NSO also revised GDP and GVA numbers lower for the first half of last year but bumped up the third quarter figures slightly. The first quarter's GDP growth in 2022-23 is now pegged at 13.1%, followed by a 6.2% rise in the second quarter and 4.5% growth in the third, higher than the 4.4% estimated in February.

In GVA terms, the final three months of 2022-23 recorded a three-quarter high of 6.5%.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 14

## IN BRIEF



Gyanvapi: HC turns down plea by mosque panel

NEW DELHI  
The Allahabad HC on Wednesday dismissed a plea by the committee, which manages the Gyanvapi mosque, challenging the maintainability of a suit filed by women worshippers.

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West Bengal govt. decides to implement NEP

KOLKATA  
West Bengal will implement the National Education Policy from 2023-2024. » Page 4

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# Central govt. promises to provide air connectivity for Manipur's hill areas

Vijaita Singh  
Rahul Karmakar  
NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

The Centre has promised to operationalise air services from the hill districts of Manipur to allow connectivity with the rest of the country, as tribal groups refuse to travel to Imphal airport fearing for their safety.

Home Minister Amit Shah "assured that supply of essential items in hill areas and helicopter services for emergency needs in Churachandpur, Moreh and Kangpokpi will be ensured", a Home Ministry statement said.

Security review  
On Wednesday, Mr. Shah visited Kangpokpi and Moreh on the Manipur-Myanmar border, where he met civil society groups and re-



Amit Shah visiting a relief camp housing Kuki community members at Kangpokpi in Manipur on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

viewed the security situation.

On the third day of his visit to Manipur, the Minister also visited relief camps in Kangpokpi and Imphal, housing Kuki and Meitei communities displaced by the ethnic violence that erupted in the State from May 3. "Convened a meet-

ing with civil society organisations in Kangpokpi, Manipur. They are keen to actively participate with the government in reviving harmony among communities in Manipur," Mr. Shah said in a tweet.

According to Thangboi Lhungdim of the Kuki Students Organisation in Mo-

reh, Mr. Shah assured them of helicopter services plying from Churachandpur to Aizawl and Guwahati in the neighbouring States of Mizoram and Assam.

## 'Chain reaction'

As Mr. Shah held meetings, at least seven villages in the two districts were attacked and several houses were set on fire, according to Muan Tombing, general secretary of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF). Since May 26, days before Mr. Shah arrived in Imphal on May 29, more than 900 houses in 31 villages in the hill districts of Chandel, Kangpokpi and Churachandpur have been burnt down and around 4,750 people have been displaced, ITLF said.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 14

Ahmednagar will now be renamed 'Ahilya Nagar'

Shoumojit Banerjee  
PUNE

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced on Wednesday that Ahmednagar city would be renamed 'Ahilya Nagar' after the 18th century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar. His decision, "respecting the public demand", came on the 298th birth anniversary of the ruler who established Maheshwar (in Madhya Pradesh) as the seat of the Holkar dynasty.

The move follows the government approving a proposal in February to rename Aurangabad as 'Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar' and Osmanabad as 'Dharashiv'. The demand for renaming Ahmednagar was started by BJP MLC Gopichand Padalkar.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 14

At Modi rally, Raje returns to centre stage

Mohammed Iqbal  
JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's massive rally in Ajmer on Wednesday to mark the completion of nine years of the BJP govern-

ment at the Centre also signalled a return of Vasundhara Raje to the party's scheme of things in the State.

A former Union Minister and twice Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ms. Raje, was

seated next to the Prime Minister on the dais, a far cry from the time her face had disappeared from the BJP's hoardings.

DETAILS  
» PAGE 4

# Case against WFI chief under consideration, report to be submitted in 15 days: Delhi Police

Samridhi Tewari  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Wednesday said the sexual harassment case against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is under consideration and the status report of the investigation will be submitted in court within 15 days.

Earlier, Delhi Police tweeted a rebuttal to media reports that the police did not have enough evidence to arrest Mr. Singh, but later deleted it.

Several media channels



Security personnel deployed near India Gate in the wake of possible protests by wrestlers on Wednesday. R.V. MOORTHY

are running a story that the Delhi Police hasn't found sufficient evidence in the cases registered against [Singh]... It is to clarify that this news is wrong. The investigation into this sensitive case is under progress

with all sensitivity," the police's tweet on Wednesday afternoon read. However, after an hour, Delhi Police deleted its tweet.

It later said "as the cases are under investigation, it would be against the proce-

dure to say anything before the report is filed in the court".

## Stir intensifies

On Tuesday evening, the wrestlers had gathered on the banks of the Ganga at Haridwar to immerse their medals in an act of protest but were stopped from their drastic move by the intervention of farmer leader Naresh Tiwai.

Mr. Tiwai said a 'maha-panchayat' will be held in Muzaffarnagar's Soram village on Thursday. State president of Uttar Pradesh Bharatiya Kisan Union Cha-

runi Suman Hooda told *The Hindu* that the wrestlers have held meetings throughout the day with farmers and khap leaders across Delhi and Haryana to discuss the next plan of action.

As the stir intensified, Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur asked the protesting wrestlers not to take any step that could undermine sports or hurt players. "They should wait for the investigation to be completed," he said.

READY TO HANG MYSELF!  
» PAGE 14

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# Sahil taken to Shahbad Dairy to re-enact crime sequence

Recovered blood samples from the crime scene, examining the accused's phone, say police; it was difficult to look at her, says victim's friend who carried her battered body to ambulance on Sunday

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI**T**he Delhi police on Wednesday took Sahil, accused of brutally murdering a 16-year-old girl, to Shahbad Dairy to re-enact the sequence of the crime.

“He has been evasive during questioning and has made contradictory statements. Sahil was taken there to trace the sequence of events before and after the crime and corroborate the versions shared by various witnesses,” said a senior police officer.

Sahil is charged with stabbing the victim more than 20 times and bludgeon-



The spot where the victim was attacked on Sunday. SAMRIDHI TEWARI

ning her to death with a stone in full public glare.

Search to find the murder weapon, which Sahil is believed to have thrown somewhere near the Rithala metro station, is under way, said the police.

The police are likely to seek Sahil's custody for five more days on Thursday when his two-day police remand ends.

“The sequence of events is yet to be mapped and the murder weapon has also not been recovered, so we will seek an extension of his custody. We are also examining Sahil's phone to check the possibility of others being involved in the crime,” said the officer.

The police are also interrogating Sahil's friends, with whom he is believed

to have planned the killing. Sahil was taken to a hospital for a routine check-up on Wednesday.

**Eyewitness account**  
A friend of the victim, who helped carry her battered body to the ambulance, told the reporters here that Sahil had been threatening the girl despite being repeatedly asked to stay away.

“Two of her friends and I told Sahil to stay away. On Sunday, as soon as I heard about the incident, I rushed to the spot. It was too difficult to look at her,” he said.

**Ex gratia file sent to L-G**  
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said he has sent the file regarding the ₹10 lakh ex gratia to the victim's family to the Lieutenant-Governor for approval. “Will support them [victim's family] in every possible way,” Mr. Kejriwal said in a tweet.

## BJP demands death penalty for Shahbad culprit; AAP slams L-G

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

ters of rape and murder.

In response, an AAP spokesperson said Mr. Tiwari “should stop trying to evoke hatred and hide behind the veil of communalism”.

AAP chief spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar took on L-G V.K. Saxena and the BJP over the issue of law and order in the city and demanded his resignation.

**CM's CCTV initiative**  
The AAP leader lauded Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's proactive measures to combat crime, particularly his efforts to install CCTV cameras throughout the city which helped in catching the Shahbad case accused.

“The Delhi government is behind the rise in such cases in the city,” Mr. Tiwari said.

Mr. Sachdeva said that fast-track courts should be established and special prosecutor should be appointed to deal with mat-

## Kejriwal seeks control over services to hide his govt's scams: Maken

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Ajay Maken. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Maken, who has opposed the idea of supporting the CM in his fight against the Centre's ordinance on services, also said that the control over services sought by Mr. Kejriwal was “intentionally vested in the Central government by eminent leaders like Ambedkar, Nehru, Patel, Shastri, Narasimha Rao, Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh to prevent multiplicity of authority in the National Capital Territory of Delhi”.

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## Man falls to death off unfinished flyover; why wasn't it barricaded, NHRC asks govt., police chief

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Five days after a man allegedly drove off an unfinished flyover in east Delhi and plunged to his death, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has questioned the Delhi government and Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora why the elevated road was left “unattended and un-barricaded”.

In a notice issued to them on Wednesday, the NHRC said it has taken cognisance of reports on the accident. “The commission has further observed that it is immaterial whether there was negligence by the victim while driving. What is more serious is that the authorities recklessly left an under-construction portion of a busy Delhi road un-barricaded, which is unpardonable.”

However, the drive was halted after Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on May 3 asked the department to stop the forceful towing away of the overage parked vehicles.

The department resumed the drive after receiving a letter from the Commission of Air Quality Management seeking action against such vehicles.

feet to the ground from an under-construction stretch of the Barapullah elevated road. A resident of Krishna Nagar, Mr. Singh was going home from his office in Noida Sector 16 around 6.30 p.m., they added.

“The commission would also like to know about the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the authorities to ensure that such incidents do not recur anywhere in the future.” It also issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the PWD Secretary.

**Barriers after accident**

The NHRC said, “Reportedly, there was no signage regarding the ongoing work at the site and some of the barriers had been moved.” Quoting news reports, it said, “It was only after the accident that the barriers were put up.”

The police said Jagandeep Singh, 42, died on May 26 after his car fell 30

feet to the ground from an under-construction stretch of the Barapullah elevated road. A resident of Krishna Nagar, Mr. Singh was going home from his office in Noida Sector 16 around 6.30 p.m., they added.

**No jersey barricades**

The police had earlier suspected that Mr. Singh “got confused with the route and went on the flyover”.

On Wednesday, a senior officer said, “The victim would not have taken the flyover if there were jersey barricades in place.”

Officials of the Public Works Department (PWD)

did not respond to requests for a comment. Seeking a detailed report within four weeks, the NHRC said, “The reports are expected to include the status of the FIR, action taken against the responsible officers/officials and compensation, if any, granted to the next of kin of the deceased.”

The commission would also like to know about the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the authorities to ensure that such incidents do not recur anywhere in the future.” It also issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the PWD Secretary.

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## IN BRIEF



## Swami Prasad Maurya gets death threat, seeks action

Samajwadi Party national general secretary Swami Prasad Maurya on Wednesday put out a message on social media platforms that he had received a death threat and sought legal action by tagging the handles of the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, the Uttar Pradesh government, the State Chief Secretary and the State DGP. Mr. Maurya said that a Twitter handle named, 'International Saffron Rakshak Force Jai Shri Ram', at 7:12 p.m. on May 29 posted "will settle you within a month" along with a photo of a sword hanging in front of his neck. He told *The Hindu* he was being threatened as he was fighting a battle for justice and saving the Constitution.

## Vijay Kumar appointed new acting DGP of Uttar Pradesh

The Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday appointed 1988-batch Indian Police Service officer Vijay Kumar as acting Director-General of Police (DGP) of the State police force. He will additionally hold the charge of Director-General (D-G) Crime Branch (CID) and Vigilance. Mr. Kumar will take charge from the acting DGP R.K. Vishwakarma who retired on Wednesday. Mr. Kumar is the third consecutive acting DGP of the State since May 2022, after the government removed IPS officer Mukul Goel on May 11, 2022, from the top post following allegations of "inaction" towards work.

## Centre is in no hurry to go ahead with delimitation of constituencies: Kishan

The Hindu Bureau  
HYDERABAD

Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region G. Kishan Reddy on Wednesday said that the Centre was in no hurry in going ahead with the delimitation of constituencies. He added that whenever the process would be taken up, it would be done as per the Constitution.

"We are not going to bring out any new law on delimitation. We do not know when it is going to happen. We will consider the issue when we have to. There is no need for any debate on North and South India now. We are a nationalist party and do not believe in discriminating region-wise," he told a press conference at the party office in New Delhi.

Responding to criticism from Minister K.T. Rama Rao on southern States likely to get a raw deal in a population-based delimitation exercise, Mr. Reddy said the new Parliament has been built to accommodate the likely rise in constituencies, but the process was not going to be taken up immediately.

The Secunderabad MP also spoke about the Telangana formation day celebrations being organised

by the Culture Ministry at the Golconda Fort with the hoisting of the National Flag on June 2. The celebrations will also be held in all State capitals with Governors inviting people from Telangana living in their respective States.

## 'Don't penalise States'

Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi agreed with Mr. Rao's opinion that States that have controlled their population should not be penalised or stand to lose seats in Parliament.

The AIMIM chief was speaking to the media at the party headquarters in Darussalam, where he said that a solution needs to be found that protects States.

"This concern has been there for five years. You cannot penalise States which have controlled their population," Mr.

Owaisi said. "If we have to go forward, we have to find a way wherein those States do not lose their seats."

He said that the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi should not take Muslims for granted and added that the State government spent around ₹2,200 crore on temples. While he said that he was not against this, he asked why the BJP does not speak about it.

Mr. Owaisi also criticised Union Home Minister Amit Shah for stating that Muslim reservation in Telangana would be done away with and sought to know why vacancies for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes were not being filled. He added that the Telangana government should clear the decks for construction of the metro line through the old city.

"The website 'Indic Tales' has written several objectionable things about Savitribai Phule. Many political organisations and social organisations have raised objections. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has directed the contents of this website to be thoroughly scrutinised and stern action be taken if the allegations are true," the CM's Office said in a statement.



Senior Nationalist Congress Party leaders stage a protest outside the Mumbai Police Commissioner's office on Wednesday. ANI

ing great personages, which we condemn."

The article published on Indic Tales website titled 'Why Hindu Female Teachers before Savitribai Phule are not Recognized' allegedly says Phule's school was sponsored by British missionaries and questions the British motives for supporting her project.

## Facts questioned

The article in Hindu Post (dated January 5, 2022) titled 'Was Savitribai Phule really the 'first female teacher' in Bharat?' allegedly questions whether Phule was indeed the first female teacher in India, while attributing that distinction to Hotee Vidyalankar, a Bengali Hindu widow, who, as per the article, was a scholar of Sanskrit poetry, law, mathematics and ayurveda.

## Trend of defamation'

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Pawar said: "Of late, there has been a trend of defam-

## Tamil Nadu's electorate now at 6.12 cr., marking a drop of 8 lakh

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

There are 3.11 crore women, 3.01 crore men and over 7,900 of the third gender.

tency in Chennai continues to have the lowest number of electors, at 1,69,292 (87,924 men, 81,309 women and 59 of the third gender).

Kilvelur in Nagapattinam has the second lowest number of electors, with 1,69,750, including 86,079 women, 83,669 men and two from the third gender.

There are 3,400 overseas electors in the electoral roll of Continuous Updation, 2023 (Quarter 2).

In view of the Election Commission's announcement that the youth could file advance applications with reference to three subsequent qualifying dates – April 1, July 1 and October 1 – and January 1, the roll would be updated every quarter and eligible youngsters could register in the next quarter of the year in which he/she has attained the age of 18.

Govt. claims of *Sengol* signifying transfer of power are manufactured lies: N. Ram

N. Ram (centre) at the press meet in Chennai on Wednesday. M. VEDHAN

ri, Rajaji, (the last Governor-General of India). "The crux of the claim is that the last Viceroy came to India with a specific mandate: to hand over power to Indians to enable the British to exit India as quickly as possible. He asked the soon-to-be Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, how should this moment of transfer of power be conducted, and whether there was a ceremony. There is no evidence for this."

Mr. Ram said the claim that Nehru sought the help

Yummidi Bangaru Chetty; why and when was it given and whether it had any connection to 'transfer of power' – there is no evidence. At that time, nobody considered it as a transfer of power. The Indian Independence Act, passed in the British Parliament, says that on August 15, India became independent, and the moment of 'transfer of power' happened when Nehru was sworn in as the Prime Minister by Mountbatten," he said.

On why the Adheenam representatives could not have met Mountbatten, Mr. Ram said, "According to Mountbatten's programme for August 14, he would fly to Karachi to oversee the transfer of power and reach New Delhi by 7 p.m. There was no way that the Adheenam delegation could have met him before meeting Mr. Nehru."

More than 51,200 voters

of Rajaji, and that the representatives of the Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam went to New Delhi in a special flight and met Mountbatten before meeting Nehru, lacked evidence. "There was no way that the Adheenam representatives could have met Mountbatten in Delhi. It is true they met Nehru, there is evidence for this; but the claim that Nehru sought the advice of Rajaji, who then consulted the Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam...a *Sengol* was made by

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**THE HINDU**  
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## Vasundhara Raje is the cynosure of all eyes at Ajmer rally

Mohammed Iqbal  
AJMER

Senior BJP leader and former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was the cynosure of all eyes at the party's massive public rally here on Wednesday. There have been ample hints that she would receive prominence in the campaign for the Assembly election due later this year.

Having faced the cold shoulder earlier, Ms. Raje was seated next to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the stage this time.

Ms. Raje's rehabilitation is perceived as one of the aftereffects of the BJP's humiliating defeat in Karnataka recently, since the party has been compelled to take into account the clout of its regional satraps. The former CM, who has shown her strength several times during the present Congress regime, remains a popular leader with a mass following in the desert State.

He said the ruling Congress in Rajasthan had disrespected the people's mandate, which was for a stable government.

He ridiculed the "guarantee habit" of the Congress party. The nation did not progress [earlier] despite there being no shortage of money for development works," he said. "When it comes to loot, Congress does not discriminate between anyone. Before 2014, there was a superpower [at the Centre] above the Prime Minister... The go-

vernment was functioning through a remote control, when the people were on the streets against corruption," Mr. Modi said.

In poll-bound Rajasthan, the Chief Minister, Ministers and MLAs were busy fighting each other for the last five years, paying no attention to "instability and anarchy" in the State, Mr. Modi said, referring to the tussle between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot.

He said the ruling Congress in Rajasthan had disrespected the people's mandate, which was for a stable government.

He ridiculed the "guarantee habit" of the Congress party. The nation did not progress [earlier] despite there being no shortage of money for development works," he said. "When it comes to loot, Congress does not discriminate between anyone. Before 2014, there was a superpower [at the Centre] above the Prime Minister... The go-

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The Prime Minister accepted Ms. Raje's greetings on the stage with folded hands and talked to her briefly. Ms. Raje smiled and thanked Mr. Modi for selecting Rajasthan for the event to mark the completion of nine years of the BJP government as the Centre.

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## Bengal decides to implement NEP from this academic year

**Bishwanath Ghosh**

KOLKATA

West Bengal has finally announced on Wednesday that colleges run and aided by the State government would implement the National Education Policy (NEP), starting from academic year 2023-2024, a decision that has drawn mixed reaction from teachers.

Adopting the NEP was an inevitability because many other States already follow it and students of West Bengal couldn't have been left out of the academic map of the country, but in spite of that the State government had been sitting on it for over a year.

While one set of teachers questioned the delay in the announcement, the other said it was better late than never. But, what appears to trouble most is the State government's simultaneous announcement that admissions would not be centralised – as was the plan from this year – and that colleges would be responsible for it individually.

"After consulting various stakeholders and keeping the future of students in mind, it has been decided by the competent authority in the State government that the four-year undergraduate level programme will be introduced in all government and government-aided/ sponsored higher education institutions from the academic session 2023-2024," a release said.

"They shall be awarded degrees in accordance with



The decision has drawn mixed reaction from teachers. PTI

the UGC National Curriculum and Credit Framework [NCCF] for UG-level programmes. This year, the admission process in UG-level courses will be conducted through standalone online admission portals at the institutional level, as was done during the last academic session," it said.

It said the NCCF for the four-year UG courses would be implemented by the institutions through optimum utilisation of existing resources or self-mobilisation of additional resources, pending receipt of additional financial assistance.

"Colleges and university teachers are not prepared. There is not much time to even prepare the syllabus. Only one month back, the State government had just asked for opinions, and now after Class 12 results, they are asking us to introduce NEP. It's a whimsical move. All the burden and responsibilities will come onto the teachers. The State government should have decided much earlier to introduce NEP," said Mrinmoy Pramanick, a teacher in a university in Kolkata.

**Accountability sought for arrest of minor girl**

**The Hindu Bureau**

GUWAHATI

A rights body has sought accountability for the arrest of a minor girl under an anti-terror Act in Arunachal Pradesh.

In an order on May 25, the Juvenile Justice Board of the State's Papum Pare district pulled up the police and Home Department officials for illegally detaining a 15-year-old girl for 16 days from May 10, instead of producing her before the board within 24 hours, as required by the law.

The girl was among 41 arrested during a 72-hour shutdown from May 10-12 under the Arunachal Pradesh Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 2014.

## LDF, UDF win nine seats each in Kerala local body byelections

**The Hindu Bureau**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The LDF and the UDF won nine seats each, while the BJP won one seat in the by-polls held in 19 local body wards in Kerala. The votes were counted on Wednesday following the polling on Tuesday.

The LDF retained the Muttada ward in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, while the UDF retained the Palliparam ward in the Kannur Corporation.

The LDF retained the Municipal Office ward in Cherthala through an LDF-backed Independent.

The LDF wrested the Thazhamel ward in Anchal grama panchayat (Kollam)



**Moment of glory:** UDF candidate Susan K. Xavier after winning the byelection held to ward 38 in Kottayam. VISHNU PRATHAP

and the Thulusserrikkavala ward in Nellikuzhi grama panchayat (Ernakulam) from the BJP, but lost the Kallamala ward in Kanjurapuzha panchayat (Palakkad) to the BJP.

The Congress wrested

## NIA raids premises linked to PFI supporters in 3 States

Searches in Kerala, Karnataka and Bihar were part of a nationwide drive against those with links to the banned outfit; 16 places in Dakshina Kannada searched to find evidence of money trail

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MALAPPURAM

**T**he National Investigation Agency (NIA) searched a few houses at Kondotty and Nilambur in Kerala's Malappuram district on Wednesday. The raids were part of a nationwide drive against those having links with the banned Popular Front of India (PFI).

The raid on the house of one Shareef at Chanthakkunnu, Nilambur, lasted several hours. NIA sources claimed that they seized several incriminating documents and unaccounted money to the tune of several lakhs of rupees in the raid.

The investigators also searched the premises of a PFI sympathiser, Munneer at Kunjathur in Kasaragod, based on the information provided by Abid, who was arrested on March 7.

The agency also simultaneously searched 16 places in Dakshina Kannada.



According to sources, searches were carried out in Bantwal, Uppinangady, Venur and Belthangady. Digital evidence regarding money transaction was collected.

**Multi-State 'hawala'**  
An NIA team also searched the premises of a PFI leader's relative in the Katihar

district of Bihar.

Earlier, the agency had arrested five persons for allegedly being part of a multi-State "hawala" network that was being used by the PFI to route funds, particularly in Kerala, Karnataka and Bihar.

"A PFI funding-by-hawala module operating out of Bihar and Karnataka with roots in the United Arab Emirates has been busted with the arrests of the five accused," an agency official had said.

The agency alleged that funds collected from Dubai and Abu Dhabi were transferred to four PFI leaders in India. The money was deposited in various bank accounts.

(With inputs from Kasaragod, Mangalore and Patna)

## IN BRIEF



### TTD temple in Jammu to be open for darshan from June 8

Elaborate arrangements are under way for the conclusion of the temple consecration ceremony rituals of the new Lord Venkateswara temple at Majeen village in Jammu on June 8. The temple will be open for darshan after the event. Built by the TTD, the temple is located on the highway leading to the famous Mata Vaishno Devi temple.

### Families of house surgeon and firefighter to get ex gratia

The Kerala Cabinet on Wednesday sanctioned ₹25 lakh to the parents of house surgeon Vandana Das, who was fatally stabbed while on night duty at the Kottarakara taluk hospital, as an ex gratia payment. It extended a similar amount to the family of Fire and Rescue Department Officer J.S. Renjith, who was killed in the line of duty while dousing a chemical fire at the warehouse of the Kerala State Medical Services Corporation in Thiruvananthapuram mid-May.

### Verdict on attachment of Naidu's residence on June 2

The ACB court in Vijayawada will pronounce its judgment on the CID's plea for attachment of the guest house in which TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu has been staying since bifurcation, on June 2. The judge reserved the verdict after hearing both parties on Wednesday. It may be noted that the CID issued a notice for attaching the property in accordance with the provisions of Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance of 1944 on the ground that the guest house was reportedly given to Mr. Naidu in alleged exchange for benefits that were given to its owner in the alignment of capital city designs.

## As accidents increase, Railway Board flags long working hours of loco pilots

**S. Vijay Kumar**  
CHENNAI

Worried over the increase in train accidents across the rail network, the Railway Board has called for urgent steps to fill vacancies and reduce the long working hours of locomotive pilots.

According to sources in the Railways, 48 consequential train accidents were reported in 2022-23

compared to 35 in the previous year. The number of non-consequential train accidents was 162 in 2022-23, which included 35 cases of Signal Passed at Danger (SPAD).

The prolonged working hours of loco pilots due to an acute shortage of manpower was suspected to be the main reason for the increasing number of accidents, particularly SPAD cases, though there were

other causes as well.

Reviewing the safety scenario at a high-level meeting comprising members of the top railway management, including the general managers of zonal Railways, the chairman and CEO of the Railway Board said that the increase in consequential train accidents was a matter of "grave concern" and urged the organisation to be proactive.

"The Railway Board also directed general managers to critically analyse the long working hours of crew, especially in East Coast Railway and South East Central Railway, and take corrective action urgently," a railway official said.

Going by the rules, duty hours of the crew should not exceed 12 hours under any circumstances, said the official.

## Kadapa MP gets bail in ex-Minister murder case

**The Hindu Bureau**  
HYDERABAD

### Attempt by section of media to tarnish my image, says Telangana HC judge

**Marri Ramu**  
HYDERABAD

Justice M. Laxman of the Telangana High Court on Wednesday expressed pain over alleged attempts by a section of the media to tarnish his image while granting anticipatory bail to Y.S. Avinash Reddy, YSR Congress Party MP from Kadapa, in connection with the murder of former Minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy.

In the order, the judge said he wanted to place on record attempts by "selective media to thwart my image, and intimidate and threaten to derail the independent thought process in arriving at a just decision

in this matter".

He was apparently referring to discussions in some Telugu news channels ahead of the court's order on May 27 directing the CBI not to arrest Mr. Avinash Reddy till May 31.

Justice Laxman said a suspended and detained judge who participated in a TV debate made direct attacks at him by saying "money bags went to the Judge". Another participant allegedly used derogatory language and made gestures aimed at tarnishing his "comprehension and competency abilities by his misrepresentation of court proceedings", the judge said in his order.

"In my view, such actions clearly amount to invocation of proceedings under the Contempt of Courts Act," the order said.

Justice Laxman said he even thought of recusing himself from hearing the MP's bail plea, but changed his mind as he was "mindful of his oath of office, particularly discharge of duties without fear".

The judge directed the High Court's Registry to place his order along with the video clippings of debates on the "present proceedings" aired on *Maha News* and *ABN News (Telugu)* on May 26 before the Chief Justice for "appropriate decision".

## Amid row, Kerala writes to Centre seeking clarification on State's borrowing limit

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

**The Finance Ministry was requested to issue the calculation sheet which gives a break-up on open market borrowing**

permission for OMB "under proposed borrowing programme of the State for the year 2023-24" does not specify reasons nor is it accompanied by a detailed statement, Mr. Balagopal had said.

The issue had triggered a war of words between Mr. Balagopal and Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan after the latter, presenting a set of figures, argued that the borrowing limit was not reduced.

Mr. Balagopal had refuted the Union Minister's contentions, saying that the State government was unaware of the existence of the statistics presented by him.

The letter which gives

the calculation sheet

which gives a break-up on open market borrowing

on OMB



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**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that this man namely **Pankaj Gautam**, S/o Khemchand Gautam, R/o Gali no. 2, Hans Colony, Jeetpur, Murad Nagar, Delhi, is missing since 05.05.2023 from 185, Patparganj, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 58A, dated 14.05.2023**, has been lodged at **P.S. Pandav Nagar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far.



Pankaj Gautam

The description of the missing man is as under:

**Gender:** Male, **Age:** 29 years, **Height:** 5'0", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Green checked shirt, grey jeans, shoes in feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing man, kindly inform to the following:

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax: 011-24368639  
DP/5528/ED/2023

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E-mail: sho-pandavngr-dl@nic.in

SHO  
HP: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax: 011-24368639  
DP/5528/ED/2023

E-mail: sho-pandavngr-dl@nic.in

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON****See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Suman Sabharwal, W/o Not Known, R/o A-1/75, Janak Puri, New Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case Ct. Case 6902/2017 U/s 200 Cr. P.C. registered at P.S. Janakpuri, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Suman Sabharwal** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Suman Sabharwal** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Suman Sabharwal** accused of Ct. Case 6902/2017 U/s 200 Cr. P.C. P.S. Janakpuri, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 14.07.2023

By Order

Ms. Bharti Beniwal,  
Metropolitan Magistrate-11,  
South West, Room No. 05, Ground Floor,  
Dwarka District Court, New Delhi

DP/5876/WD/2023

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Age : 45 years, Height: 5'4"**, **Complexion:** Shallow, wearing hospital Clothes, was found dead on 27.05.2023 in LNJP Hospital, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 85-A dated 27.05.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO: P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-23962210, 23946123,  
08847509829

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON****(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Namely **Jahangir S/o Lal Mohammad, R/o Jhuggi No. 8, Gali No. 4, Nilamber Apartment, Sainik Vihar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide FIR No. 38/23 date 27.01.2023 U/s 323/341/506/34 IPC registered at P.S. Rani Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon stating that the said **Jahangir** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Jahangir** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Jahangir** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 03.07.2023.

By Order

Sh. Ajay Nagar  
Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,  
Court Room 48,  
Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/5563/OD/2023 (North-West) Room No. 101, 1st Floor,  
(Court Notice)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON****(SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Vafadaar @ Nanhe, S/o Bacchan Khan, R/o Village Maibuchan, PS Alapur, District Badaun, UP**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. E-213/2017, Dated 02.06.2017, U/s 380/454 IPC**, registered at **P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi**, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Vafadaar @ Nanhe**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Vafadaar @ Nanhe**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Vafadaar @ Nanhe**, of case **FIR No. E-213/2017, Dated 02.06.2017, U/s 380/454 IPC, P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi**, is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 05.07.2023.

By order  
Bharat Aggarwal,  
Metropolitan Magistrate,  
Court Room 48,  
Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/5788/SHD/2023  
(Court Matter)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Namely **Jahangir S/o Lal Mohammad, R/o Jhuggi No. 8, Gali No. 4, Nilamber Apartment, Sainik Vihar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide FIR No. 38/23 date 27.01.2023 U/s 323/341/506/34 IPC registered at P.S. Rani Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon stating that the said **Jahangir** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Jahangir** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Jahangir** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 03.07.2023.

By Order

Sh. Ajay Nagar  
Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,  
Court Room 48,  
Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/5563/OD/2023 (North-West) Room No. 101, 1st Floor,  
(Court Notice)

**GENERAL****EDUCATIONAL**

## Bhagwant Mann expands Punjab Cabinet, inducts two Ministers

**The Hindu Bureau**

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has expanded his Cabinet by inducting two MLAs as Ministers on Wednesday.

Balkar Singh, MLA from Kartarpur in Jalandhar, and Gurmeet Singh Khudian, MLA from Lambi Assembly constituency in

Muktsar were inducted into the Cabinet. The Ministers took the oath of office and secrecy at a swearing-in ceremony held here. The oath was administered by Governor Banwarilal Purohit at Punjab Raj Bhawan.

Ahead of the Cabinet expansion, State Minister Dr. Inderbir Singh Nijjer resigned from the Council of

Ministers on "personal grounds" on Tuesday. His resignation was sent to Governor Banwari Lal Purohit for acceptance by the Chief Minister.

In the year-and-a-half-old AAP government, three Ministers have seen their way out from the Cabinet including – Dr. Nijjer, Dr. Vijay Singla, and Fauja Singh Sarai.

### GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM DIRECTORATE OF HORTICULTURE & FOOD PROCESSING, ASSAM, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI-22.

(E-Tender Notice)

Notice Inviting Bids for Various Supply and Execution of Small Works Under APART viz.  
1. Supply of Tissue Culture Flower Planting Materials for the State Floriculture Mission.  
2. Construction of 100 SQM Bamboo Structure Shade Net House for the State Floriculture Mission.  
3. Construction of 100 SQM Bamboo Structure Poly House for the State Floriculture Mission.

The method of submission of tender by Eligible bidder, Schedule requirement, Scope of Work, specifications, general term and condition applicable to the tender has been given in the document at <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in>.

SI NO	PARTICULARS	DETAILS
1	REFERENCE NUMBERS	1. Horti.FP/787/Horticulture/2022-23/Part-A/006 Dated 30.05.2023 2. Horti.FP/787/Horticulture/2022-23/Part-A/007 Dated 30.05.2023 3. Horti.FP/787/Horticulture/2022-23/Part-A/008 Dated 30.05.2023 Dated, 19th July, 2021
2	BID SUBMISSION START DATE	15/06/2023 at 10.00am
3	BID SUBMISSION END DATE	30/06/2023 at 5.30pm
4	BID OPENING DATE	03/07/2023
5	WEBSITE	<a href="http://www.assamtenders.gov.in">http://www.assamtenders.gov.in</a>

\*Instructions regarding submission of online Bid are available at [assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in)  
Sd/-  
DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING,  
ASSAM, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI-22  
Janasanyog /CF/741/23



कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल  
यांत्रिक विभाग (सुख्तालाय) गोविंदपुरा (बी.एच.इ.एल.)



भोपाल, दिनांक 30/5/2023

निम्नलिखित निमाण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाका पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निमाण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत ठेकेदार परसन्नेज मोहर बंद निविदाएँ निर्धारित प्रक्रम पर अंगैलाइन आवंटित की जाती है।

S. No.	Tender ID	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract (Rs. in lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (in Months)	SOR
1	2023 UAD 279939-1	CONST. OF BOUNDARY WALL, DRAIN, STAGE AND DEVELOPMENT OF CAMPUS AREA OF SARDAR VALBABBH BHAI PATEL GOVT. SCHOOL, BHAWRI WARD 03 ZONE 01	10910595/-	54553/-	12500/-	06 months	MPUADD ISSR 2021
2	2023 UAD 279911-1	CONSTRUCTION OF CC ROAD AND DRAIN BEHIND GULAB GARDEN TO BEHTA GAON IN SANT HIRDARAM NAGAR ZONE 01	16478266/-	82391/-	12500/-	06 months	MPUADD ISSR 2021

1. Interested bidders can view the NIT on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in/>  
2. The Bid Document can be purchased only online from 10:30 A.M. (time) 30.05.2023 (date) to 17:30 PM. (time) 13.06.2023 (date). Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in/> only, and not in newspaper.

The initial period of 05 (FIVE) year after completion shall be treated as Defect Liability Period (DLP).

नि. क्र. 380/023/024

Executive Engineer  
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL, District BHOPAL

### ENTERPRISE CONNECT

#### Patanjali Foods consolidates on the Food and FMCG business in FY 2023

Patanjali Foods Ltd. (PFL) continued robust business and financial performance in FY 2023. The total income in FY2023 stood at Rs. 31,821.45 Crores against Rs. 24,882.38 Crores in FY 2021-22. The PBT margin grew 9.7% in FY2023 to Rs. 1,178.96 Crores against Rs. 1,074.38 crores in FY2022. The share of FMCG business in overall revenues grew exponentially to Rs. 6,218.08 Crores against Rs. 1,683.24 crores in FY22 and reached 19.72% of the overall revenue against 6.95 % in the previous year. The company focus on premiumization, offering range and expanding distribution across multiple channels is reflected in revenues and profitability of Foods business.

The food business EBITDA stood at Rs. 1,136.60 Crores (18.28% of the food revenue) in FY2023 against Rs. 189.04 crores (11.23% of food revenue) in FY 2022. The FMCG Business contributed 72% of the overall EBITDA of the company in line with the objective of improving the quality and sustainability of profits. The company achieved quantum growth in edible oil business growing by 21% to 1.91 million metric tonnes in volume terms and achieved revenue of Rs. 25,634.45 crores against 1.63 million tonnes and Rs. 22,882.76 Crores revenue in FY2022. The growth in volume was achieved at the back of expanded distribution reach and superior offering to consumers. The EBITDA margin on oil business in FY23 stood at Rs. 230.26 crores despite the challenges around international market volatility. The company's focus is to expand geographically in International Market by increasing its presence in the major markets. The company achieved export turnover of Rs. 530.80 crore by exporting its products to 33 countries during the year. The company's plans for its Oil Palm Plantation fully on track as the area under cultivation has increased to 63,816 hectares with overall land allocation of 6,28,000 hectares during FY 2023. The company has signed MoUs with the governments of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura in North-East and Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The infrastructure continues to roll forward, as the first oil mill is being setup in the north-east region in Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh. The company recorded robust financial performance in FY 2022-23 consistently for the 3rd year in row after successfully implementing the Resolution Plan as approved by NCLT. Its strategic initiative for acquisition of food business during FY 2023 has turned to be a big milestone for the company to consolidate its food product portfolio with array of brands.

**Introducing the ultimate solution to beat the scorching summer heat in style: The KENT Kuhl Brise Stylish Fans'**

After the impeccable success of the Kuhl Plat & Luxury Series Fans, KENT RO Systems Ltd., the company manufacturing renowned water purifier brand in the country, is once again making waves with the introduction of the Kuhl Brise Stylish Fans. These fans are an example of a masterpiece that equipped with harmonious fusion of captivating design and refined aesthetic features.

**BLDC Technology:** Kuhl Brise Fans are equipped with revolutionary Brushless Direct Current (BLDC) motor technology, ensuring unparalleled performance and energy efficiency.

Experience a fan that not only enhances the ambience but also saves up to an impressive 65% of electricity consumption. Low Noise Operation:

Say farewell to disruptive noise! Kuhl Brise Stylish Fans are engineered to provide a tranquil environment with its whisper-quiet operation. WiFi Enabled: Convenience and comfort are just a tap away. With WiFi and Internet of Things (IoT) compatibility, control and manage the fan's settings effortlessly from your smartphone or other compatible devices.

**3 Aerodynamic Blades:** These fans boast 3 meticulously crafted aerodynamic blades. Designed for optimal airflow, these blades deliver powerful performance that cool the room efficiently and uniformly.

**Alexa/Voice Enabled:** Elevate your control experience with voice-enabled functionality. These fans are compatible with Alexa and other voice-activated devices, allowing you to adjust various fan settings. Reverse Mode:

Enhance versatility with the reverse mode feature. This intelligent functionality enables the fan to rotate in the opposite direction, effectively promoting air circulation and maintaining a comfortable environment throughout the year.

The Brise Series of Kuhl Stylish Fans represents a remarkable breakthrough in both design and functionality.

With its dassy finish and contemporary aesthetics, this fan effortlessly enhances the ambience of any home. Kuhl Fans are available at leading e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, etc.

Besides this, Kuhl fans are available in all leading appliances stores across the country.

**BHEL sustains profitability momentum**

In FY 2022-23, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has sustained the momentum achieved in the previous fiscal, ending the year with significant traction in growth drivers. During the year, BHEL recorded revenue from operations of Rs.23,365 Crore, up 10% over the previous year. The company achieved a Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs.450 Crore, and Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs.448 Crore, with continued focus on cost control and prudent resource management.

Notably, BHEL's strategic shift towards project-centric operations and focus on optimising project execution over the last four years has paid rich dividends. The company's construction tonnage in projects across the country has shot up by a massive 10% in FY 2022-23 as compared to FY 2019-20, showcasing the increase in pace and efficiency of project execution.

Liquidity has been maintained due to improved execution focus with realisation from current year billing going up from 59% to 86% over the past 4 years. During the year, BHEL commissioned 1,580 MW of power generating equipment in addition to synchronising captive/solar projects of ~ 298 MW. With this, the company's global installed power generating capacity has gone up to 195 GW. Recent project execution successes include the successful commissioning of the first unit of the prestigious Maitree Supercritical power project in Bangladesh; commercial operation of 660 MW Unit-1 of 3x660 MW North Karanprupa Thermal Power Station, the first supercritical thermal unit installed with Air Cooled Condenser; and dispatch of BHEL's 43rd nuclear steam generator for Gorakhpur Haryana Agra Vidyut Parivayoga. In FY 22-23, BHEL equipment enabled record power transmission of 6,000 MW, over the ±800 KV, 6,000 MW Ultra High Voltage Direct Current (UHVDC) link between the Western Region Grid (Raigarh, Chhattisgarh) and the Southern Region Grid (Pugalur, Tamil Nadu) and the Performance Guarantee (PG) test for India's largest floating solar power plant - 100 MW NTPC Ramagundam floating SPV Project was successfully completed with 10% excess generation vis-à-vis guaranteed generation. Significant milestones during FY 2022-23 included the only EPC thermal power plant tender awarded in the country (2x660 MW TPC Talcher) after a gap of more than 3 years and all time high order booking in the spares and services as well as despatch segment.

**IRCON International Ltd Financial Results: Highest ever Operating Revenue clocked 2nd year in a row with 40% growth to Rs.10,368 crore; Net Profit increased by 29% to Rs.765 crore**

IRCON International Limited, a Miniratna (category - I) schedule A public sector enterprise and a leading turnkey construction company in the public sector (under Ministry of Railways), has announced its financial results for the fourth quarter and year ended on March 31, 2023. Key Financial Highlights for year ended March 31, 2023 (Consolidated) showed that the total income increased by 41.7% to Rs.10,750 crore as against Rs.7,586 crore in FY22. Revenues from operations for the period increased by 41.7% to Rs.10,368 crore as compared to Rs.7,380 crore in FY22. EBITDA stands at Rs.1,117 crore in FY23 as against Rs.846 crore in FY22, a jump of 32.1%. The Company's EBITDA margin stood at 10.39%. Profit Before Tax for FY23 increased by 29.4% to Rs.891 crore as compared to Rs.689 crore in FY22. Profit After Tax for FY23 increased by 29.2% to Rs.765 crore as against Rs.592 crore in FY22. EPS stands at Rs.8.14 per equity share of the face value of Rs.2/- per share.

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The company achieved a Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs.450 Cro



## Uncertain showers

Farmers need to be given timely, accurate information on rainfall

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) earlier this week updated its monsoon outlook from April. The latest analysis from the weather models that the IMD relies on suggests near-certainty of the development of an El Niño, a cyclical phenomenon of warming in the Central Pacific that six in 10 years is linked to diminished rainfall in the west, northwest and western parts of central India, especially between July and August. However, despite the certainty of an El Niño, the IMD has chosen to retain its outlook of a 'normal' monsoon, at 96% of the 50-year long-term average of 87 cm. Anything below 96% would have been categorised as 'below normal'. Underlying its assessment is a calculation that another phenomenon, called the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) – a temperature swing between the western and eastern Indian Ocean – would favour rain development and offset the loss in rains from an El Niño. It is important to note that IODs are not as strongly linked to bountiful rains as the El Niño is to depressed rains. In 1997, India had a strong El Niño but received 2% excess rain because of a positive IOD. However, both have not appeared at the same time since that year, and this is the first time since then that both factors are expected to play out in the same monsoon season. The years India last reported a greater than 10% deficit in monsoon rainfall were 2014 and 2015 – both El Niño years.

The IMD update also underlines that rain-fed-agriculture zones of the country would be between 92%-104% of the average. While this technically qualifies as 'normal', it is also a very large variation and could mean long, dry spells followed by a period of incessant downpours. This might help meet the region's rainfall 'numbers' but will not be helpful for agriculture. While every monsoon has its own peculiarities whatever the models might say, it would be crucial to watch out for the monsoon's distribution, both spatially and temporally. Sharp deficits during July and August, particularly in central India, are likely to influence agricultural output. More accurate assessments of rain during this month are available through the IMD's extended range forecasts that give a fortnightly prognosis; and these can be quite dynamic. The monsoon is forecast to reach Kerala by June 4, and whether it sticks to this date or arrives a tad early or late has little bearing on the quantity of rain during the core monsoon months. This year, States and the Centre must redouble efforts to convey accurate, timely information to farmers, using all available information channels, down to the block level.

## Status quo in Turkey

Erdogan must right the wrongs of the past and offer a new inclusive beginning

When Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) came to power in 2002, riding widespread resentment against the establishment amid economic woes, he was a political outsider – an Islamist in a system dominated by Kemalist secularists. Twenty years later, Mr. Erdogan is the establishment – the military, traditionally the guardian of the old order, is under his thumb, institutions are at his command and the AKP, with close links to the ulema, remains a hegemonic political machine. But the economic and political situation of 2023 is comparable with that of 2002. Faced with a deepening economic crisis and accusations of backsliding democracy and freedoms, there has been widespread resentment against his long reign. The Opposition united to capitalise on this anger and managed to deny him a first round victory on May 14, but in Sunday's run-off, he won 52.1% of the vote share, against Kemal Kilicdaroglu's 47.9%. Mr. Kilicdaroglu has accepted the outcome, but called the election process "the most unfair in years". He has a point. Mr. Erdogan and his allies controlled the big media, shaping the information flow. State institutions, including the religious directorate (Diyanet), which controls mosques and appoints Imams, amplified the AKP propaganda. The President accused the Opposition of having ties with "terrorists" as a mainstream Kurdish party was backing his rival. Mr. Kilicdaroglu, a former bureaucrat from the minority Alevi community, led a spirited campaign, but failed to overcome the AKP's Islamist populism.

Mr. Erdogan, arguably the most powerful Turkish leader since Mustafa Kemal 'Ataturk', has reshaped the country's polity and society over the past 20 years. Kemal Ataturk, who abolished the Ottoman Caliphate and secularised Turkey, saw the clergy as a threat to his vision for the country. Tensions between Kemalism and Islamism have always been there in Turkey's modern history. But until Mr. Erdogan's rise to power, no Islamist leader had managed to upend the system. While doing so, he amassed powers, rewrote the Constitution, turning it into an executive presidency, got himself elected as the all-powerful President, stifled dissent, stepped up the war against Kurdish rebels, and jailed political rivals. Yet, this election was his biggest challenge. That he had to go into the second round, and with a lead of just three points, should remind him that Turkish society remains polarised. The battered economy needs urgent attention. A new term is an opportunity for Mr. Erdogan, whose legacy has already been marred by his authoritarian tendencies and mismanagement of the economy, to right the wrongs and offer a new inclusive beginning. But it is unclear whether Turkey's Islamist leader is ready for such a change.

# A parliamentary democracy or an executive democracy

Last week, a new Parliament building was inaugurated with both fanfare and controversy. In particular, the exclusion of the President of India – the formal head of the executive – from the inauguration, and the symbolism around the *Sengol* – a sceptre originally used to signify the transfer of power between Chola rulers – generated significant debate. Submerged beneath this debate, however, is an overlooked fact: the increasing subordination of the "Parliament" in India's "parliamentary democracy".

Parts of this story are familiar: we know that Bills are passed with minimal or no deliberation. We know that Parliament sits for fewer and fewer days in a year, and parliamentary sessions are often adjourned. We know that presidential ordinances have become a parallel if not dominant form of law-making.

### By constitutional design

It is tempting to attribute all of this to unscrupulous or callous politicians. What that misses, however, is the understanding that the growing irrelevance of Parliament is not because of individual actions but a matter of constitutional design. In other words, the Indian Constitution, by its very structure, facilitates and enables the marginalisation of Parliament, and the concentration of power within a dominant executive.

How does this happen? Consider the various safeguards that parliamentary democracies generally tend to put in place against executive dominance or abuse. First, in order to enact its agenda, the executive must command a majority in Parliament. This opens up the space for intra-party dissent, and an important role for ruling party parliamentarians – who are not members of the cabinet – to exercise a check over the executive. Occasionally, ruling party backbenchers can even join forces with the Opposition to defeat unpopular Bills (as was the case with various Brexit deals in the U.K. House of Commons between 2017 and 2019). Second, the Opposition itself is granted certain rights in Parliament, and certain limited control over parliamentary proceedings, in order to publicly hold the executive to account. Third, the interests of Parliament against the executive are meant to be represented by the Speaker, a neutral and independent authority. And fourth, certain parliamentary democracies embrace bicameralism: i.e., a second "Upper House" that acts as a revising chamber, where interests other than those of the brute majority are represented (in our case, that is the Rajya Sabha, acting as a council of states).



Gautam Bhatia  
is a Delhi-based lawyer

When these features function as they should, it becomes very difficult for the executive to ride roughshod over Parliament and, in turn, opens up space for Parliament to act as the deliberative and representative body that it is meant to be.

### A dilution, erasure

In India, however, each of these features has been diluted or erased over the years.

First, the possibility of intra-party dissent within Parliament has been stamped out by virtue of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution, popularly known as the "anti-defection law". Introduced through a constitutional amendment in 1985, the Tenth Schedule penalises disobedience of the party whip with disqualification from the House altogether. Ironically, as recent events have more than amply demonstrated, the Tenth Schedule has failed to fulfil the purpose for which it was enacted, i.e., to curb horse-trading and unprincipled floor-crossing. What it has done, however, is to strengthen the hand of the party leadership – which, in the case of the ruling party, is effectively the cabinet/executive – against its own parliamentarians. Intra-party dissent is far more difficult when the price is disqualification from Parliament.

Second, right from its inception, the Indian Constitution did not carve out any specific space for the political Opposition in the House. There is no equivalent, for example, of Prime Minister's questions, where the Prime Minister has to face direct questioning of their record from the Leader of the Opposition as well as by other politicians. In other words, the manner of proceedings in Parliament are under the complete control of the executive, with no real constitutional checks upon how that control is exercised.

Third, this is exacerbated by the fact that the Speaker, in our system, is not independent. The Speaker is not required to give up membership of their political party, and is not constitutionally obligated to act impartially. This has led to an increasing trend, at both the central and the State levels, of Speakers acting in a blatantly partisan manner in order to advance the interests of the executive over the interests of the House. Not only does this affect the quality of the deliberations in the lower house (as the Speaker has control over the conduct of the House) but it also has a knock-on effect on the Upper House: as has been seen of late, when the ruling party wishes to avoid effective scrutiny in the Rajya Sabha over Bills, the Speaker simply classifies the Bill as a "money bill", thus depriving the Rajya Sabha of the right to make amendments. This was

Even as the new Parliament has been inaugurated, what is overlooked is the increasing subordination of Parliament in India's 'parliamentary democracy'

seen most vividly in the case of the Aadhaar Act, where Rajya Sabha scrutiny was avoided in this precise manner, and many important, rights-protecting amendments could not be passed.

### Role of the Upper House

Fourth, the role of the Upper House is undercut not only by the Speaker's misclassification of Bills but also by the constitutionally-sanctioned ordinance making power. An ordinance is nothing more than executive legislation; and while, in theory, it is meant to be used only for an emergency, while Parliament is not in session, in practice, it is used as a parallel process of law-making, especially when the executive wants to bypass the Upper House altogether, at least for a period of time, and create a *fait accompli*.

When we put all of this together, what emerges is a picture where the only effective check upon the executive is one where the electorate has thrown up a fractured mandate and the ruling party is forced to govern in a coalition with allies with whom it does not always see eye-to-eye. In such a scenario, coalition partners can exercise something of a check upon the executive in Parliament.

However, when there is a single, majority ruling party, whether at the Centre or in the States, there is very little that Parliament can do. The anti-defection law wipes out intra-party dissent. The political Opposition's scope for participation depends upon the discretion of the executive. Partisan Speakers further ensure that the executive is insulated from public embarrassment at the hands of the Opposition, by controlling the debate. And the Upper House is taken out of the equation, either by the misclassification of money Bills or by the use of ordinance power.

It is no wonder, then, that the quality of parliamentary deliberations has declined: it is simply a mirror of Parliament's own structural marginalisation under the Constitution. Instead, what we have is greater and greater executive power: a situation that resembles presidential systems with strong executives, but without the checks and balances and veto points that those systems have; in effect, the worst of all worlds.

Therefore, even as the new Parliament is inaugurated, the urgent question that we must ask is whether in formal terms, India can continue to be called a parliamentary democracy, or whether we have gradually morphed into an executive democracy. And if, indeed, we want to return to parliamentarianism, what manner of constitutional changes and reforms that it would require.

# Biodiversity is us and we are biodiversity



Kamal Bawa  
is President Emeritus of the Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) and the Convenor of Biodiversity Collaborative

and continuous human pressures.

In India, the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill will further weaken our resolve to sustain the remaining biodiversity.

### Nurturing and managing biodiversity

In many ways, biodiversity is us and we are biodiversity. Thus, civil society must play a critical role in sustaining our biodiversity. A paradigm shift in the care of biodiversity, long overdue, must begin now, flowing from this International Biodiversity Day.

Let us first change the way we manage our biodiversity. Currently, the main custodian of the natural world is the Indian Forest Service. But the term "Forest" to describe our immense and unique natural heritage is flawed. India's biodiversity is not only on land but also in waterbodies, rivers, deltas, and oceans. A rich array of our ecosystems is in the form of grasslands, savannas, alpine pastures, deserts, and other types of ecological communities. Even in the 20th century, people had started to talk about living organisms and the interconnectedness manifested as ecosystems and ecosystem services in multifunctional landscapes dominated by humans. In the 21st century, the basic terms "forests" and "wildlife" have limited meaning or usefulness.

We must think of multifunctional landscapes, where aspirations, beliefs, traditional knowledge, and direct participation of local communities are central to the notion of conserving and sustaining life on earth. In 2006, policymakers in India enacted the Forest Rights Act, that called for an increase in the stake of indigenous groups in ownership as well as management of biodiversity. However, the Act largely remains on paper, yet to be implemented on the ground. Seventeen years later, it is time to even move beyond the Act's steps to fundamentally alter the way we manage our biodiversity. If biodiversity is everywhere, as it is, we must mainstream it into our daily actions – in every development programme, in every

government department, in every public and private institution. And it is time to decentralise the management of biodiversity by bringing together multiple stakeholders, especially local communities, through gram sabhas and biodiversity management committees.

### Mainstreaming biodiversity

This very mainstreaming of biodiversity is the goal of the proposed National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Wellbeing, an idea this writer has referred to in earlier columns. India's leading conservation biologists, working under the umbrella of the Biodiversity Collaborative based in Bengaluru, conceptualised the idea and developed a road map for the Mission approved in principle by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Council.

The Mission will enable our country to meet critical challenges in climate change, natural and regenerative agriculture, and ecosystem and public health using biodiversity and ecosystem services – usually referred to as nature-based solutions. The ultimate goal is to enhance and conserve biodiversity to foster human well-being; more specifically, to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals related to poverty alleviation, nutrition and health, and environmental protection, and support an era of new green economy.

People will be at the centre of the Mission, the goal of which is to have all citizens engaged in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, embed consideration of biodiversity in every development-oriented programme of the public and private sectors, and arouse curiosity about nature and a sense of responsibility for safeguarding biodiversity – and our very future – in the minds of every child and every student. Undertaking such a pledge would be a fitting celebration of our precious and irreplaceable natural world.

*The views expressed are personal*

The engagement of all citizens will be key to the enhancement and protection of the world's natural heritage

scheme should take care of the obstacles that hinder access to insurance – excessive costs and also the agony faced in getting claims honoured. Companies charge hefty premiums and their agents never explain the 'between the lines' clauses to the prospective insured. Even the filing of online claims and obtaining their approvals are tedious. Many hospitals exploit patients by extracting hefty amounts even for services they never give at the time of hospitalisation. This requires a strengthening of grievance redress mechanisms. In life insurance, hardly any insurance firm has ever encouraged life insurance policies for Below Poverty Line (BPL) people as these fetch lesser commissions. There need to be regular insurance literacy

programmes when it comes to inclusive coverage .

**Brij Bhushan Goyal,**  
Ludhiana, Punjab

We still follow a western model of risk coverage with utter disregard to the vast potential of the Indian market. More data analysis and innovative underwriting initiatives should be looked into. The vast market should help reduce the cost of insurance, and

subsequent increase in individual cover size should be a priority. The existing jargon-filled environment needs to be dismantled.

**Srinivas Gade,**  
Chennai



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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### School dropouts

There are several ways to overcome the bane of school dropouts (Inside pages, "35 lakh students of Class X failed or dropped out in 2021-22: Education Ministry", May 31). These include providing facilities at school such as wholesome meals, tuition, special attention to students from vulnerable sections, facilities for physical exercise and

meditation and yoga. Too much of a dilution of the pass criterion may help reduce the dropout rate but it will contribute to an intellectual shrivelling.

There needs to be proper supervision of children at the secondary and higher secondary levels.

**R. Sampath,**  
Chennai

**Insurance coverage**

The proposed 'Bima Vistaar'



# TH

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# Is India missing the graphene bus?

**W**hat Artificial Intelligence (AI) is to software and quantum computing is to computers, graphene is to materials. These three emerging technologies will disrupt the existing human-machine interface in the next couple of decades. While India is among the leaders in AI and a potential challenger in quantum computing, it needs to catch up in the area of graphene.

**A wonder material**  
Graphene is the world's thinnest, strongest, and most conductive material of both electricity and heat. It conducts electricity better than copper. It is 200 times stronger than steel but six times lighter. It is almost perfectly transparent as it absorbs only 2% of light. It is impermeable to gases, even those as light as hydrogen and helium. It has the potential to revolutionise electricity, conductivity, energy generation, batteries, sensors and more. Also, when added to other materials, graphene even in small quantities produces composite materials with dramatically transformed qualities. Graphene composites are used in aerospace, automotive, sports equipment and construction. It is used for high-performance batteries and super-capacitors, touchscreens, and conductive inks.

Graphene-based sensors are used for environmental monitoring, healthcare and wearable devices. Graphene oxide membranes are used for water purification and desalination. Graphene-based masks were made during COVID.

Graphene is important for defence and aerospace as well. Its exceptional strength makes it promising material for armour and ballistic protection. Graphene has the potential to absorb and dissipate electromagnetic waves, making it valuable for developing stealth coatings and materials that reduce radar signatures and electromagnetic interference.

Graphene is highly sensitive to environmental changes, which



**Ajay Kumar**  
is former Defence Secretary, and Distinguished Visiting Professor, IIT Kanpur

makes it an excellent candidate for sensing chemical and biological agents, explosives, radiation, and other hazardous substances. Besides, graphene-based materials can also protect us against chemical and biological attacks. Better energy storage and electronics properties make graphene attractive in defence and aerospace as well as in civil and commercial applications.

Never has one material had such an impact on so many sectors. Materials define an age – the stone age, iron age, plastic age and silicon age. There are reasons to believe that we are entering the graphene age. According to the Grand View Research, the global graphene market size was valued at \$175.9 million in 2022 and is expected to grow at a CAGR of 46.6% between 2023 and 2030.

Although graphene was discovered in 2004, it was difficult to produce high-grade large-scale graphene. However, things are changing fast. As per a report, at least one graphene-enhanced product was launched every week in 2022. Over 300 companies are now producing graphene or its derivatives.

Among the leading countries in graphene research are China, the U.S., the U.K., Japan, South Korea, Russia, and Singapore. Till 2012, graphene-related patent filing was dominated by the U.S. From 2013 to 2016, South Korea and China matched the U.S. After 2017, China surged ahead. In 2018, China filed 218 patents while the other leading countries together filed 79. India had eight filings.

China and Brazil are global leaders in the commercial production of graphene. At the Beijing Graphene Institute, set up in 2018, several companies produce industry-grade graphene products. India produces about one-twentieth compared to China and one-third compared to Brazil.

**India's progress**  
But India's progress has been better than many nations. The Centre for Nano Science and Engineering at IISc Bangalore

India needs to catch up in the research and production of graphene, which is the defining material of this age

along with KAS Tech produced a graphene-based system several years ago. Some start-ups and foreign subsidiaries have started graphene or graphene derivatives in India. Notably, Tata Steel has succeeded in growing graphene (about 50 micrometers large domains) using annealing and extracting atomic carbon from steel surface. It has also mixed graphene with used plastic products to recycle them as new. India's niche is going to be innovation using graphene. It figured out how graphene oxide-based wrappers loaded with preservatives can increase the shelf life of fruits and vegetables. The IIT Roorkee-incubated Log 9 has patented a technology for graphene-based ultracapacitors, and the IIT Kanpur-incubated RF Nanocomposites has developed EMI shielding and stealth technology using graphene-based nanotubes. But this trickle needs to be converted into a torrent. A laudable step in this direction was the setting up of the India Innovation Centre for Graphene in Kerala. It is being implemented by the Digital University Kerala in partnership with Tata Steel and C-MET, Thrissur. The Centre needs to become the nodal point to spur large-scale innovation activity around graphene.

Governments have a crucial role to play. China declared graphene a priority in its 13th Plan. Europe set up the Graphene Flagship, with a budget of €1 billion in 2013. Can India not have a national graphene mission? A nodal Ministry needs to be entrusted with this responsibility; else the subject will fall through the cracks. India needs to be among the leaders in graphene because we may experience the 'winner takes the most' situation here. Given the high cost-to-volume ratio for high-grade graphene, its production may get concentrated in a few locations in the world, as in the case of semiconductors. India missed the semiconductor bus in the mid-1990s. The time to step on the graphene pedal is now.

# Where court orders dominate politics

The Calcutta High Court has become a ground for political muscle-flexing

## STATE OF PLAY

**Shiv Sahay Singh**  
shivsahay.s@thehindu.co.in

Matters pertaining to the West Bengal recruitment scam are keeping the Calcutta High Court busy even during summer vacation. On May 22, a Vacation Bench of the court declined to issue an interim stay on an investigation by central agencies into the alleged scam in the recruitment of employees to seven municipalities. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate had stumbled upon irregularities in recruitment by municipalities while investigating the alleged scam in school jobs in the State. Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay said in an interview to a Bengali news channel that he was determined to root out the corruption that had surfaced in the school jobs case. Things took an ugly turn in March 2023 when posters against Justice Rajasekhar Mantha were put up on the court premises and near his residence. A three-judge Bench of the High Court is hearing a contempt petition on April 21.

Ever since the Trinamool Congress came to power for its third consecutive term in 2021, the Calcutta High Court has been buzzing with matters that have dominated the political discourse of the State. From cases relating to the 2021 post-poll violence to the unrest at Bogtui village in March 2022 and the Ram Navami clashes in March-April 2023, the court's judgments have had far-reaching implications on State politics.

In most of the cases dealing with political violence, killings and sexual assault, the court has ruled against the State government. It has often underlined the necessity for an investigation by central agencies or a special investigation team set up by the court, to restore the people's faith.

The setbacks to the State government have often trig-



gered run-ins with the judiciary. Ruling party spokespersons have targeted the court, particularly Justice Gangopadhyay. Last September, Justice Gangopadhyay said in an interview to a Bengali news channel that he was determined to root out the corruption that had surfaced in the school jobs case. Things took an ugly turn in March 2023 when posters against Justice Rajasekhar Mantha were put up on the court premises and near his residence. A three-judge Bench of the High Court is hearing a contempt petition on April 21.

While there can be debates around judgments, personal criticism of judges is a dangerous trend which can potentially interfere with the process of delivery of justice. In some instances, cases involving political violence and irregularities have taken a long time. Also, every court order is not a political setback or victory as political parties make it out to be. The Trinamool maintains political dominance in the State and the Opposition cannot match it on the ground.

The courts have played a crucial role in the politically volatile State since 2006. From the Singur land acquisi-

tion to Nandigram police firing to the massacre at Netai, the High Court has played an important role in the dispensation of justice. However, certain politically sensitive cases like the Saradha chit fund scam and the Narada sting videos assigned to central agencies at the behest of the court are still far from nearing their logical conclusion even after years of investigation. At present, there are other cases in the alleged recruitment scam, apart from those relating to the violence at Kaliaganj and the death of 11 people due to a blast at an illegal firecracker factory at Purba Medinipur.

The long-drawn court battles with political significance have taken a different turn over the past two years as the battle between the Trinamool and a surging BJP is being increasingly fought in courtrooms. As a result, the orders and judgments of the High Court have dominated the political discourse in the State.

While issuing a stay on the termination of jobs of about 32,000 primary teachers in state-run schools, a division Bench of the High Court on May 19 observed, "It is trite that justice delayed is justice denied and, conversely, justice hurried is justice buried."

The Bench, while delivering the order, also observed that the termination of jobs, without extending a meaningful right of defence to the affected parties, *prima facie* requires judicial intervention.

As investigation picks up in the recruitment case, there will be several orders and judgments that can go either way in favour of the ruling dispensation or the Opposition. But what will be required is a fine balance between judicial activism and judicial restraint, apart from constructive criticism of judgments instead of personal targeting of judges.

# A note in decline before its withdrawal

The ₹2,000 notes, introduced to meet the currency requirement after demonetisation, has outlived its utility

## DATA POINT

### Jasmin Nihalani

**T**he Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s move to withdraw ₹2,000 banknotes from circulation on May 19, 2023, was a stark reminder of the ghosts of demonetisation.

In a press release, the central bank justified the move by stating that the banknote, which was introduced to meet the currency requirement after ₹500 and ₹1,000 banknotes were withdrawn in November 2016, had fulfilled its objective. The RBI also cited its 'Clean Note Policy' to contend that the ₹2,000 notes were nearing the end of their estimated life span of 4-5 years as the majority of them were issued before March 2017. Its statement also said that ₹2,000 notes were not commonly used for transactions and that banknotes of other denominations were adequate to meet the demand.

As of March 2023, the share of ₹2,000 notes in the total value of banknotes in circulation had dipped to 10.8% compared to the 50% share they had by the end of March 2017. Over three-fourths or 77% of the total value of banknotes are now accounted for by ₹500 banknotes. This is in stark contrast to the pre-demonetisation period where two high-value currency notes – ₹500 and ₹1,000 – together accounted for the lion's share of the banknotes in circulation.

**Chart 1** shows the share of various denominations in the total value of banknotes in circulation.

Moreover, the printing of ₹2,000 notes were stopped in 2018-19. According to the RBI's statement, this happened because the stock of banknotes in other denominations was adequate to meet the currency requirement of the public.

While the supply of ₹2,000 notes was stopped, the supply of ₹500 did not see a commensurate rise and remained stagnant. With the void left by the withdrawal of the ₹2,000 banknote, the supply of ₹500 could increase or another high-value currency can be introduced. This would push up the printing cost of notes incurred by the central bank. **Chart 3** shows the year-wise supply of banknotes in various denominations.

According to the government, the decision to cancel the legal tender status of the high-denomination notes of ₹500 and ₹1,000 was taken to curb terror financing through the proceeds of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) and to counter the hoarding of black money. The press release by the Ministry of Finance then said, "High denomination notes are known to facilitate the generation of black money. In this connection, it may be noted that... the total number of banknotes in circulation rose by 40% between 2011 and 2016."

In the seven-and-a-half years since demonetisation, there has been a 36% rise in the number of currency notes in circulation. As far as counterfeit notes are concerned, fake notes in the denomination of ₹2,000 have remained low and are in decline. But more than 91,000 fake ₹500 notes were detected by the end of March 2023. While this number is much lower than the number of fake currency notes detected of the withdrawn ₹500 banknotes, it has been on a consistent rise since its introduction only six years ago.

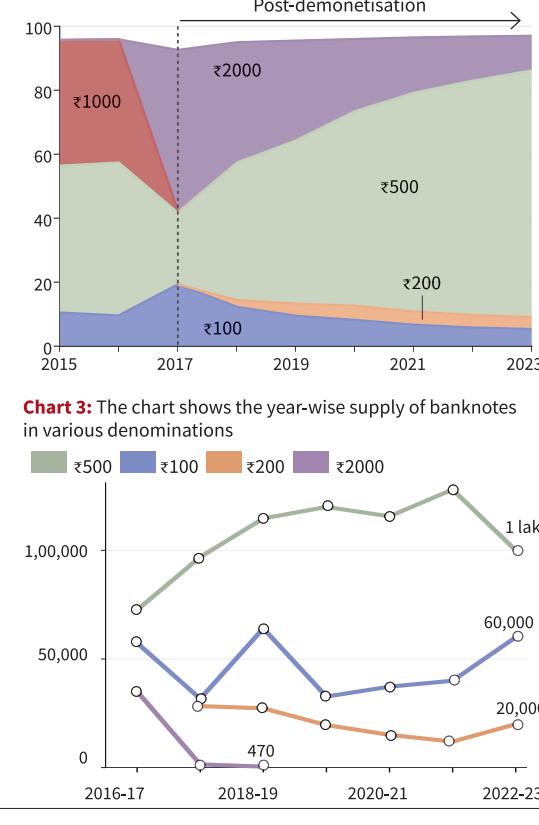
**Chart 4** shows the number of counterfeit notes detected in various denominations over the years.

## Ending on a dour note

The data for the charts has been collated from various editions of the Reserve Bank of India's annual reports



**Chart 3:** The chart shows the year-wise supply of banknotes in various denominations



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

**The Hindu**

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 1, 1973

### INTERPOL aid to be sought to get back stolen idol

Madras, May 31: The Tamil Nadu police have proposed to seek the good offices of the INTERPOL to get back the stolen Sivapuram Nataraja idol which has now been located in the United States.

Disclosing this to newsmen to-day, the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. F.V. Arul, said he would be leaving for Paris to-morrow to attend the INTERPOL conference where he would take up the matter with the international organisation.

The Police had already requested the State Government to move the Government of India to approach the U.S. Government for getting back the idol, he said. On two earlier occasions, he recalled, the United States had restored smuggled art treasures to the countries of their origin.

Mr. Arul pointed out that Mr. Norton Simon, who acquired the idol for one million dollars (Rs. 75 lakhs), had already expressed his willingness (in a press statement) to return the idol if the Government of India could guarantee that art treasures were not smuggled out of the country in future.

The 110 cm. tall bronze idol stolen from the Sivapuram temple in Thanjavur District now forms part of the art collections of the American millionaire, Mr. Norton Simon.

## A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 1, 1923

### Pasteur centenary in French India

Calcutta, May 30: By a decree of the muster for the colony in Paris, May 27th having been fixed for the celebration of the great French Savant M. Louis Pasteur, all French colonies in India fittingly celebrated the event. At Chandernagore the Mayor was the chairman of the Fete committees. Charity Football match, ball and theatrical performance were among the items of the Fete. In the afternoon a meeting was held under the presidency of the Administratore De Chandernagore when speeches on the life of the greatest scientist were delivered. A sum of money was collected to be sent to the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

# Text & Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### Worth of the scheme to increase grain storage capacity

**1** In ₹ lakh crore. The scheme, approved by the government, aims to increase foodgrain storage capacity by 700 lakh tonne in the cooperative sector. The storage will expand to 2,150 lakh tonne from about 1,450 lakh tonne, according to Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur. PTI

### NMC derecognises medical colleges for flouting norms

**30** colleges. About 100 more medical colleges in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Assam, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, and many others may also face similar action for not following standards set by the National Medical Commission (NMC), according to officials. PTI

### Visas issued by the Chinese embassy to Indians this year

**60,000** Visas have been issued in the last five months to Indians travelling to China for studies, tourism and family reunion, according to an embassy spokesperson. Due to the pandemic, China had restricted travel from March 2020. PTI

### Millions of Syrians experiencing "humanitarian stress"

**70** In %. In Syria's 12-year war, this is the first time that 15.3 million people are in dire need of humanitarian aid. The UN appealed for \$5.4 billion to help them, without which millions of people are at risk of losing food or any assistance from July this year. AP

### NATO to send more troops to Kosovo to help subdue protests

**700** According to NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, the troops are being sent after the clashes with ethnic Serbs there left 30 international soldiers wounded. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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## China's military diplomacy in Southeast Asia

What is causing China's growing influence in Southeast Asia? How does the Global Security Initiative challenge the ASEAN countries? Why is the increasing proximity of the U.S. with the Philippines worrisome for China?

### EXPLAINER

Anushka Saxena

#### The story so far:

**D**ue to its intensifying geopolitical competition with the U.S. and its own security interests in the region, China is expanding its military outreach to Southeast Asian countries. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)'s global activities and influence campaigns are part of its broader reform process initiated by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2015, and form a fundamental element of China's overall foreign policy. In this light, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has become a priority target for the People's Liberation Army's military diplomacy.

#### What is the People's Liberation Army (PLA) currently undertaking?

The PLA and the Lao People's Armed Forces (LPAF) have recently concluded their bilateral military exercise, Friendship Shield 2023. The drills aim to foster interoperability to effectively "counter transnational armed criminal groups based in jungles and mountains." This week-long exercise comes on the heels of Laos' Foreign Affairs Minister Saleumxay Kommasith's visit to China last month. The PLA Southern Theatre Command (PLA STC) is leading a massive delegation to the LPAF's Kommadam Academy for the exercise.

This includes 200 troops from the 75th Group Army's combined-arms brigade, assault vehicles such as the 4x4 MRAP Dongfeng CSK141 (Mengshi), as well as equipment for maritime replenishment, mine clearance, explosive disposal, and epidemic prevention.

Before this, in 2023, the PLA STC conducted the 'Golden Dragon' drills with Cambodia from late March to early April. This too came on the heels of a high-level meeting held between Zhang Youxia, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission (CMC) and the army commander of the Royal Cambodian Army, Hong Manai, in February this year.

The drills saw the participation of over 200 troops from the PLA STC's Army, the Navy, and the Logistical Support Force, who arrived in Cambodia aboard a Type 071 comprehensive landing vehicle, Jinggangshan. The exercise entailed joint anti-terrorism and humanitarian aid operations.

A few weeks later, in late April, the PLA STC conducted a joint exercise with the Singaporean Navy. Both sides deployed minesweepers (PLA Chibi and RSS Intrepid) and frigates (PLA Yulin and RSS Punggol) for shore and sea operations.

All of these joint military endeavours were preceded by a visit from a working group of the Chinese Ministry of National Defence to Laos, Vietnam and Brunei, where the two sides discussed "the relationship between the two militaries and regional security issues of common concern".

These are a few of the many instances of China's military diplomacy with Southeast Asian countries. And in the past couple of months, the frequency of Chinese military drills with its ASEAN partners appears to have increased for two primary reasons. Firstly, Xi Jinping has put excessive emphasis on defense diplomacy under his flagship Global Security Initiative (GSI).

Second, China's threat perception of expanding the United States military engagement with countries in the Asia-Pacific region, especially those countries that China has disputes with in

the South and East China Seas region.

#### How does the GSI challenge the ASEAN's cohesiveness?

The GSI invited varied responses from the ASEAN, which reflect the classic divergences in intra-association stances on bandwagoning and hedging between China and the U.S. First, in November 2022, during the ASEAN-China Summit in Cambodia, all parties cautiously agreed to "take note of the GSI proposed by China with core elements consistent with the principles and spirit of the Treaty of Amity," and "looked forward to further details of the GSI."

Over the past few months, the divergences have become visible. As per ISEAS's 'State of Southeast Asia Survey 2023', on average, 27% of those surveyed in the 10 ASEAN place confidence in the GSI. However, of those surveyed in countries such as Cambodia and Brunei, nearly 50% are confident about the Initiative. On the other hand, of those surveyed in countries such as Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar, well over 50% place little to no confidence in it.

These figures, alone, however, are not enough to determine how ASEAN countries are responding to China's expanding comprehensive national power. For example, China's heavy Belt and Road investments have been welcomed by Indonesia. Moreover, despite tensions in the South China Sea, Indonesia has been proactively applauding Chinese support in the advancement of its vaccine programme and its high-speed rail network.

Similarly, despite Vietnam's mistrust of the GSI, analysts suggest that it maintains a relatively neutral stance in its relations with China, which indicates that there is neither rapid progress nor significant deterioration in bilateral relations. This may be because a cautious Vietnam may not want to invite hostility from a significantly larger power in its neighbourhood. Additional factors may include shared socialist values between the central committees of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) and China (CPC), as well as the success of the Sino-Vietnamese 'Two Corridors and One Economic Circle' Belt and Road project.

On the other hand, in Myanmar, despite a majority of observers placing little to no confidence in the GSI, China is making political, military and economic inroads. Since the takeover of the junta, the development of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor has only accelerated, while new satellite imagery is showing China building a surveillance military base on Great Coco Islands in Myanmar. This also impacts India because the Great Coco Islands lie just 55 km north of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and their militarisation by China poses a strategic threat to India's national security.

#### Why is the Philippines' tilt to the U.S. worrisome for China?

China continues to face competition from the U.S. in its bid to establish a sphere of influence over Southeast Asia. The increasing proximity of the U.S. with the Philippines, with whom China shares a disputed maritime border in the Luzon Strait in the South China Sea, is worrisome for China. What has perhaps recently irked China the most is the Philippines' decision to provide the U.S. with access to four military bases in addition to the five bases the U.S. already had access to, under the 2014 Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement between the two sides.

China has accordingly structured the message around its exercises with



The PLA STC conducted the 'Golden Dragon' drills with Cambodia this year. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

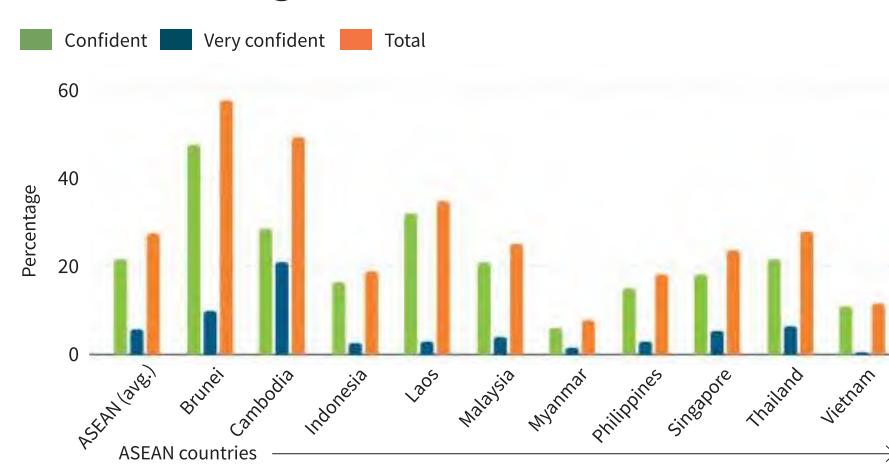
### THE GIST

Due to its intensifying geopolitical competition with the U.S. and its own security interests in the region, China is expanding its military outreach to Southeast Asian countries.

China continues to face competition from the U.S. in its bid to establish a sphere of influence over Southeast Asia. The increasing proximity of the U.S. with the Philippines, with whom China shares a disputed maritime border in the Luzon Strait in the South China Sea, is worrisome for China.

China has structured the message around its exercises with Cambodia, Singapore, and Laos as a warning to the Philippines, with a Chinese military commentator Fu Qinghao saying that these exercises "make a model for other countries in the region, including the Philippines, which has been leaning toward the U.S."

### How confident are you that the GSI will benefit the region?



Cambodia, Singapore, and Laos as a warning to the Philippines, with a Chinese military commentator Fu Qinghao saying that these exercises "make a model for other countries in the region, including the Philippines, which has been leaning toward the U.S."

To add fuel to the fire, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said that "tensions across the Taiwan Straits seem to be continuing to increase, and so these EDCA sites will also prove to be useful for us that terrible occurrence come about".

Of course, in tandem with other leaders hedging in the ASEAN, Marcos has since clarified that Washington "cannot use bases in his country for 'offensive action' against China in the event of a conflict over Taiwan." This does not, however, change the fact that the bases are advantageous for the U.S. during an offensive against China, as they help fulfil purposes such as refuel and resupply for warships, intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance (ISR), and blocking Chinese trade through critical chokepoints in the South China Sea.

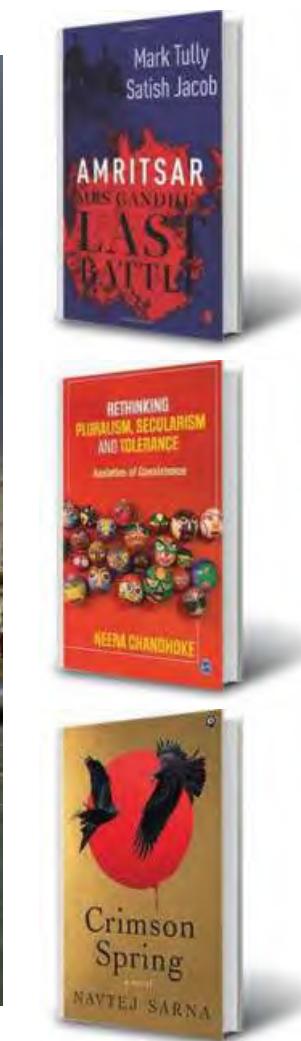
To defend its claims and interests in

the region, China is likely to pursue both aggressive military posturing and diplomacy in Southeast Asia. In early May, for example, Chinese surveillance vessel Xiang Yang Hong 10, accompanied by a contingent of eight other maritime vessels, attempted to intimidate the navies of India and ASEAN countries engaged in the first edition of a multilateral naval drill in the South China Sea. Satellite intelligence also shows China preparing a new naval base in the Ramea region of Cambodia.

However, despite China's military and economic inroads in the region, it needs to prove to ASEAN countries sitting on the fence that it has the capability to exercise restraint and act in accordance with the provisions of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (which is yet to come into force). This is also essential for it to win the ASEAN's confidence for the GSI, which will otherwise, and for good reason, continue to cautiously hedge and balance between American and Chinese influence operations in the region.

(Anushka Saxena is a research analyst with Takshashila Institution's Indo-Pacific Studies Programme)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Know Your English

K. Subramanian

"Sir, Ms. G. Aruna, Junior Lecturer in English, Gudur, wants to know the meaning of the word 'gubernatorial'."

"'Gubernatorial' means 'of a governor or his office'. In Latin, *gubernator* means 'a governor'. In Latin, *gubernare* literally means 'to steer or pilot a ship, direct, guide'. The word 'govern' is also from *gubernare*.. 'Gubernatorial' is used more in American English than in British English. It is used as a constitutional or legal term. You would sound pompous if you said, 'I liked the gubernatorial speech'."

"Sir, Mr. Sanjay Bhatia, H-3, Samarpal Flats, Gulbai Tekra, Ahmedabad, wants to know the meaning of the idiom, 'The boot is now on the other leg'."

"It means that the situation has completely changed. When a situation has completely altered, you can say, 'The boot is on the other leg'. You can also say, 'The boot is on the other foot'."

"Sir, what's the meaning of 'He got the boot'?"

"It means that he was dismissed, sacked, fired. 'He gave him the boot' means that he dismissed him."

"Sir, Mr. S.A. Abdullah, Srinagar, wants to know whether the word 'banian' (what one wears under the shirt) is a word of Indian origin."

"The word 'banian', 'banyan' is from Sanskrit *vani*, a merchant. In Hindi, it is *baniya*. The word 'banian' or 'banyan' was used in English as early as the 16th century."

Their undershirt, which was originally of muslin, came to be called 'banian'.

"Sir, Mr. K. Prasada Rao, III Lane, Cloughpet, Ongole, wants to know the meaning of 'renoncants' in 'renoncants of the Union Territory of Pondicherry' as he doesn't find the word in the dictionary."

"You won't find this word in any English dictionary. It is a French word. I wasn't aware of the exact significance of the word till Prof. M. J. N. A. Xavier, Department of French, CIEFL, who is also from Pondicherry, enlightened me on this. This is what he said: 'In the former French settlements in India (Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe, Yanam and Chandranagore), there were two categories of French nationals. One was the 'renoncants' and the other 'sujets' (subjects). The renoncants enjoyed the same status as that of the French people; they were treated on par with the people of France with regard to pay, facilities for work in any French colony; but they had to do compulsory military service for two years and have a French name added to their name irrespective of the religion or community they belonged to. The 'sujets' were treated as locals and were allowed to work only in the French settlements in India. They were not expected to do any military service and their pay and other things were decided locally and were different from those of the 'renoncants'. I am grateful to Prof. Xavier for his clarification."

*Published in The Hindu on March 8, 1988*

## Ode to a city: why Amritsar brings out the dynamism of the Sikh heartland

Brimming with spirituality, pluralism and a sense of history, the city of Amritsar has always lived on hope, going through cycles of destruction, restoration, regeneration and rebuilding

Ziya Us Salam

**E**very small town has its own rhythm, its own music. Unknown to those confined to metropolises, there is a beauty in decrepit old buildings with their lattice screens, shops with rickety shutters and a road where goats, cows, cars, cycles and pedestrians vie for the same space. Though not quite a small town now, Amritsar had a similarly beguiling beauty; a pace of life that made a mockery of those seeking to get ahead. As actor-author Deepti Naval recalls in her elegant prose in *A Country Called Childhood*, "It's getting dark in the city of Amritsar. Shops are shutting down. Street lights come on, casting dim yellow pools of light. Rickshaws and cycles hustle to make their way home. A handcart loaded with gunny bags wobbles down the street. Even Dwarka's kite shop is winding up. The old Sardar tailor pulls his rickety shutter down, gets on his bicycle, and pedals away. Shahni's voice can be heard; she is urging her buffaloes home."

And life went on in an even keel, unflustered, unhurried. There was a joy in the predictable.

Except that Amritsar has seldom had the comfort of peace and quiet. Life and death have often been experienced on the streets of the city. It was that way in 1947 when trainloads of passengers left the city for good, leaving behind forsaken mosques and *dargahs*, *havelis* and hutments. It was no different when trains which started from Lahore teeming with passengers, reached here only with a handful, still breathing, still desperate to be safe. If destiny doles out cards to cities and towns, Amritsar was handed the most challenging.

As Deepti Naval writes about a mosque, called 'maseet' in local lingo, and the changes in the city's demography, "In 1952, the maseet was a dark, deserted place since most Muslims in Amritsar had left for Pakistan during Partition. No one lived there... And then in 1956, the first maulvi returned to the maseet. In the wee hours of the morning, while it was still dark, I suddenly heard a wail..., 'Allahu Akbar'... 'Azaan', whispered Mama, 'Hai... How beautiful...' That night, before going to sleep, my father, for the first time ever, spoke about the 'maseet' as he remembered it from his boyhood days... after 1947, there was not a single *Mussalman* in Amritsar. Not one. Before Partition, the 'maseet' was a vibrant, flourishing place. There would be *dhuandhar taqreeran*, impassioned sermons over the loudspeaker".

It was no different in April, 1919 when the British massacred "hundreds of innocents in Jalianwala Bagh" as Navtej Sarna writes in his novel, *Crimson Spring*. "It was an event which changed Mahatma Gandhi's view of British rule in India. We still don't agree on how many people died there. We have accepted the figure of 379, but that's just the official figure," says Sarna.

**Vibrant way of life**

Indeed, Amritsar for all the cruelties of Mughal monarchs on Sikh gurus was a vibrant place, teeming with life, a life where religion was incidental, not a paramount identity. As Neera Chandhoke writes of a Baba Lakhwana mazaar in *Rethinking Pluralism, Secularism and Tolerance*, "Here at a simple tomb lit by two oil lamps, Hindus and Sikhs genuflected before the mazaar of a Muslim saint." The worshippers

believed that Baba answered their prayers. A story goes, as Chandhoke writes, "During his travels Guru Nanak Dev came across a goatherd, named Lakhan, and asked him for some food. Lakhan offered to the Guru some sweets cooked out of goat milk. In return Guru Nanak Dev blessed Lakhan and granted him a boom: no one would return empty handed from his doorstep. Across the region, Lakhan is known as the giver who does not deny anyone anything."

The city inspired ace photojournalist Raghu Rai to piece together a photo-academy book called *Amritsar: A Remembrance*, where he brought out the dynamism of the Sikh heartland, its spirituality, its shrines, festivals and culture in such a beautiful manner that William Dalrymple called it a love letter to the city.

Amritsar was many things to many people. Essentially, the land of the gurus, it was a place throbbing with spirituality, its Sikh shrines, its sufi strains, its pluralist living.

Yet Amritsar was once again in the throes of tumult and turmoil in the 1980s. The demand for Khalistan threatened to ruin the social fabric. And the Golden Temple or the Harmandar Sahib, the pre-eminent spiritual sight of Sikhism, unfortunately did not stay untouched. The gurdwara had repeatedly borne the brunt of Mughal and Afghan incursions and later became the centre of the Punjabi Subah Movement post-Independence. It all paled into relative insignificance with what happened in 1984 with Operation Bluestar. Then the Indian Army entered here, allegedly to flush out to terrorists who had found a safe haven here. Over a thousand deaths were reported, the Akal Takht was destroyed. Only for the

gurdwara to be rebuilt yet again as an open house of worship.

**Recovering from the past**

As Mark Tully and Satish Jacob write in *Amritsar: Mrs. Gandhi's Last Battle*, "It was a battle in which infantry, armour and artillery were used against a small group of Sikhs who had fortified the Golden Temple complex and used it as a base from which to defy the authority of the Indian government. The tragedy is that many Sikhs do not accept this definition. They maintain that it was indeed a battle against their community."

In fact, the Operation Bluestar and events leading to it have got a lot of attention from authors. For instance, *The Punjab Story* with a foreword by K.P.S. Gill and contributions from Khushwant Singh, Shekhar Gupta, Sunil Sethi, Pavleen Singh, and others also talks of the times, stating, "6 June 1984: The Indian Army storms the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Called Operation Bluestar, the historic event ended the growing spectre of terrorism perpetrated by the extremist leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale".

Amritsar was wounded. The city where Hindus and Sikhs had *roti-beti ke rishte* (broke bread together and married each other) stood divided.

After the mayhem, however, Amritsar recovered again. Samjhauta Express, the train that connected India and Pakistan, resumed. Hindus started going to the Golden Temple again. Life moved on in an even keel.

As written by Jigna Desai in Raghu Rai's *Amritsar: A Remembrance*, "Amritsar is a city that never forgets its history as it goes through cycles of destruction, restoration, regeneration and rebuilding".

**THE DAILY QUIZ**

Since 2001, June 1 has been observed as World Milk Day to recognise its importance as a global food. A quiz on all things related to milk

V.V. Ramanan**QUESTION 1**

How is milk 'toned'?

**QUESTION 2**

What is the Sanskrit name for the Ocean of Milk that was churned to get nectar and where Vishnu resides by reclining on Sesha?

**QUESTION 3**

Fill in the blank: A cow's milk is slightly yellowish in colour, when compared to buffalo's milk, due to the presence of \_\_\_\_\_?

**QUESTION 4**

If it is Aavin for Tamil Nadu and Milma for Kerala, what is it for Karnataka?

**QUESTION 5**

Which five-lettered word describes the mammary glands of female cattle, goats, etc. that produce milk?

**QUESTION 6**

Casein, the main protein in milk, forms 'micelles'. What happens because 'micelles' scatter light?

**QUESTION 7**

Many individuals are unable to fully digest the sugar found in milk and as a result have diarrhoea, gas, and bloating after consuming dairy products. What is the common two-word term used for such a condition which takes its name from the most common type of sugar found in milk?



**Visual question:**  
Name this Padma Vibhushan awardee called the 'Father of the White Revolution of India'.

**Questions and Answers of the previous day's daily quiz:**

1. This clock tower is in the confines of the Fort campus of the University of Mumbai. Identify the tower. When was this added to the list of World Heritage Sites? **Ans: Rajabai Tower, 2018**

2. Which was the first brand which used the face of the Duquesne Brewery Clock for the advertisements? **Ans: U.S., Coca-Cola**

3. The official name of the tower in which Big Ben is located was the Clock Tower, but it was renamed in 2012. What is the new name? Why was it renamed? **Ans: Elizabeth Tower to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Elizabeth II**

4. The Dufferin Clock Tower is a historic relic of Mysuru. This is also known by another name locally. What is it? Close by, there is another clock tower built in 1927. Name both the clock towers. **Ans: Chikka Gadiyara, Dodda Gadiyara**

5. This clock tower consists of 12 clocks encircling a central one with 57 dials. These clocks show the time on all continents, phases of the moon, times of tides and many other periodic phenomena. Identify this tower situated in Belgium. **Ans: Zimmer tower**

**Visual:** Identify this medieval clock. When was it first installed?

**Ans: Prague astronomical clock, 1410**

**Early Birds:** K.N. Viswanathan / Himanshu Verma

**Word of the day****Pedantic:**

concerned with minor details or rules

**Synonyms:** precise, exact, meticulous**Usage:** His analyses are careful and even painstaking, but never pedantic**Pronunciation:** [bit.ly/43wJFHL](http://bit.ly/43wJFHL)**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /pri'dantɪk/

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

## From Page One

## GDP expanded 6.1% in 2022-23's last quarter

The growth estimates for the first and second quarters were pared to 11.9% and 5.4% respectively, while the third quarter GVA growth was revised higher to 4.7%, from the 4.6% reckoned earlier.

"While growth in private final consumption expenditure witnessed a slight uptick to 2.8% in Q4 from 2.2% in Q3, it remained muted, belying the uptick in consumer sentiments as per the RBI's consumer confidence survey," ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar pointed out.

The higher-than-expected GDP growth last year could also temper growth expectations for this year, which the government and central bank expect to be around 6.5%, said Madan Sabnavis, the Bank of Baroda's chief economist. Amid a global slowdown, maintaining growth over 6% will be challenging, he reckoned.

Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran was more optimistic and said the growth momentum continued across agriculture, industry and services sectors. India's 6.1% GDP growth was the fastest among major economies, he asserted, adding that prospects look better for this year than they did four months ago.

"We are prepared to stick our necks out and say that the risks to a 6.5% growth projection for this year are more evenly balanced now, than at the time of the Economic Survey's presentation when we felt that downside risks dominate," Mr. Nageswaran said.

## Air services assured for Manipur's hill areas

"Even as the Home Minister was visiting, several houses were burnt down. When we told him about the incidents, the Home Minister said it is a chain reaction from both sides and called to maintain peace for 15 days," Mr. Lhungdim said.

The groups reiterated their demand for President's Rule and a separate administration for tribal areas from Manipur.

Mr. Tombing added that there are several students and officials posted with Central government who are stuck in the hills. "The distance between Aizawl and Churachandpur by road is 400 km. That is why we are demanding helicopter services as we cannot go to Imphal airport. One of the Kuki MLAs who went to attend a meeting in Imphal after the May 3 violence is still in the Intensive Care Unit," he said.

While the State's Director-General of Police P. Doungel accompanied Mr. Shah to the hill areas, the officer – who belongs to the Kuki community – was not present in the security review meeting held in Imphal in the presence of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. Mr. Shah was briefed by retired IPS officer Kuldip Singh, who was appointed as security adviser by the Manipur government after the May 3 violence. The Chief Minister did not accompany Mr. Shah to the tribal districts. The tribal groups and ten Kuki legislators, including seven from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), have demanded his resignation.

## Kejriwal to meet Stalin, Soren over ordinance

Others who have shown their support include Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar and CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury.

"Will be meeting Tamil Nadu CM Thiru @mkstalin in Chennai tomorrow to seek DMK's support against Centre's unconstitutional-undemocratic 'Anti-Delhi' Ordinance," the Delhi CM and AAP national convener tweeted.

"Day after tomorrow, I will meet Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren in Ranchi. Will seek his support against the ordinance," he said in another tweet.

## The Hindu Bureau

LUCKNOW

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president and Kaiserganj MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Wednesday said if the allegations against him were proven, he would hang himself.

"It's been four months. They [wrestlers] want me to be hanged. The government is not hanging me and so they are going to immerse their medals in the Ganga. Those who are levelling allegations should know that by immersing medals in the Ganga, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh will not get hanged. If you have any proofs, give it, police, courts will give punishment," Mr. Singh said, adding that if a single allegation was proved against him, he would hang him-



BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh addressing a rally in Barabanki district on Wednesday. PTI

Mr. Singh made these remarks while touring Barabanki to gather support for his June 5 'Jan Chetna Maha Rally' in Ayodhya's Ramkatha park.

**Deferred plan**  
The protesting wrestlers, including Sakshi Malik, Barrang Punia and Vinesh

## 16 parties to participate in June 12 Opposition meet

Several leaders including Mamata and Pawar have confirmed their presence; Congress bigwigs Kharje and Rahul might opt out because of 'scheduling' issues but party to send a representative

## Sobhana K. Nair

NEW DELHI

In the very first Opposition meeting, to discuss electoral strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha election against the BJP scheduled to be held on June 12, 16 parties have confirmed their presence.

Though according to sources, both Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former president Rahul Gandhi might skip the meeting hosted in Patna by Janata Dal (S) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, citing "scheduling" problems.

The Congress wanted the meeting to be postponed for June 23. But it was felt that it is difficult to arrive at a date that will be suitable for everyone so the meeting should continue as per the finalised schedule.

The Congress has assured that it will depose one of its leaders to attend the meeting. "If the Congress wants to show that it



The meeting hosted by Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, left, will also see participation of his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal. FILE PHOTO

cares about Opposition unity, it must depose one of the Chief Ministers to attend in the absence of Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi," a senior Opposition leader quipped.

## Common candidate

While the Congress bigwigs might be absent, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) patriarch Sharad Pawar,

among others have confirmed their presence. While this is just a preliminary meeting, the Opposition is aiming to arrive at an agreement for fielding one common candidate against the BJP on every Lok Sabha seat.

In his previous confabulations with Mr. Kumar and RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav in Delhi, Mr. Gandhi had suggested a "chintan shivir" to come up with a common stand on key issues to counter the BJP. "Mr. Gandhi wanted all Opposition leaders to sit together for three to four

days away from Delhi to have detailed dialogue to sort out ideological and political differences. We will have many rounds of meetings, both one-on-one and in larger groups," a Congress leader said.

For Mr. Kejriwal, Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi's absence is partially a missed opportunity.

At least three Opposition leaders

who recently met Mr. Kejriwal have confirmed that he has complained multiple times, that despite his efforts for the last three months to meet the Congress leadership, neither Mr. Gandhi nor Mr. Kharge has positively responded.

Mr. Kejriwal in the last two weeks has nearly met heads of all Opposition parties to garner support for AAP's fight against Centre's ordinance on posting and transfer of bureaucrats that gives the Lieutenant-Governor overarching powers over the elected government.

(With inputs from Abhinay Deshpande)

## Gyanvapi case: HC turns down plea by mosque panel

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

mosque and its premises was once a Hindu temple. They claimed that Mughal ruler Aurangzeb had demolished the temple and built the mosque above it.

The maintainability of their suit was challenged in April 2022 by the Anjuman Committee, which manages the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, challenging the maintainability of a suit filed by women worshippers in the district court, seeking the right to worship Hindu deities inside the mosque premises.

Thus, the High Court upheld the Varanasi court's order, holding the suit to be maintainable.

After a Supreme Court order, the matter was transferred to the Varanasi district court, which dismissed the mosque committee's plea in September 2022. District judge A.K. Vishvesha had ruled that neither the Places of Worship Act, 1991, nor the Waqf Act, 1995, nor the U.P. Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act, 1983 prevented the suit from being heard.

The mosque committee had then appealed the district court's order in the High Court in October 2022.

## Right to worship

In August 2021, Rakshi Singh and four other Hindu women moved the Varanasi civil court, seeking the right to worship Hindu deities within the Gyanvapi mosque premises all through the year. In their claim, the plaintiffs had said that the Gyanvapi

## CM Stalin writes to Centre: reintroduce Chennai-Tokyo flight

## The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

On his way back from Tokyo, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Wednesday wrote to Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia, requesting him to reintroduce direct flight connectivity between Tokyo and Chennai.

He also sought more flights between Singapore and Madurai.

The Chief Minister visited Japan and Singapore to invite industrialists to the Global Investors' Meet in Chennai in January 2024.

The direct flight between Chennai and Tokyo, launched in October 2019 by All Nippon Airways (ANA), was discontinued during the COVID-19 pandemic, he pointed out.

"The lack of direct flight connectivity increases the travel time between these two destinations by about seven hours, which is significant. There have been persistent requests from the business community in Tamil Nadu and the Japanese

businesses here to resume direct flight services between Chennai and Tokyo," he said.

Several Japanese conglomerates such as Nissan, Toshiba, Yamaha, Komatsu, Mitsubishi and Hitachi had set up manufacturing facilities in Tamil Nadu. Of the 12 industrial townships established in India under the Japan-India Investment Promotion Partnership Program, three were in Tamil Nadu. With over 600 Japanese companies having establishments in the State for the past two decades, the influx of Japanese expatriates had gradually increased.

Chennai was home to the largest Japanese community in India, Mr. Stalin said.

"At the same time, Japan also has a significant Tamil diaspora, particularly professionals in fields related to Information Technology and finance. As a result, there has been a steady strengthening of economic and cultural relations between Tamil Nadu and Japan," the CM said.

He is on a six-day tour of the U.S. where he is scheduled to participate in different events including speaking at Stanford University, addressing the National Press Club at Washington, a closed-door

## Modi among those who think they know more than God, Rahul says at event in U.S.

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI



Rahul Gandhi

session at a think-tank and interact with intellectuals, academics and lawmakers among others.

"The world is too big and complicated for any person to know everything. That is the disease... There is a group of people in India who are absolutely convinced they know everything. They think they know even more than God. can sit with God and explain to him what's going on. And of course, our Prime Minister is one such specimen," he said.

**Core of mediocrity**  
The Congress leader claimed "this group" can teach history to historians, science to scientists and warfare to the army. "But

at the core of it is mediocrity. They're not ready to listen," he noted.

Talking about the inauguration of the new Parliament building and the *Sengol* row, Mr. Gandhi said these issues were distractions as the Modi government cannot address issues like unemployment, price rise, and the spread of anger and hatred.

"The BJP can't really discuss these issues so they have to do the sceptre thing. Lying down and doing all that. Aren't you happy that I'm not lying down?" he asked.

When a supporters of Khalistan disrupted his speech, he briefly paused and said "mohabbat ki dukaan" before the protesters were taken out by security personnel.

At another event in Santa Cruz, Mr. Gandhi asserted that the BJP can be defeated if all the Opposition parties are "properly aligned" and added that the process to bring Opposition parties together was progressing well.

## BJP hits back at Rahul with 'fake Gandhi' jibe

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

BJP leaders and Ministers on Wednesday launched an all out attack against former Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for his remarks targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the U.S.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur said that Mr. Gandhi had made it a habit to insult India on every foreign trip of his. "In foreign countries, Rahul Gandhi said that there used to be atrocities on Dalits and Scheduled Caste families in the 80s. Tell me, Rahul ji that how did the atrocities on Dalits, Scheduled Caste people and minorities get the protection of the Congress?" Mr. Thakur asked.

Calling him "Fake Gandhi", Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said that he found it funny how "someone who knew nothing is suddenly an expert on everything". Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said that Mr. Gandhi had "just one work to do, that is to verbally abuse PM Modi and defame the country".

## 'Ready to hang myself if single allegation proved'

## The Hindu Bureau

LUCKNOW

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president and Kaiserganj MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Wednesday said if the allegations against him were proven, he would hang himself.

"It's been four months. They [wrestlers] want me to be hanged. The government is not hanging me and so they are going to immerse their medals in the Ganga. Those who are levelling allegations should know that by immersing medals in the Ganga, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh will not get hanged. If you have any proofs, give it, police, courts will give punishment," Mr. Singh said, adding that if a single allegation was proved against him, he would hang him-

## 'BJP harassing wrestlers'

## The Hindu Bureau

CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Congress Legislative Party on Wednesday hit out at the BJP-led governments at the Centre and the State alleging that atrocities were being committed on the country's top wrestlers.

At the CLP meeting held here under party in-charge for Haryana

accusing him of sexually harassing women wrestlers. He faces two FIRs, including one under the POCSO Act in the matter.

The wrestlers, who have been on a dharna at Jantar Mantar since April 23, are demanding strict action against Mr. Singh.

## Cong. flays PM for not reaching out to wrestlers

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Shakti Singh Gohil, former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda and State president Chaudhary Uday Bhan, a resolution was passed "condemning the atrocities being committed on the wrestlers by the BJP government."

The silence of the BJP government in this matter was condemnable, said the resolution.

accusing him of sexually harassing women wrestlers. He faces two FIRs, including one under the POCSO Act in the matter.

He has invited supporters and well-wishers from across the country to the rally, claiming that it has been planned on the appeal of seers.



Ally for justice: Mamata Banerjee walking in support of wrestlers who are staging protests in Delhi. DEBASISH BHADURI

## Mamata takes out rally in support of grapplers

## Shiv Sahay Singh

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday hit the streets here in support of wrestlers who are staging protests in Delhi against the Wrestling Federation of India chairman and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

She was joined by sportspersons from several clubs of Kolkata Maidan. "The manner in which our wrestlers are being tortured is extremely unfair," she said. The Chief Minister promised to continue to protest against the BJP government until the culprit has been arrested.

M ND-NDE

# Probe role of Manipur CM, MP in violence: tribal forum

Members blame 'extremist' Meitei groups for clashes; MTFD general secretary says the State has been seeing 'polarisation politics' only after the Biren Singh government came to power

**Abhinay Lakshman**  
NEW DELHI

The Manipur Tribals' Forum, Delhi (MTFD), has demanded that the Union government investigate the alleged role of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and BJP Raja Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba in fuelling the ethnic clashes that erupted in Manipur on May 3 between the Meitei and Kuki-Zomi community.

The MTFD, which was the first to approach the Supreme Court seeking intervention in Manipur days after the violence began, held a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday reiterating the demand of the Kuki-Zomi community to impose President's Rule in the State and initiate the process of creating a separate administration.

The MTFD urged the Manipur government to ensure that the mortal remains of tribals killed by "Meitei extremists," which are lying at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences



Taking a stand: Tribals from Manipur participating in a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Wednesday. R.V. MOORTHY

and the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences, be kept intact and that their identification be conducted on a priority basis.

#### Weapons taken

The outfit alleged that the violence against the Kuki-Zomi-Mizo-Hmar communities in Manipur was being perpetrated by extremist Meitei groups like Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, who they said were "allowed" to steal weapons from strongholds of State security forces in the Imphal Valley. The MTFD said that Kuki-Zomi villagers

have been using handmade weapons and ammunition and a few licensed guns to defend themselves.

MTFD general secretary W.L. Hanzsing said that Manipur has been seeing "polarisation politics" only after the N. Biren Singh government came to power."

Mr. Hanzsing alleged that the surrendered Meitei insurgents were being absorbed into the Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun. They were leading them in the violence against the Kuki-Zomi-Mizo-Hmar groups.

## Do not block relief material: Biren Singh

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh urged people not to violate curfew restrictions and block roads, affecting the free movement of relief material for inmates in relief camps and the transportation and movement of security personnel for meeting security threats from illegal armed groups in conflict areas.

"Such roadblocks are increasing the hardship of our already traumatised people in relief camps," he said.

He also appealed to all people concerned to return and surrender the arms and ammunition snatched from the armed police battalions to the nearest police station or battalion at the earliest.

## Jaishankar to meet Lavrov, Qin during BRICS summit

**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar left early on Wednesday for a week-long visit to South Africa and Namibia, beginning with his attendance at the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) Foreign Ministers' meeting in Cape Town.

The FMs will finalise the agenda for the BRICS summit in August, with plans to expand the grouping and discuss a "BRICS currency", seen as a counter to the U.S. dollar, and meant

to circumvent western sanctions against Russia.

"Besides attending the meeting, [Mr. Jaishankar] will also hold a bilateral meeting with his South African counterpart Naledi Pandor. He will call on the President of South Africa and is expected to hold bilateral meetings with other BRICS Foreign Ministers and participating 'Friends of BRICS' Ministers from other countries," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Wednesday.

The importance of the meetings in South Africa can be gauged by the fact that Mr. Jaishankar left Delhi hours before Nepal Prime Minister Pushpaka-

mal Dahal "Prachanda" arrived for the first official visit of his tenure on Wednesday.

#### Seeking consensus

In Cape Town, Mr. Jaishankar will meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at the conference.

Apart from discussing the modalities of the SCO summit on July 4, this will be an opportunity for the External Affairs Minister to attempt to convince his Chinese and Russian counterparts to agree to a con-

## Nepal's PM to hold talks with Modi today, likely to sign pacts on energy, trade

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**

NEW DELHI

Nepal and India will sign several agreements during the four-day visit of Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' that began on Wednesday.

Speaking at a public reception organised by the Embassy of Nepal, the visiting leader highlighted business ties between the two sides. He said that he would engage the leading Indian business houses and hold an official meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Nepal had suffered economically during the global epidemic like many other countries. But there has been gradual improvement in the economic condition in Nepal since my government has taken charge. Our foreign currency reserve has increased and foreign remittances from Nepalese citizens living abroad has also increased. Our exchanges with India in the fields of employment and investment will be my focus," said Mr. Prachanda.



Strategic visit: Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' with NSA Ajit Doval on Wednesday. REUTERS

He came to power for the third time on December 26, 2022. A former Maoist guerrilla leader, Mr. Prachanda had been projecting a pro-business image.

#### Large delegation

Mr. Prachanda was received at the Indira Gandhi International Airport by Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi. The Nepalese leader is accompanied by a large delegation, including Finance Minister Prakash Sharan Mahat and Foreign Minister Narayan Prasad Saud.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval called on Mr. Prachanda before the public reception.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Dahal announced that "several agreements will be signed during the visit".

It is understood that several private energy producers in India had taken a keen interest in developing hydropower projects in Nepal. India served as the "country partner" in the April Power Summit held in Nepal. India has been active in pushing several large projects like the Arun III hydropower project and the Gorakhpur-Butwal 400 KV cross-border line. The bilateral discussion may also take up cultural ties.

NIA seizes explosives in PLFI terror funding case

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The NIA, along with the Jharkhand police, seized explosives, arms and ammunition, in the People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI) terror funding case.

The seizures were made from Jharkhand's Khunti, Gumla and Simdega districts on the basis of purported disclosures by PLFI "supremo" Dinesh Gope, who was arrested in New Delhi on May 21. Earlier, the NIA had seized a large cache of arms and ammunition from a forest in Gumla. The NIA and the police on Monday seized about 62.3 kg of gelatin and 732 rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition in Khunti.

"The same day, one pistol, 11 rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition and 30 rounds of .303 ammunition were seized from Kisni village in Kamdar area of Gumla... subsequently, on Tuesday, two IEDs were also seized from the forest of Mauhatoli... in Simdega," said the agency. On May 26, a search team had seized 1,245 rounds of 7.62 mm and 271 rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition.



S. Jaishankar

include 15 Foreign Ministers from Africa and the Global South.

The importance of the meetings in South Africa can be gauged by the fact that Mr. Jaishankar left Delhi hours before Nepal Prime Minister Pushpaka-

mal Dahal "Prachanda" arrived for the first official visit of his tenure on Wednesday.

#### Seeking consensus

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Apart from discussing the modalities of the SCO summit on July 4, this will be an opportunity for the External Affairs Minister to attempt to convince his Chinese and Russian counterparts to agree to a con-

sensus statement at this year's G-20 summit to be held in New Delhi in September. Efforts to bring them on board on a joint statement failed at both the G-20 Finance and Foreign Ministers' meetings in India earlier this year.

With the SCO now moving to a virtual format, it will be left to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make similar efforts at the BRICS summit to be held in Durban from August 22 to 24, where Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend in person.

During the conference, Mr. Jaishankar is expected to stress on India's priorities for the Global South, including mitigating the economic impact of the Ukraine war, as well as the importance of territorial sovereignty and cooperation against terrorism.

As BRICS is mainly an economic engagement, all eyes will be on whether the BRICS FMs agree to move forward with the plan for a BRICS currency initiative that would propose an alternative currency based on gold, commodities and critical minerals.

## 'Kalighat Uncle' held in Bengal jobs scam case

**Shiv Sahay Singh**  
KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Sujoy Krishna Bhadra alias 'Kalighat Kaku' (Uncle from Kalighat) in the West Bengal school job scam case.

erating with the investigation and was trying to mislead the probe.

On May 20, the ED searched different houses of Mr. Bhadra in Kolkata.

The name of a mysterious 'Uncle from Kalighat' had cropped up a few months ago from the accused in a recruitment scam who were arrested by the investigating agencies. Mr. Bhadra came forward and spoke to the media on several occasions.

Mr. Bhadra was remanded in 14-day ED custody.

#### DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI  
VIKAS BHAWAN-II, 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR, 'C' WING,  
UPPER BELA ROAD, DELHI-110054

Advt. No. 02

In continuation of earlier advertisement dated 22.04.2023 for filling up of the following post at Delhi Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110024 on direct recruitment basis. The last date of the receipt of the application has been extended up to 14.06.2023. The details are as under:-

S. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Pay Level as per 7th CPC	Category of Posts
1	PRINCIPAL	01 (UR)	Pay Level-13 Rs.1,23,100- 2,15,900/-	"A"

For detailed information and application form log on to

<http://www.dihmct.in>

Applications for the post of Principal in hard copy should reach the **Department of Tourism, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Vikas Bhawan-II, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, C-Wing, Upper Bela Road, Delhi-110054 latest by 14.06.2023 upto 6.00 P.M.**

The competent authority reserves the right to cancel/republish the advertisement for any or all of the above posts, without assigning any reason.

sd/-  
Pro-Term Member Secretary (BOG)  
**DIP/Shabdharth/Classified/0055/23-24**

#### JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

Date : 29.05.2023

**NOTICE INVITING BID**

**NIB No.: JDA/EE-13/04/2023-24**

Online Bids are invited up to 06:00 PM of 20.06.2023 for "Construction of Link Road From Jagatpura to Bassi upto GSB Level in Zone-13, JDA Jaipur."

The last date for applying bid and making online payment on JDA portal is up to 06:00 PM of 20.06.2023. The Estimated cost of NIB is Rs. 652.18 Lacs. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or the state public procurement portal website [www.spp.rajantran.gov.in](http://www.spp.rajantran.gov.in) and [www.eproc.rajantran.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajantran.gov.in).

UBN No.: JDA/2324WLOB00156

To participate in the bid, bidder must:

- Participate in Tender & Deposit Payment on 'Online Tender Participation' Portal of JDA at <https://ida.urban.rajantran.gov.in/jda> or by Single-Sign-On at <http://service.jaipurdaja.org>.
- Submit e-Bid on on 'e-Procurement Portal' of GOR at [www.eproc.rajantran.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajantran.gov.in)

Executive Engineer-13

Raj.Samwad/C/2023-24/3185

#### OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER

Phone No. 0145-2624748  
Fax No. 0145-2627671  
Date: 12.5.23

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS**

Following bids are invited Interested bidders submit their bids online up to 05.06.2023. Others particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://www.spp.rajantran.gov.in>, <http://energy.rajantran.gov.in>)

Online bids are hereby invited in two parts (Techno-commercial bid and Price bid) from eligible bidders for the following works. (1)Supply, erection, installation, testing and commissioning of material/ equipment for construction of 33 KV overhead line on Latting Tower including associated work for relocation of 3 Nos. 33 KV PHED consumers connected on turnkey basis under AEN/08M/01 Cheetah-Irrigation of Sawai Madhopur Circle against TN-542 UBN/VN/2324WLOB00099. (2) Supply, erection, installation, testing and commissioning of material/ equipment for work of shifting of 33 KV & 11 KV overhead line passing over Sawai Bypass under AEN/08M/01 Cheetah-Irrigation of Sawai Madhopur Circle against TN-542 UBN/VN/2324WLOB00097. For further details regarding Works, Tender Notifications & Specifications please visit website <http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://www.spp.rajantran.gov.in> and <http://energy.rajantran.gov.in>

**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TW)**  
For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

**E-Tender Notice**

Online bids are hereby invited in two parts (Techno-commercial bid and Price bid) from eligible bidders for the following works. (1)Supply, erection, installation, testing and commissioning of material/ equipment for construction of 33 KV overhead line on Latting Tower including associated work for relocation of 3 Nos. 33 KV PHED consumers connected on turnkey basis under AEN/08M/01 Cheetah-Irrigation of Sawai Madhopur Circle against TN-542 UBN/VN/2324WLOB00099. (2) Supply, erection, installation, testing and commissioning of material/ equipment for work of shifting of 33 KV & 11 KV overhead line passing over Sawai Bypass under AEN/08M/01 Cheetah-Irrigation of Sawai Madhopur Circle against TN-542 UBN/VN/2324WLOB00097. For further details regarding Works, Tender Notifications & Specifications please visit website <http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in>, <a

## IN BRIEF



## Kolkata teen wins 'Best Diplomat' award in Dubai

K. Adhyaa, a 15-year-old student of Modern High School for Girls in Kolkata has won the 'Best Diplomat' award at the Best Diplomats in Dubai. She was among the youngest in the 162 delegates from over 60 countries who participated in the global event by a diplomatic simulation organiser headquartered in New York. "The three days which I spent as a diplomat have come as a great learning opportunity to me," she said. During the event, Ms. Adhyaa made a presentation on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for development of Afghanistan, participated in a negotiation session and discussed key issues around the globe such as global warming and campaigned for trans-national transfer of technology.

## French company Alstom to build 100 Vande Bharat trains

French rail company, Alstom will manufacture 100 aluminium bodied Vande Bharat trains, which will be lighter in weight as compared to a stainless steel body with sleeper facility, after bidding the lowest for the tender at a price of ₹150.9 crore per train, as compared to the average cost of ₹120 crore per train. The train is pegged to have a speed capability of 200 km per hour. The order is in addition to the 120 trains to be manufactured by Russian TMH and Indian public sector undertaking RVNL consortium and the 80 trains by the Titagarh Wagons and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) consortium.

## India joins global laboratory network for vaccine tests

India has joined the Centralised Laboratory Network (CLN), which has 15 partner facilities in 13 countries that works to test vaccines which can be used during pandemics and epidemic disease outbreak. CLN is a part of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the Network is the largest global group which has standardised methods and materials for testing. CEPI-funded network also aims to identify the most promising vaccine candidates rapidly and accurately against emerging infectious diseases and the expanded network is working at supporting sustainable regional outbreak preparedness infrastructure.

## Three terrorists arrested in Poonch sector in J&amp;K

Three terrorists were arrested on Wednesday, as the Army foiled an infiltration bid in the Pir Panjal valley's Poonch district. "In a joint operation by Indian Army along with the police, 3-4 terrorists were intercepted on Line of Control in Poonch sector while attempting to cross the fence on the night of May 30-31, taking advantage of the bad weather and heavy rains," the Army said. A defence spokesman said the terrorists were also in possession of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) with a power of almost 10 kg. The area is cordoned off and a search operation is in progress.

## OTT platforms mandated to show anti-tobacco warnings

If the streaming apps fail to comply, a notice shall be issued to explain such failure, says Centre's notification; industry executives complain that they were not consulted before the decision

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**  
**Aroon Deep**  
NEW DELHI

It's now mandatory for over-the-top (OTT) streaming platforms to display anti-tobacco warnings as seen in movies screened in theatres and TV, as per a Union Health Ministry notification on Wednesday amending the rules under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2004.

OTT platforms like Amazon Prime Video, Netflix, Hotstar and ZEE5 did not respond to *The Hindu*'s request for comment, but an industry executive said that the companies would collectively reach out to the government to articulate their view that static smoking warnings on small screens for content that is explicitly being requested by users may not be appropriate.

"The streaming industry was not consulted be-



OTT platforms will be required to display anti-tobacco health spots at the beginning and middle of the programme. REUTERS

fore the notification," the executive said.

**Prominent warnings**

Meanwhile, as per the notification released on World No Tobacco Day, publishers of online curated content displaying tobacco products, or their use will be required to display anti-tobacco health spots at the beginning and middle of the programme.

They shall also be required to exhibit an anti-tobacco health warning as a

prominent static message at the bottom of the screen when tobacco products or their use are displayed during the programme.

It added that the anti-tobacco health warning message as specified in clause (b) of sub-rule (1) shall be legible and readable, with font in black colour on white background and with the warnings 'Tobacco causes cancer' or 'Tobacco kills'. Besides warning messages, health spots and au-

dio-visual disclaimers will have to be in the same language as used in the show.

"Additionally, if the publisher of online curated content fails to comply with the provisions, an inter-ministerial committee shall issue notice giving reasonable opportunity to explain such failure and make appropriate modification in the content," the notification said.

The expression "online curated content" means any curated catalogue of audio-visual content, other than news and current affairs content, which is owned by, licensed to, or contracted to be transmitted by a publisher of online curated content, and made available on demand, including but not limited through subscription, over the internet or computer networks, and includes films, audiovisual programmes, television programmes, serials, series and other such content.

**The scheme being implemented by the NHA provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year**

specialities The flagship scheme being implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA) provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to 12 crore beneficiaries families.

The AB PM-JAY is being implemented in 33 States and Union Territories except Delhi, Odisha, and West Bengal. Till date, 23.39 crore beneficiaries have been verified and issued Ayushman cards for availing free treatment under the scheme.

Approximately 49% of Ayushman card recipients are women and over 48% of total authorised hospital admissions under the AB PM-JAY scheme have been availed by women, noted the data.

"Also, over 141 medical procedures under the PM-JAY are exclusively earmarked for women," it said, adding that AB PM-JAY beneficiaries can avail treatment corresponding to a total of 1,949 procedures under 27 different

The PM-JAY empanelled hospital network consists of 28,351 hospitals, including 12,824 private hospitals, across the country.

A senior Health Ministry official said the AB PM-JAY was launched with the vision to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

## Treatment worth ₹61,501 cr. provided under PM-JAY scheme

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Cancer treatment, emergency care, orthopaedic and urology (kidney-related ailments) top the tertiary care specialities treatment availed by beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) till date, as per data released by the Health Ministry on Wednesday. The yojana has now recorded five crore hospital admissions amounting to ₹61,501 crore under the scheme.

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## Cabinet nod for second phase of CITIIS programme

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday approved the second phase of the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) project, a programme under the ambit of the Smart Cities Mission, which aims to promote integrated waste management and climate-oriented reform actions.

The CITIIS 2.0 will be implemented in 18 cities which would be selected based on a competition.

The programme, which was approved at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to support competitively selected projects promoting circular economy with a focus on integrated waste management at the city level, climate-oriented reform actions at the State level, and institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at the national level.

It would span over a period of four years from

**The project aims at promoting integrated waste management and climate-oriented reform actions**

2023-2027 and has been conceived and would be implemented in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

The funding for CITIIS 2.0 would include a loan of ₹1,760 crore from AFD and KfW, split equally, and a technical assistance grant of ₹106 crore from the European Union.

The CITIIS 2.0 has three major components which are financial and technical support for developing projects focused on building climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation in up to 18 smart cities, and interventions at centre, State and city levels to further climate governance.

## Govt. calls for applications on semiconductor development

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government will invite applications for setting up semiconductor and display fabrication units in India from Thursday onwards, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said in a press release on Wednesday.

The applications will be received by India Semiconductor Mission, the designated nodal agency entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the Modified Semiconductor India Programme for development of semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem in India," the Ministry said.

The Centre will receive applications until December 2024.

The Semicon India Programme was launched in December 2021 amid government efforts to boost domestic electronics manufacturing. ₹76,000 crore has been provided as an outlay for the scheme, the government said.

## World's largest grain storage plan: Centre to implement pilot project in 10 districts

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the constitution and empowerment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) for facilitation of the "world's largest grain storage plan in cooperative sector" by convergence of various schemes of the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Food Processing Industries.

A government statement said that to ensure timely and uniform implementation of the plan in a professional manner, the Ministry of Cooperation would implement a pilot project in at least 10 selected districts of different States.

The committee will be chaired by Cooperation and Home Minister Amit Shah. It will lay guidelines for creation of infrastructure such as godowns, for agriculture and allied purposes, at selected 'viable' blocks through PACS, so that they will be able to get fair price for their grains."

blocks through PACS, so that they will be able to get fair price for their grains."

He said PACS were an important pillar of the rural economy. "With this plan, the country will get food security and crores of farmers associated with cooperatives will be benefited," he said.

The statement said that farmers could sell their crops to PACS by receiving some advance payment at the Minimum Support Price. NAGARA GOPAL

## FAITH

## Cloud that rains blessings

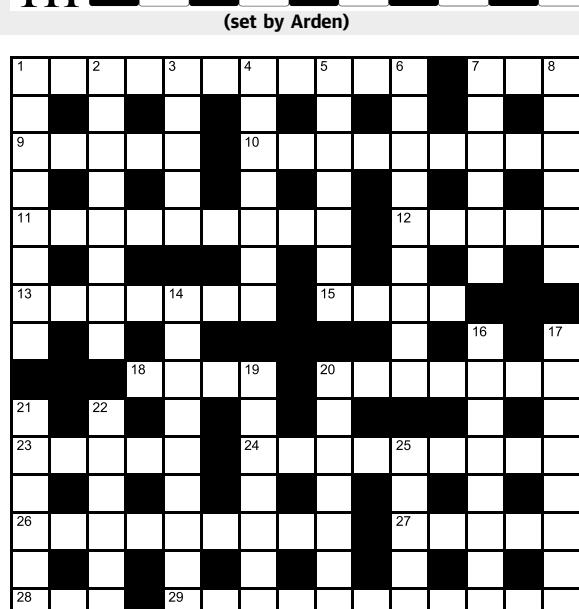
Mantras in the Apratiratha section, Krishna Yajur Veda, Taittiriya samhita can be interpreted as referring to various archa (idol) forms of Lord Narayana, said V.S. Karunakarachari in a discourse. The ninth mantra is in Trishup meter. Words like Indra, Varuna, Aditya, Marut etc are used in the mantra, and each of them can be seen in the context of an archa form of the Lord. Indra fulfills the desires of people. Sri Vaishnavas, who have surrendered to the Lord, desire to worship His auspicious qualities. Lord Ranganatha is a cloud that rains His blessings on them and fulfills this desire. Hence the word Virishna in the mantra also refers to Lord Ranganatha. There is a perfect example to show how Ranganatha facilitates the desire of His devotees to worship Him in many ways.

Thirumangai Azhwar wanted to bring Nammazhvar's idol from Azhwar Thirunagari to Srirangam, for the Adhyayana utsava. He prayed to Lord Ranganatha to make this possible. The Lord asked him to take His palanquin to bring the Nammazhvar idol with due honours. Because the palanquin was taken away to fetch the Nammazhvar idol, there was no palanquin in the Srirangam temple. So the temple officials carried the Ranganatha utsava idol from the mandapa to the sanctum in their hands. So eager was the Lord to grant Thirumangai Azhwar his desire to bring Nammazhvar to Srirangam, that He was prepared to even give up His palanquin for the purpose.

Even today during adhyayana festival, when Thirunduntandakam is recited, the Ranganatha utsava idol is carried in the hands of those who serve Him in temple. This is to remind us of His kindness to Thirumangai Azhwar.

## TH CROSSWORD (set by Arden)

13880



Across  
1 Greenback - currency note in front of India Gate, perhaps (3,8)  
7 Bit crowded inside stadium (3)  
9 Portions - orders on line (5)  
10 Turtles overturn crop on land (9)  
11 One in mood to dance - right on top of Kremlin (5,4)  
12 Arabs representing 5, say (5)

CM YK

## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

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

**BRASILIA**

Brazil lawmakers vote to limit demarcation of Indigenous land



Brazil's Lower House of Congress approved a legislation that would limit expanded demarcations of Indigenous lands. It states that reserves can only be on land occupied by Indigenous people at the time of the promulgation of the constitution in 1988. Indigenous people protested the move in São Paulo. AFP

**BERLIN**

Germany orders closure of four of five Russian consulates



Berlin ordered four of Moscow's five consulates in Germany to close, the latest escalation of tensions sparked by the war in Ukraine. The move comes after Russia put a limit of 350 on the number of German government officers allowed in Russia. Moscow called Germany's decision "ill thought out" and vowed a response. AFP

**ZVECAN**

NATO-led peacekeepers step up security after Kosovo clashes



NATO-led peacekeepers stepped up security around a town hall in northern Kosovo, where hundreds of ethnic Serbs gathered again at the scene of clashes earlier this week. Hundreds rallied outside Zvecan's town hall on Wednesday for a third consecutive day and held aloft a huge Serbian flag that stretched over 200 metres. AFP

**KHARTOUM**

Sudan Army quits truce talks with RSF for not honouring their word



The Sudanese Army suspended its participation in U.S. and Saudi-brokered ceasefire talks, accusing its paramilitary foes of failing to honour their commitments. The Army walked out "because the rebels have never implemented a single one of the provisions of a short-term ceasefire," a government official said. AFP

# North Korea spy satellite launch fails as Chollima-1 rocket falls into the sea

Pyongyang says its space agency will investigate what it calls 'the serious defects revealed' by the launch and conduct a second launch as soon as possible; South's military says it salvaged an object presumed to be part of the crashed rocket

**Associated Press**  
SEOUL

North Korea's attempt to put its first spy satellite into space failed on Wednesday in a setback to leader Kim Jong-un's push to boost his military capabilities as tensions with the U.S. and South Korea rise.

After an unusually quick admission of failure, North Korea vowed to conduct a second launch after it learns what went wrong. It suggests Mr. Kim remains determined to expand his weapons arsenal and apply more pressure on Washington and Seoul while di-



**Launch residue:** An object suspected to be part of North Korea's spy satellite salvaged by Seoul's military in the Yellow Sea. AFP

plomacy is stalled.

South Korea and Japan briefly urged residents to take shelter after the launch. The South Korean mili-

itary said it was salvaging an object presumed to be part of the crashed North Korean rocket in waters 200 km west of the southwestern island of Eoche-

ondo. Later, the Defence Ministry released photos of a white, metal cylinder it described as a suspected rocket part.

A satellite launch by North Korea is a violation of UN Security Council resolutions that ban the country from conducting any launch based on ballistic technology.

**'Abnormal flight'**

The newly developed Chollima-1 rocket was launched at 6:37 a.m. at the North's Sohae Satellite Launching Ground in the northwest, carrying the Malligong-1 satellite. The rocket crashed off the Korean Pe-

ninsula's western coast after it lost thrust following the separation of its first and second stages, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

South Korea's military said the rocket had "an abnormal flight" before it fell in the water. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters that no object was believed to have reached space.

North Korean media said the country's space agency will investigate what it calls "the serious defects revealed" by the launch and conduct a second launch as soon as possible.

# UAE withdraws from U.S.-led maritime coalition in the Gulf

**Agence France-Presse**  
ABU DHABI

The United Arab Emirates has withdrawn from a U.S.-led maritime coalition tasked with securing tense Gulf waterways that are vital to the global oil trade, it said on Wednesday.

The UAE "withdrew its participation" in the 38-nation Combined Maritime Forces two months ago, a Foreign Ministry statement said, without giving reasons for the move.

"As a result of our ongoing evaluation of effective security cooperation with all partners, two months ago, the UAE withdrew its participation in the Combined Maritime Forces," said the statement carried by the official WAM news agency.

Iran seized two tankers in a week in late April and early May, including one empty ship that was travelling between the UAE ports of Dubai and Fujairah. Iran was also accused of launching a drone attack against an Israeli-owned tanker in November 2022, stoking tensions with the United States. Earlier this month, the U.S. said it was sending reinforcements to the Gulf, which carries at least a third of the world's sea-borne oil, after what it called increasing harassment by Iran.

The Bahrain-headquartered CMF was established in 2001, initially as a partnership between 12 nations. It is active in crucial waters where tankers have been seized and attacked in recent months.

A spokesperson for the Combined Maritime Forces said the UAE remains a partner nation, despite putting its participation on hold.

"The CMF still includes 38 partner nations, of which the UAE is one," Commander Timothy Hawkins said.

# Blast in eastern Lebanon kills five

**Associated Press**  
DAMASCUS

A blast early on Wednesday at a military base controlled by a Syria-backed Palestinian faction in eastern Lebanon killed five Pal-

estinian militants.

The faction said an Israeli airstrike caused the blast, but that account was disputed by an Israeli official.

A Lebanese military official said there was no air-

strike. An official with a regional group allied with the Syrian government, said the explosion was the result of a "human error" that occurred when militants were handling ammunition.

# Musk hails China's 'vitality' during Beijing visit

**Agence France-Presse**  
BEIJING

Elon Musk praised China's "vitality and promise" on Wednesday, Beijing said, during a trip to the Chinese capital in which he

has met multiple government officials and reportedly declared he will expand his business there.

He met Commerce Minister Wang Wentao on Wednesday, praising "the vitality and potential of

China's development", according to a Ministry readout.

Mr. Musk "expressed full confidence in the China market, and was willing to continue deepening mutually

cooperation".

He also said that "China-U.S. relations are not a zero-sum game", it added, and thanked China for the support and guarantees it provided for Tesla's Shanghai factory during the CO

VID-19 pandemic".

Mr. Musk has extensive business interests in China and told Foreign Minister Qin Gang on Tuesday his firm was "willing to continue to expand its business in China".

# China warns of risks posed by artificial intelligence

**Associated Press**  
BEIJING

China's ruling Communist Party has warned of the risks posed by advances in artificial intelligence while calling for heightened national security measures.

The statement issued after a meeting on Tuesday chaired by party leader and President Xi Jinping underscores the tension between the Chinese government's determination to seize global leadership in cutting-edge technology and concerns about the possible social and political harms of such technologies.

It also followed a warning by scientists and tech industry leaders in the U.S., including high-level executives at Microsoft and Google, about the perils that artificial intelligence poses to humankind.

# Kyiv's 'last warship' destroyed: Russia

**Agence France-Presse**  
MOSCOW

Russia on Wednesday claimed it had destroyed the last major warship of the Ukrainian naval forces, which it said was stationed in the southern port of Odesa.

AFP was not able to independently confirm the claim.

A spokesperson for the Ukrainian Naval Force declined to comment.

The *Yuri Olefrenko* is a medium-size landing ship for troops and vehicles.

First named "Kirovograd", the ship was renamed in 2016 in honour of a Ukrainian marine killed near Mariupol in 2015.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky decorated its crew in June 2022.

# TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

Sl No.	Online Tender no. / Ratn Contract No./ Item no/ Lot no/ Document Cost	Sale Period	Pre bid	Last date Submission	Opening
1	Online RC Tender No E1000/EMG/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt. 30.05.2023, Universality Marmerin (1) & MCH - Rs.5,725/-	02/06/2023 to 03/07/2023	09.00 AM	04/07/2023 11.00 AM	12.00 Noon
2	Online RC Tender No E1001/R-Consumables/RC/TNMSC/MAINT/2023, dt. 30.05.2023, Fixing rate contract for Radiotherapy Consumables - Rs.5,725/-	03/06/2023 to 15/06/2023	08.00 AM	16.06/2023 16.06/2023	12.00 Noon
3	Online RC Tender No E1001/LASER/DIME-RGHH/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt. 30.05.2023, Portable Diode Laser for EVLT (1) & Suction Thrombectomy Device Set (1) - Rs.3,435/-	01/06/2023 to 15/06/2023	08.00 AM	16.06/2023 11.00 AM	12.00 Noon
4	Online RC Tender No E1002/S/UTNH/SPR/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt. 30.05.2023, Universal Fixing System - Rs.5,725/-	01/06/2023 to 15/06/2023	08.00 AM	16.06/2023 12.00 Noon	12.00 Noon
5	Online RC Tender No E1003/UTNH/SPR/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt. 30.05.2023, Transcervical Magnetic Stimulation (1), Robotic C-arm (1) & RF Ablation Therapy (2) - Rs.5,725/-	03/06/2023 to 15/06/2023	08.00 AM	16.06/2023 12.00 PM	12.00 Noon
6	Online RC Tender No E1004/EMG/TNMSPR/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt. 30.05.2023, EMG and NCV Study (6) - Rs.5,725/-	02/06/2023 to 19/06/2023	09.00 AM	20.06/2023 11.00 AM	12.00 Noon
7	Online RC Tender No E1005/Laser/TNHSPR/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt. 30.05.2023, Scanning Laser 2 Unit (4) - Rs.5,725/-	02/06/2023 to 19/06/2023	09.00 AM	20.06/2023 11.00 AM	12.00 Noon
8	Online RC Tender No E1006/PHY/TNHSPR/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt. 30.05.2023, Virtual Rehabilitation (2), Shock Wave Therapy (2) & Decompression Traction System (2) - Rs.5,725/-	02/06/2023 to 19/06/2023	09.00 AM	20.06/2023 12.00 Noon	12.00 Noon
9	Online RC Tender No E1007/Spine/CPR Unit (4), Isokinetic Equipment (1) & Prosthetic Items (4) - Rs.5,725/-	05/06/2023 to 20/06/2023	12.00 AM	21.06/2023 11.00 AM	12.00 Noon
10	Online RC Tender No E1008/Intra/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt. 30.05.2023, Various Items - Rs.5,725/-	05/06/2023 to 20/06/2023	12.00 AM	21.06/2023 11.00 AM	12.00 Noon
11	Online RC Tender No E1009/PR/TNM/H/UTNH/SPR/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt. 30.05.2023, Fixing rate contract for printing of various registers and books - Rs.3,435/-	05/06/2023 to 20/06/2023	12.00 AM	21.06/2023 12.00 Noon	12.00 Noon

# ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2023 (OJEE - 2023)

No: OJEE / 235 DATE: 31-05-2023

## NOTICE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION FOR 2ND / SPECIAL OJEE - 2023

The 2nd / Special OJEE for B.Tech., LE-Tech (Diploma), MBA, MCA and B. Pharm will be held in the last week of June, 2023 (26th June to 30th June, 2023).

The Entrance Examination will be conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode (one hour) for all the courses as mentioned above.

Interested candidates are advised to fill up the respective Application Forms online through OJEE website ([www.ojee.nic.in](http://www.ojee.nic.in)) only.

Filling-up of Online Application through OJEE website begins on 1st June, 2023 and will end on 8th June, 2023 (11.00 PM).

Syllabus for B.Tech. course is same as that for JEE MAIN 2023, while syllabus for other courses are same as for OJEE 2023.

Candidates, who have appeared and have rank in JEE MAIN 2023 (for B.TECH) or OJEE - 2023 (for other courses), are not required to appear the 2nd / Special OJEE.

The results (ranks) of 2nd Special OJEE shall be used for admission to the vacant seats left over after 1st phase counselling.

Please note that Outside State candidates are not eligible for admission in Government Colleges, but they are eligible for admission in Private Colleges.

For other details, please visit our website: [www.ojee.nic.in](http://www.ojee.nic.in) / [www.odishajee.com](http://www.odishajee.com).

# PUBLIC (PRO.II) DEPARTMENT

## NOTIFICATION

Sealed tenders are invited from experienced Helicopter Maintenance Agencies with valid CAR 145 maintenance organisation and CAMO approval from the DGCA

Sl.No.	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS
1.	Name of the work	Maintenance of Government Helicopter Bell 412 EP (VT-TNG) including CAMO functions.
2.	Last date for submission of tender	Upto 3.00 P.M. on 15.06.2023

The tender schedule and further details can be downloaded from

## IN BRIEF



## China's May factory activity shrinks faster than expected

China's factory activity shrank faster than expected in May on weakening demand, heaping pressure on policymakers to shore up a patchy economic recovery and knocking Asian financial markets lower. The official manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) fell to a five-month low of 48.8, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Wednesday, down from 49.2 in April and below the 50-point mark that separates expansion from contraction. REUTERS

## Adani may raise \$3.5 billion via share sale in 3 group firms

The Adani Group is looking to raise about \$3.5 billion via equity share sale to institutional investors in a comeback strategy after the group was hit by a damning report of a U.S. short seller. While boards of Adani Enterprises Ltd. and Adani Transmission Ltd. have approved raising up to ₹21,000 crore (over \$2.5 billion) through share sale to qualified institutional investors, the board of Adani Green Energy Ltd. is likely to approve raising up to \$1 billion, sources said. PTI

## Expansion of bank credit to industry slowed to 7% in April

Growth of bank credit to industry decelerated to 7% in April, from 8% in the corresponding month of the previous year, according to Reserve Bank of India data. The RBI also said in its 'Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit - April 2023' that personal loans grew 19.4% YoY as against 14.4% in the year-earlier period, mainly driven by housing and vehicle loans. Loans to agriculture and allied activities improved to 16.7%, from 10.6%. Bank credit growth to the services sector accelerated to 21.6%, from 11.2% in the year-earlier period. PTI

**Veranda set to buy 7 edtech companies for ₹400 crore**

**N. Anand**  
CHENNAI

Veranda Learning Solutions is on the verge of acquiring seven edtech firms via wholly owned subsidiary Veranda Administrative Learning Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (VALS) for ₹400 crore, ED and Chairman Kalpathi S. Suresh said.

The entities – Educare Infrastructure, Six Phrase, Smart Bridge, Talent Academy, Talent Publications, Phire Learning, and Basure – would function under VALS as a single entity with respective brand names. "It is a cash (₹120 crore)-cum-stock (₹280 crore) deal," Mr. Suresh said during an interaction.

"We expect the transaction to close in a month."

## SEBI mints tightening disclosures for FPIs

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator SEBI came out with a proposal mandating enhanced disclosures from high-risk Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to guard against possible circumvention of the minimum public shareholding requirement.

This comes after SEBI observed that some FPIs have concentrated a substantial portion of equity portfolio in a single investee company. In some cases, the concentrated holdings have also been near static and maintained for a long time.

**'Circumventing norms'**  
"Such concentrated investments raise the concern and possibility that promoters of such corporate



## Centre to sell up to 3% stake in Coal India via OFS route

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday proposed to sell up to 3% stake in Coal India Ltd. through the offer for sale route from June 1.

The Offer for Sale (OFS) will be open for retail and non-retail investors on June 1 and 2.

The proposal is to offload 9.24 crore shares amounting to a stake of 1.5% in the coal producer. Besides, there will be a green-shoe option for selling an equal amount of stake in case of over subscription, as per a filing.

At a closing price of ₹241.20 apiece on the BSE on Wednesday, the sale of 3% stake would be worth about ₹4,400 crore.

**Rane Holdings to divest entire stake in arm**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Rane Holdings Ltd. has approved the sale of its entire investment in subsidiary Rane 4u Pvt. Ltd. in exchange for allotment of equity shares in eTrans Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

eTrans has been providing vehicle-tracking solutions to major corporate shippers and transporters since 2000.

As per the plan, 189 shares of eTrans are to be issued for every 10,466 shares of 4u. Equity shares of eTrans would be allotted for a value of ₹8.50 crore, RHL said in a filing.

## India seeks leeway to plan shift to sustainable aviation fuel

**Iagrithi Chandra**  
NEW DELHI

India asserted that global mandates for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) with 2050 as the target year was 'too early' and each country must be allowed to develop its strategy according to its national plans.

It also sought the support of UN Aviation watchdog ICAO to achieve carbon net-zero goals alongside other priorities in the aviation sector.

The 41st International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Assembly adopted a long-term global aspirational goal (LTAG) for international aviation of net-zero carbon emissions by



lines committing themselves to achieving net-zero carbon emissions from their operations by 2050.

"Any global mandates for SAF with milestones to 2050 are too early as each State must be allowed time to develop its own strategy for reaching LTAG as per its national plans," said Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Rajiv Bansal at ICAO Global Implementation Support Symposium 2023.

Till SAF production and availability are ensured, any volumetric mandates will not be consistent with the ideology of LTAG, he added. India has pledged net zero by 2070 and to cut the carbon intensity of its economy by 45% by 2030.

## 'Risks to 6.5% growth goal more evenly balanced now'

Sustained growth momentum across sectors, along with rising private investments and public capex spending offering buffers against external risks, says Chief Economic Advisor Nageswaran

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran expressed confidence that the risks to India's projected GDP growth of 6.5% in 2023-24 were more evenly balanced now compared with a few months ago, as sustained growth momentum across sectors along with rising private investments and public capex spending would act as buffers against external risks.

"We are very pleased to have a story of both sus-



**Sanguine outlook:** CEA stresses the need to take the momentum from the last fiscal year into consideration. PTI

tained economic momentum, combined with macro-economic and fiscal stability, and we look forward to another year of so-

lid economic performance," Mr. Nageswaran said after the National Statistical Office released its first national income esti-

mates for 2022-23.

While the CEA conceded that the "better than expected [7.2% GDP growth] numbers for 2022-23" would weigh on this year's growth, he stressed the need to take the momentum into consideration.

"We have seen enough information about the momentum in the purchasing managers' indices [S&P Global PMI], credit growth, private sector capital formation and the revenue collections... auguring well for its ability to maintain capital investment plans and so on," he said.

## Fiscal deficit narrows to 6.4%, meets target

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

The Centre's fiscal deficit narrowed to 6.4% of the GDP in 2022-23 from 6.71% in FY22, as anticipated by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget in February.

In the Union Budget, the government had said it aimed to further bring down the fiscal deficit – a key indicator of borrowing – during the financial year 2023-24 to 5.9% of gross domestic product (GDP).

The Controller General of Accounts (CGA) said the fiscal deficit in absolute terms was ₹17,33,131 crore (provisional), marginally down from the amount projected in the Revised Estimates (RE) in the Budget.

CGA said the government received ₹24.56 lakh crore (101% of corresponding RE 2022-23 of total receipts) during 2022-23.

It comprised ₹20.97 lakh crore tax revenue (net to Centre), ₹2.86 lakh crore of non-tax revenue and ₹72,187 crore of non-debt capital receipts.

The Centre's total expenditure was ₹41.89 lakh crore (100% of corresponding RE 2022-23)

April core sector output growth slows to six-month low of 3.5%

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

India's eight core sectors' output growth eased from 3.6% in March to 3.5% in April, marking the slowest pace in six months with half of the sectors, including electricity and natural gas, logging contractions.

Crude oil production shrank 3.5%, the 11th straight month of contraction. Natural gas output dropped 2.8% and refinery products slid 1.5%, the first such decline since November for both these sectors.

Cement, steel and fertilisers recorded strong up-ticks to offset the declines. Cement output rebounded from a 0.6% contraction in March to surge 11.6%, the fastest pace in five months.

Steel production grew 12.1% in April, the swiftest in three months, while fertiliser production accelerated 23.5%, marking the highest growth in more than a year. Coal output rose 9%, slowing from March's 12.2% pace.

Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis linked the slide in the oil products basket to lower demand, in addition to a tendency to prefer imports and curtail domestic crude

output when global crude prices were benign. The 23.5% surge in fertilizer output was as expected in preparation for the kharif sowing season, he noted.

The Controller General of Accounts (CGA) said he expects the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to have grown 2.3% in April.

## MARKETS

## MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	62,622	-0.55
US Dollar	82.75	-0.10
Gold	60,400	0.76
Brent oil	72.80	-1.31

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	2493.35	-3.10
Adani Ports	738.85	4.80
Apollo Hosp	4621.95	22.80
Asian Paints	3192.95	48.55
Axis Bank	914.85	-22.60
Bajaj Auto	4567.15	-24.75
Bajaj Finance	6989.85	-15.95
Bharti Airtel	849.90	31.45
BPLC	363.50	3.10
Britannia Ind	4657.05	83.80
Cipla	953.05	-6.80
Coal India	241.25	-3.05
Divis Lab.	3443.60	-14.40
Dr Reddys Lab	4501.05	-17.85
Eicher Motors	3671.95	-6.40
Grasim Ind	1718.35	-6.80
HCL Tech	1145.10	9.25
HFDC	2640.40	-52.95
HFDC Bank	1610.85	-25.90
HFDC Life	592.35	7.20
Hero MotoCorp	2759.90	-19.25
Hindalco	405.90	-7.20
Hind Unilever	2667.55	-11.00
ICICI Bank	949.15	-0.80
IndusInd Bank	1286.60	-6.65
Infosys	1318.30	-5.55
ITC	445.50	-4.40
JSW Steel	696.30	-8.30
Kotak Bank	2014.35	39.65
L&T	2205.65	-5.15
M&M	1319.00	-9.45
Maruti Suzuki	9367.70	-15.65
NestleIndia	2167.10	98.65
NTPC	173.85	-2.95
ONGC	154.90	-3.95
PowerGrid Corp	233.85	-1.25
Reliance Ind	2469.90	-50.05
SBI Life	1235.00	-19.10
State Bank	579.85	-12.95
Sun Pharma	975.35	15.75
Tata Consumer Product	798.65	7.75
Tata Motors	526.30	7.50
Tata Steel	105.80	-1.25
TCS	3289.50	-26.70
Tech Mahindra	1115.55	17.15
Titan	2823.25	20.75
UltraTech Cement	7870.05	-31.90
UPL	685.10	-3.95
Wipro	403.65	1.15

Source: Indian Bank  
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 31

**CURRENCY** TT BUY TT SELL

US Dollar	82.52	82.84
Euro	88.05	88.39
British Pound	101.95	102.35
Japanese Yen (100)	59.01	59.24
Chinese Yuan	11.63	11.67
Swiss Franc	90.56	90.91
Singapore Dollar	60.89	61.13
Canadian Dollar	60.46	60.70
Malaysian Ringgit	17.87	17.95
Australian Dollar	53.46	53.67

**FABULOUS FIVE**

You've done a miracle, Srinivasan tells Dhoni on CSK's triumph



FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

"Fantastic captain. You have done a miracle. Only you can do it. We are proud of the boys and team," N. Srinivasan, vice-chairman and MD, India Cements, the principal sponsor of CSK, told M.S. Dhoni. Srinivasan spoke to the CSK skipper over phone on Tuesday and invited him with CSK team for a get-together to celebrate the win.

**IN HIGH ESTEEM**

Hazlewood praises the work ethic of RCB teammate Kohli



PTI

Josh Hazlewood has spoken highly of Royal Challengers Bangalore teammates Virat Kohli ahead of the World Test Championship final against India at The Oval starting June 7. The Australian pacer said Kohli's work ethics makes him the player that he is. "He is always out there (training) first and leaves last," Hazlewood said.

**NEW WEAPON**

Murphy keen to add Ashwin-like carrom-ball to his repertoire



K.R. DEEPAK

Having studied R. Ashwin from close quarters during his maiden tour of India, young Australia off-spinner Todd Murphy wants to add the Indian tweaker's carrom ball to his bag of tricks ahead of next week's WTC final and the Ashes. "I am still working on that (carrom ball) but a long way off being able to do it the way Ravi Ashwin can."

**SPINNERS' INFLUENCE**

WTC Final: Smith wary of India-like conditions at The Oval



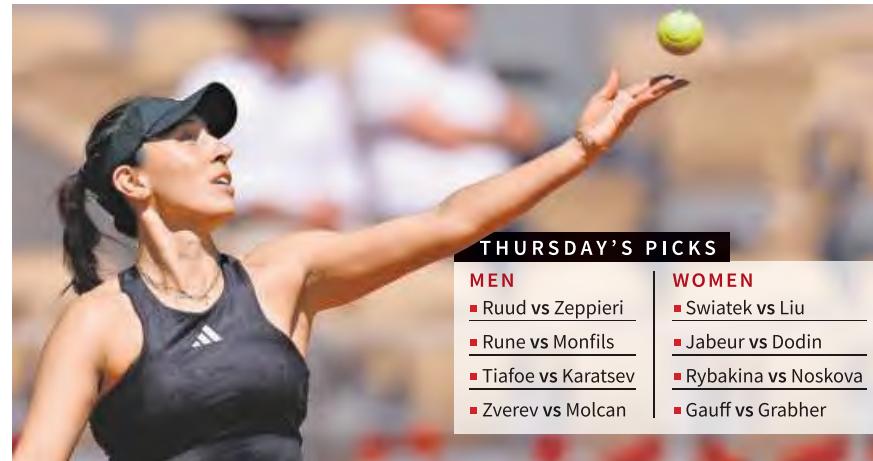
REUTERS

Australia's batting mainstay Steve Smith is expecting friendly conditions for batting for the WTC Final but feels the Aussies could face India-like conditions as the game goes on. "The Oval may assist the spinners occasionally, particularly as the game wears on and we could face some sort of similarities to what we had in India."

# Alcaraz, Sabalenka enter third round

Blinkova eliminates fifth seed Garcia; former champion Ostapenko out; Bopanna-Ebden pair exits but Bhambri-Myneni combine moves up

The day in numbers



## THURSDAY'S PICKS

- MEN**
  - Ruud vs Zepieri
  - Rune vs Monfils
  - Tiafoe vs Karatsev
  - Zverev vs Molcan
- WOMEN**
  - Swiatek vs Liu
  - Jabeur vs Dodin
  - Rybakina vs Noskova
  - Gauff vs Grabher

**21** The men's singles opening round at Roland-Garros witnessed 21 matches that went to the fifth set this year, surpassing the 1992 edition as the most in the first round at a single Grand Slam event in the history of the Open Era

**675** Frenchman Lucas Pouille is the lowest-ranked player to win a Roland-Garros match since Uruguayan Pablo Cuevas who was ranked 762 (2013)

**1,2,3** USA's Jessica Pegula is top-seeded in mixed doubles (with compatriot Austin Krajicek), 2nd-seeded in women's doubles (with compatriot Coco Gauff) and third-seeded in singles

**600** Brazil's Marcelo Melo, the 2015 French Open men's doubles champion, got his 600th career win with a straight-set first round victory over Blumberg/Kecmanovic. Amongst the active players, Melo has the most wins on the ATP Tour

COMPILATION BY NIHIT SACHDEVA



Long-drawn duel: Blinkova needed nine match-points to overcome Garcia, AFP

## FRENCH OPEN

## Agence France-Presse

PARIS

World No.1 Carlos Alcaraz overcame a second set slip to defeat Japan's Taro Daniel and reach the French Open last 32 on Wednesday.

The Spanish star, who came through 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 against his 112th-ranked opponent, will face Denis

Shapovalov for a place in the fourth round. Alcaraz, 20, is bidding to add the Roland Garros title to the U.S. Open he won in 2022. The victory gave Alcaraz a 22nd win from 24 on clay in 2023, a run which has yielded titles on the surface in Buenos Aires, Madrid and Barcelona.

Shapovalov, the 26th seed, saw off Italy's Matteo Arnaldi in four sets to reach the third round here for the first time.

Earlier, World No. 2 and Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka cruised into the women's singles third round with a straight-sets win over fellow Belarusian Iryna Shmyanovich.

In other women's matches, Russian Anna Blinkova needed nine match points to beat home hope and fifth seed Caroline Garcia 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 and American third seed Jessica Pegula booked her spot in the last 32 when oppo-

nent Camila Giorgi retired injured after losing the first set 6-2.

Former champion Jelena Ostapenko crashed out, though, losing 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 to the United States' Peyton Stearns.

In Wednesday's early action, Stefanos Tsitsipas cruised into the third round with a straight-sets win over Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena.

The Greek fifth seed, the runner-up to Djokovic in

2021, claimed a 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-2 win on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Thanasi Kokkinakis knocked out the 38-year-old Stan Wawrinka in a five-set roller-coaster to book a third round place at Roland Garros for the first time since 2015. World No. 108 Kokkinakis came through 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-7(4), 6-3 in four hours and 38 minutes against the 2015 champion.

In men's doubles, sixth-

seeded Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden's campaign ended with a 5-7, 6-7(5) defeat to the French pair of Fabien Reboul and Sadio Doumbia.

Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni defeated French wildcards Arthur Rinderknech and Enzo Couacaud 6-3, 6-2 while Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and N. Sriram Balaji lost 3-6, 4-6 to Ilya Ivashka (Belarus) and Alexei Popov (Australia).

ni will be taking medical advice for his left knee injury and accordingly decide. If surgery is advised, it can only be ascertained after reports come out, it will be completely his call," Viswanathan said.

Is there a possibility that Dhoni will decide against playing next season and thus free up a purse of ₹15 crore for the mini auction, the CEO replied: "Frankly, we are not even thinking on those lines as we haven't reached that stage."

"It will be completely Dhoni's call. But I can tell you in CSK, we haven't entertained those thoughts," Viswanathan said.

## Lensman and his muse



Booking a legacy: Sachin Tendulkar, who shares a special relationship with Sportstar, holds a copy of the 1989 edition where he first featured on the cover. V.V. Krishnan, who clicked that photograph, also handed him the special issue marking the icon's 50th birthday. V.V. KRISHNAN & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Pujara's inputs will be invaluable, says Gavaskar

Press Trust of India  
PORTSMOUTH

Sunil Gavaskar on Wednesday reckoned Cheteshwar Pujara could provide valuable insight to his Indian teammates ahead of the WTC final against Australia, having played extensively in the English County Championship.

With Pujara's knowledge and captaincy experience (at Sussex), his inputs could prove invaluable, especially against Australian batter Steve Smith, who is also a part of his county side.

The WTC final is scheduled to be held at the Oval in London from June 7 to 11.

"The fact that he has been around will mean that he will have also seen how the pitch has been behaving at The Oval.

"He might not have played at The Oval, but he would have kept an eye on what is happening and his inputs will be invaluable as far as the batting unit is concerned or even as far as the captaincy is con-

cerned," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

Gavaskar also said the Indian batters, coming off the IPL, will have to adjust their bat speed ahead of the WTC final, and advised them to play as late as possible.

"They'll need to play in England as late as possible to allow for the swing to do its bit, not to reach out for the ball which often a lot of people make the mistake having played on good pitches.

"Wherever you play on good pitches, you tend to play through the line, not necessarily half-volleys, but in England those deliveries can move just that little bit. So, I think those are the things that as a batter you need to watch out for."

He asked the bowlers to bowl fuller length deliveries to allow the Dukes ball to swing.

"As a bowling unit also you'll need to bowl a much fuller length for your new ball, for the bowlers to be able to get the movement in the air as well as after pitching."

## India thrashes S. Korea, enters Jr. Asia Cup final

## HOCKEY

Press Trust of India  
SALALAH (OMAN)

The Indian hockey team produced a dominant performance to outclass South Korea 9-1 and enter the final of the Junior Asia Cup here on Wednesday.

In the title clash on Thursday, India will meet the winner of the second semifinal between Malaysia and Pakistan.

Dhami Boby Singh led the way for India with a hat-trick, and was declared the Player of the Match at the Salalah Sports Complex.

While Dhami found the net in the 31st, 39th and 55th minutes, it was Lakra Sunit who opened the scoring for India with his 13th minute strike.

**Doubling the lead**  
In the 19th minute, Hundal Arjeet Singh doubled the lead before Dhami got into the act.

Angad Bir Singh and Utam Singh scored in the 34th and 38th minute respectively as India led 6-0



by the end of the third quarter in what was turning out to be a thoroughly one-sided match.

The Koreans found their only goal through Keonyeol Hwang in the 46th minute, as the Indian juggernaut continued in the remaining minutes of the game.

Vishnukant Singh made it 7-1 when he found the net in the 51st minute, which was India's first strike in the fourth and final quarter.

Barely two minutes after Dhami completed a fine hat-trick and with just three minutes left in the match, India rounded off the tally with a goal from Sharda Nand Tiwari.

**The result:**  
India 9 (Lakra Sunit 13, Hundal Arjeet Singh 19, Dhami Boby Singh 31, 39, 55, Angad Bir Singh 34, Utam Singh 38, Vishnukant Singh 51, Sharda Nand Tiwari 57) bt South Korea 1 (Keonyeol Hwang 46).

## IN BRIEF



## Dalot signs new contract with Manchester United

Manchester United defender Diogo Dalot has signed a contract extension that will keep him at Old Trafford until at least 2028. Dalot's new five-year deal includes the option of a further season as the right-back is rewarded for an impressive season with the club. Dalot, who spent the 2020-21 season on loan at AC Milan, said: "Playing for Manchester United is one of the highest honours that a player can have in football."



## Jacobs out of Florence Diamond League with injury

Olympic champion Marcell Jacobs will miss Friday's 100m race at the Diamond League meeting in Florence as he continues to recover from a back injury, the Italian athletics federation announced. "The recovery process for Jacobs, after the problem that emerged in recent days, does not appear to be fully completed yet," the federation said in a statement.

## ISL winner Ahmed Jahouh joins Odisha FC

Super Cup champion Odisha FC on Wednesday announced the signing of Moroccan midfield dynamo Ahmed Jahouh, an Indian Super League title and Shield winner. Jahouh has been signed on a two-year contract. Jahouh previously played under Sergio Lobera at FC Goa and Mumbai City FC and has an impressive trophy cabinet.

## Injured Martial of United ruled out of FA Cup final

Manchester United forward Anthony Martial will miss Saturday's FA Cup final against Manchester City due to a hamstring problem. The Frenchman sustained the injury after coming off the bench against Fulham on Sunday in United's final game of the Premier League season.

## LIVE TELECAST

**BWF:** Thailand Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 a.m.  
**Roland Garros:** Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards  
**England vs Ireland:** Only Test, Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.  
**Squash:** El Gouna International, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9.30 p.m.  
**NBA:** (finals), MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m. (Friday)

India set to become leading chess nation: Carlsen

## Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen feels it is only a matter of time before India becomes a leading chess nation, saying the country is "doing a lot of right things".

"I think India is doing a lot of right things so far, and it is a matter of time before it is clearly the leading chess nation in the world," Carlsen was quoted as saying in a press release.

The Norwegian Grandmaster is one of the icon players for the inaugural Global Chess League, which is the world's first and largest official franchise league of its kind, with chess players from all over the world competing.

## Panjab zooms ahead on medals table with 10 golds on day nine

## KIUG

## Sports Bureau

Panjab University, Chandigarh, leapfrogged to the top of the medals table, winning an incredible 10 golds on day nine of the Khelo India University Games 2023 on Wednesday.

PUC now has 49 medals including 21 gold, 12 silver and 16 bronze, much ahead of rivals Guru Nanak Dev University and third-placed defending champion Jain University.

**The results:** **Archery:** Recurve: Men: Pawan (Punjab) bt Sachin Gupta (Guru Kashi) 6-4; Ankit Rana (Chaudhary Charan Singh) bt Robin (Punjab) 5-3; Lovely Professional bt Pune 6-0.

**Women:** Bhagaviben Bhagora (HNGU) bt Bhavna (Guru Jamshedwar) 6-4; Anshika Kumari Singh (Kolhan) bt Avani (GUJ) 6-0. **Team:** GUJ bt

Kurukshetra 5-3; Delhi bt Kolhan 6-2.

**Mixed team:** Kurukshetra bt Panjab 6-0; GUJ bt Amravati 6-2.

**Athletics:** Men: **Pole Vault:** Sidharth AK (4.90m, MGU, Kottayam); Kuldeep Kumar (4.80m, Veer Bahadur Singh); **800m:** Irfan (1.55.87, Nehru Gram Bharati), Omkar Sadanand Kumbh (1.56.07, Shivaji), Anandhumon S (1.56.41, MGU).

**200m:** Ansh (21.78s, Kurukshetra), Shyam S.R. (21.81s, Madurai Kamraj), Tamilarasu S. (21.94s, Bharathiyar); **Triple jump:** Akash Varghese (15.77m, MGU), Mahanth B. (15.05m, Mysore), Vishal Bahadur (15.04m, Ranchi); **4x400m relay:** PUC (3.14.34), Punjab (3.14.71), Madras (3.15.00).

**Women:** **20km walk:** Pooja Kumawat (1:45:53.92, Maharanali Sukhadia), Payal (1:45:23.38, Punjab), Nikita Lamba (1:45:53.92, Maharashtra Ganga Singh); **Triple jump:** Meera Shibu (12.23m, Calicut), Anjali C. (11.89m, Mangalore), Anu Mathew (11.68m, MGU); **5000m:** Poonam Sonone (16.59.31, Mangalore), Basanti Kumari (16.59.34, Mangalore), Rinkee Dhanya (16.59.55, Kavayitri Bahinabai).

**800m:** Gug Kaur (2.08.73, PUC), Tal Hiraman Bamhahe (2.09.35, SPPU), Bhavika Kathuria (2.11.52, VBSU); **200m:** Sudeshna Shiva (24.58s, Shivaji), Simranpreet Kaur (24.60s, Punjab), Rashdeep Kaur (24.74s, GKV); **Javelin throw:** Harita (50.14m, Chaudhary Bansi Lal), Hemamalini M (48.75m, Madras), Anjani Kumari (47.99m, GKV).

**High jump:** Pallavi Patil (1.71m, Mangalore), Salihia (1.66m, Calicut), Varsha N.K. (1.66m, Manonmaniam Sundararaja); **Shot Put:** Nidhi Pawaya (14.80m, Barkatullah), Shiksha (14.75m, CBSU), Ambika V (14.39m, Mysore); **Heptathlon:** Pooja (4991 points, CBSU), Kamaleeta Kaur (4300, Kurukshetra), Snehamol G (3.59.18, Calicut).

**4x400m Relay:** MGU (3.52.27s), Mangalore (3.59.18), MKU (3.59.58).

**Fencing (final): Foil: Men:** Akash Kumar (Chandigarh) bt Harshil Sharma (GNDU) 15-9.

**Women: Epee:** Taniksha Khatri (PUP) bt Karanbir (Kolhan) 15-9.

**500m Lt.Wt.: Fours:** PUC, KUU, PUP; **Doubles sculls:** Kerala, Madras,

(Guru Nanak Dev) bt Yashkeerat Kaur Hayer (Panjab) 15-12;

**Sabre:** V. Alka Sunny (Kannur) bt Jagmeet Kaur (GNDU) 15-12.

**Football:** Men: Punjab bt MGU 2-1; Adamas bt GNDU 0-0 (4-2 on penalties). **Women:** GUJ bt GNDU 3-2; CBLU bt Annamalai 1-0.

**Judo:** Men: **60kg:** Jatin Tokas (DU), Harsh Singh (GKV), Jatin Kumar (PUC); **66kg:** Keshav (PUC), Siddharth Rawat (Punjab); **73kg:** Vipin Kumar (BMU).

**Women:** **48kg:** Antima Yadav (LPU), Rishita Karelya (PLU), Ankansa Shinde (SPPU); **52kg:** Monika Choudhary (Rajasthan), Sandhya Tiwari (GNDU), Kavya Balhara (JLCU).

**Rowing:** Men: **500m Lt.Wt.:** **Singles sculls:** Malak Singh (Calicut), Govind Singh Rajput (LPU), Dipanshu Kumar Singh (MUD); **Doubles sculls:**

Ravinder / Dinesh Kumar (PUC), Rahul / Ajay (KU), Arjun Das / Adinath TJ (KEU).

**500m pair:** Kishan Pandey / Ravi Bedwal (Panjab), Sukhdeep Singh / Aditya Kumar Singh (PUC), Ajay Singh / Soyal (GNU).

**500m Lt.Wt.:** **Fours:** PUC, KUU, PUP; **Doubles sculls:** Kerala, Madras,

Singh Bhinder / Shobhit Pandey (Panjab), Arunkumar / Gowtham (Madras), Vijay / Lokesh (PUC).

**500m Singles sculls:** Harvinder Cheema (Calicut), Nilesh Dhondge (SPPU), Sumit Rathai (LPU).

**500m:** **Fours:** PUC, Panjab, Calicut; **500m fours sculls:** Panjab, GNDU, PUC.

**Women: 50m Lt.Wt. Double Sculls:** Jyoti Kushwaha / Vindhya Sankth (GNU), Gurbani Kaur / Poonam (PUC), Palde Kajal / Mahale Shweta (SPPU);

**500m Pair:** Fati Siuba / Bagavathy (4.6.3 (Madras), Davapriya D / Arundhati VJ (Kerala), Bhagyashri Chavan / Komal Bodke (SPPU).

**500m Doubles Sculls:** Khushpreet Kaur / Diljit Kaur (PUC), Amanprit Kaur / Avinash Kaur (KLT), Poonam Tambe / Kasturi Chaughule (SPPU).

**500m Lt.Wt. Singles Sculls:** Hemalatha B (Osmania), Anita Bodke (SPPU), Tamil Selvi (SRM).

**500m singles sculls:** Shweta Brahmachari (Calcutta), Manasa SM (PES), Amanpreet Kaur (Panjab);

**500m Fours:** Kerala, Madras, SPPU; **Fours Sculls:** PUC, GNDU, SPPU.

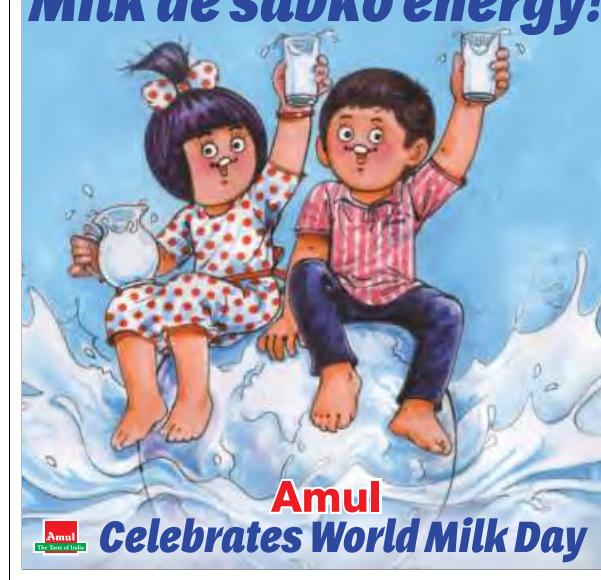
**Shooting: 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team:** Manu Bhaker / Sarabjeet Singh (PUC), Varun Dubey / Vibhuti Bhatia (DU), Amanpreet Singh / Pardeep Kaur Sidhu (Panjab).

**Skeet Mixed Team:** Prabh Pratap Singh Chahal / Parinaaz Dhaliali (PUC), Asees Chhina / Sukhbir Haria (Punjab), Arjun Thakur / Shivani Raikwar (GNDU).

**Weightlifting: Men: 67kg:** Tejas Dattaray Jondhale (258kg, Shivaji), Gurukannan K (253kg, Jain), Sachin Rauta (252kg, KLT); **73kg:** Kiran Ravindra Marathe (272kg, North Maharashtra), Ramineni Shivalingeswara Sai (260kg, MGU), Jaskaran Ram (254kg, Baba Bhag Singh).

**Women: 55kg:** Usha (181kg, Baba Bhag Singh), Shrabani Das (177kg, Kashi), Phandom Ranibala Devi (176kg, Chandigarh); **59kg:** T.M. Keerthana (178kg, Madras), Sneha (177kg, Maharashtra), Dayanand, Liza Kamsha (167kg, Krishna).

## Milk de sabko energy!



## IOC for wrestlers' safety and unbiased investigation

## Sports Bureau

KOLKATA will be speedily concluded."

The IOC said it has been in close contact with United World Wrestling (UWW) over the issue. "The IOC will continue to support UWW in all their efforts and in the framework of the IOC Guidelines for International Federations and NOCs for safeguarding athletes from harassment and abuse in sport."

The IOC also urged the IOA "to take all necessary actions to protect the athletes and to make sure that the elections of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) are happening as planned" in line with the UWW regulations.

## Karman Kaur moves into the second round in Portugal

## TENNIS

## Sports Bureau

Mahadevan 6-3, 6-2. Siddharth Vishwakarma bt Yuttana Charoenphon (Tha) 6-1, 6-4.

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Siddhant Banthia & Finn Reynolds (Nzl) bt Jordan Chiu (USA) & Ha Minh Duc Vu (Vie) 6-4, 6-1.

**\$25,000 ITF women, La Marsa, Tunisia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Rutuja Bhosale & Jitendra Milkuskyte (Bth) & Maria Kozyreva 7-6(3), 4-6, [10-5];

Emeline Dartron & Yasmin Mansouri (Fra) bt Gozal Ainitdinova (Kaz) & Sahaja Yamalapeth 4-6, 6-4, [10-4].

**\$25,000 ITF women, Yecla, Spain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Riya Bhattacharya & Vasanti Shinde bt Lucia Peyre (Arg) & Sofia Rojas (USA) 6-2, 6-4; Suhani Patil & Javeria Verdugo (Chi) bt Frankie Wingate & Hilary Woodham (Nzl) 6-2, 6-4.



**Memorable:** Kiran scored one of the biggest wins of his career.

TWITTER/BAI MEDIA

isha Open winner Kiran, a product of the Prakash Padukone academy, notched up a 21-18, 22-20 win over third seed Shi, the 2018 World championships sil-

ver medallist. Sindhu, however, faltered in the opening round, going down 8-21, 21-18, 18-21 to Canada's Michelle Li.

In other matches, Ash-

mita, who came through the qualifiers, beat compatriot Malvika Bansod 17-21, 14-21, while Saina defeated Canada's Wen Yu Zhang 21-13, 21-7.

**The results:** Men: Kiran George bt Shi Yuqi (Chn) 21-18, 22-20; Lakshya Sen bt Wang Tzu Wei (Tpe) 21-23, 21-15, 21-15.

Weng Hong Yang (Chn) bt K.

Srikanth 21-8, 16-21, 21-14;

Christo Popov (Fra) bt B. Sai

Praneeth 21-14, 21-16; Ng Tze

Yong (Mas) bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-19, 21-10; Magnus Johanesen (Den) bt Sameer Verma 21-15, 21-15. **Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Rasmus Kjaer & Frederik Sogaard (Den) 21-13, 18-21, 21-17.

**Second-round pairings:**

Gukesh-Nakamura; Carlen-So;

Tari-Abdusattorov; Giri-Caruan

a; Firouzja-Mamedyarov.

## India set to become leading chess nation: Carlsen

## Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen feels it is only a matter of time before India becomes a leading chess nation, saying the country is "doing a lot of right things".

"I think India is doing a lot of right things so far, and it is a matter of time before it is clearly the leading chess nation in the world," Carlsen was quoted as saying in a press release.

The Norwegian Grandmaster is one of the icon players for the inaugural Global Chess League, which is the world's first and largest official franchise league of its kind, with chess players from all over the world competing.

# The show-stoppers who made it a riveting spectacle

Each of the 10 teams threw up a few standout performers who, during the course of the sporting extravaganza, provided thorough entertainment while striving for the success of their sides

## IPL 2023

### Keerthana Shankar

After two months of gripping cricket, filled with twists in the tale till the very last ball, the 16th edition of the Indian Premier League came to a close on Tuesday. Chennai Super Kings became the joint-most successful franchise, alongside Mumbai Indians, when it bagged its fifth title.

At the end of the day, there can only be one winner. But in such a competitive tournament, there was many a compelling performance by players from each dugout.

#### Chennai Super Kings

Ruturaj Gaikwad and Devon Conway, the top-two run-scorers for CSK, regularly gave their side tremendous starts. Previously, the right-hand-left-hand combination had worked wonders for CSK, and this season was no exception.

In the middle order, Shivam Dube flaunted his six-hitting prowess. The southpaw's explosive batting and ability to counter spin, lent an edge to CSK's innings on multiple occasions.

Matheesha Pathirana has undoubtedly been the find of the season for CSK. The young Lankan pacer, likened to the legendary Lasith Malinga, proved his mettle, especially during death overs.

#### Gujarat Titans

The stream of laurels never ceased for Shubman Gill in IPL 2023. The young batter, touted to be the next big thing in Indian cricket, toyed with the bowlers and racked up runs in another memorable campaign for Titans.

An experienced campaigner, Mohammed Shami proved that he was a valuable asset in T20s. He was a force to reckon with, especially in the PowerPlay where he picked up most of his wickets.

A net bowler in the preceding season, Mohit Sharma re-invented himself as an extremely dependable death bowler for GT. A true impact player, the skills he brought made the team's bowling unit potent.

#### Mumbai Indians

Despite a shaky start to the season, Suryakumar Yadav demonstrated why he is among the best in the business. The sensational batter carried his side with quickfire knocks, including a century against Titans.

Cameron Green made a great impact for MI. With his flexibility to bat anywhere in the order and ability to bowl a few handy overs, he did not succumb to the pressure of his price tag.

Piyush Chawla emerged as the highest wicket-taker for his side. He was the only dependable bowler for MI and his experience played a huge part in the team's qualification to the playoffs.

#### Lucknow Super Giants

After a couple of seasons where he failed to make his mark, Nicholas Pooran was at his flamboyant best this time around. He played numerous crucial knocks for LSG and was the differentiating factor for his side in a few games.

Ravi Bishnoi turned out to be the most effective bowler for LSG. The leg-spinner made important breakthroughs in the middle overs and helped slow down the momentum of the opposition.

A solid batter in the middle order, Marcus Stoinis' contributions to LSG cannot be overstated. His runs also came at a quick rate, meaning they were often key to the side's victory. He was also useful with the ball.

### Shining stars of the dugouts

The players who made their presence felt in each camp in the 16th edition of the Indian Premier League

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS						
Batters	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s	
Conway	15	672	92*	139.7	0/6	
Ruturaj	15	590	92	147.5	0/4	
Dube	14	418	52	158.33	0/3	
Bowler	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Eco	4W/5W	
Pathirana	12	19	3/15	8	-	

Conway and Ruturaj added 849 runs together, the highest-ever for Super Kings in a season

Partnership  
Inns: 15 | Highest: 141 | 100s: 2 | 50s: 5

GUJARAT TITANS						
Batter	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s	
Gill	17	890	129	157.8	3/4	
Bowler	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Eco	4W/5W	
Shami	17	28	4/11	8.03	0/2	
Mohit	14	27	5/10	8.17	2/1	

MUMBAI INDIANS						
Batters	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s	
Surya	16	605	103*	181.13	1/5	
Green	16	452	100*	160.28	1/2	
Bowler	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Eco	4W/5W	
Chawla	16	22	3/22	8.11	-	

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS						
Batters	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s	
Pooran	15	358	62	172.94	0/2	
Stoinis	15	408	89*	150	0/3	
Bowler	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Eco	4W/5W	
Bishnoi	14	16	3/28	7.74	-	

RAJASTHAN ROYALS						
Batter	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s	
Jaiswal	14	625	124	163.61	1/5	
Bowler	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Eco	4W/5W	
Chahal	14	21	4/17	8.17	3/0	
R. Ashwin	13	14	2/23	7.51	-	

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE						
Batters	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s	
Du Plessis	14	730	84	153.68	0/8	
Kohli	14	639	101*	139.82	2/6	
Maxwell	14	400	77	183.48	0/5	
Bowler	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Eco	4W/5W	
Siraj	14	19	4/21	7.52	1/0	

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS						
Batters	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s	
Rinku	14	474	67*	149.52	0/4	
Roy	8	285	61	151.59	0/2	
Bowler	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Eco	4W/5W	
Varun	14	20	4/15	8.14	1/0	

PUNJAB KINGS						
Batters	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s	
Dhawan	11	373	99*	142.91	0/3	
Prabhsimran	14	358	103	150.42	1/1	
Bowler	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Eco	4W/5W	
Arshdeep	14	17	4/29	9.69	1/0	

DELHI CAPITALS						
Batter	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s	
Warner	14	516	86	131.63	0/6	
			</			

## SCIENCE

# Neuralink human trials: have all concerns been addressed?

Neuralink is making a Class III medical device known as a brain-computer interface. The device connects the brain to an external computer via a Bluetooth signal, enabling continuous communication back and forth. It could revolutionise treatment for conditions such as Parkinson's.

**David Tuffley**

**S**ince its founding in 2016, Elon Musk's neurotechnology company Neuralink has had the ambitious mission to build a next-generation brain implant with at least 100-times more brain connections than devices currently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The company has now reached a significant milestone, having received FDA approval to begin human trials. So what were the issues keeping the technology in the pre-clinical trial phase for as long as it was? And have these concerns been addressed?

#### What is Neuralink?

Neuralink is making a Class III medical device known as a brain-computer interface (BCI). The device connects the brain to an external computer via a Bluetooth signal, enabling continuous communication back and forth.

The device itself is a coin-sized unit called a Link. It's implanted within a small disk-shaped cutout in the skull using a precision surgical robot. The robot splices a thousand tiny threads from the Link to certain neurons in the brain. Each thread is about a quarter the diameter of a human hair.

#### Potential benefits

If Neuralink's BCI can be made to work safely on humans, I believe the potential benefits would make the effort worthwhile.

The company says the device could enable precise control of prosthetic limbs, giving amputees natural motor skills. It could revolutionise treatment for conditions such as Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and spinal cord injuries. It also shows some promise for potential treatment of obesity, autism, depression, schizophrenia and tinnitus.

Several other neurotechnology companies and researchers have already developed BCI technologies that have helped people with limited mobility regain movement and complete daily tasks.

BCIs have also been used to help older people train their motor and cognitive abilities to moderate the worst effects of ageing.

#### Long road to human trials

In February 2021, Musk said Neuralink was working with the FDA to secure permission to start initial human trials later that year. But human trials didn't commence in 2021.

Then, in March 2022, Neuralink made a further application to the FDA to establish its readiness to begin human trials.

One year and three months later, on May 25 2023, Neuralink finally received FDA approval for its first human clinical trial. Given how hard Neuralink has pushed for permission to begin, we can assume it will begin very soon.

The approval has come less than six months after the US Office of the Inspector General launched an investigation into Neuralink over potential animal welfare violations.

#### The FDA's concerns

The FDA had quite a list of issues that needed to be resolved before human trials could commence, as was reported in a Reuters investigation, which claimed to



Musk's Neuralink plans to place a 'Link' in the patient's skull. REUTERS/MIKE BLAKE

have spoken to several Neuralink sources.

Most of these concerns called for Neuralink to perform thorough and repeated testing and data collection over an extended period. This was likely a deciding factor in why the approval process to begin human testing took as long as it did.

It can't be said with certainty that all of the issues have been fully resolved. But considering the rigour of the FDA's approval process, we might conclude they have at least been resolved to a point of satisfaction for the FDA.

**Safe surgery** – A precision robot known as implant/r1 performs the surgical procedure to implant the Neuralink BCI. This robot surgeon had to be put through its paces to gather evidence that it could reliably and safely implant and remove the Neuralink BCI without damaging surrounding brain tissue, or creating the risk of infection, bleeding, inflammation or scarring.

#### Harmful side effects

Once implanted, the Neuralink BCI must function as intended. It must not unintentionally influence other brain functions, or cause any unwanted side effects such as seizures, headaches, mood changes, or cognitive impairment.

**Safe power supply** – In particular, overheating lithium-ion batteries can pose great risk to BCI users. When defective, such batteries have historically been known to overheat. They can even explode if the insulation between the cathode and anode (the metal electrode components) breaks down, resulting in a short circuit.

The longevity of the battery was also taken into account, as well as how easy it would be to safely replace from its position under the skin behind the ear. Since the FDA's previous rejection, extensive tests have been conducted on the specially designed Neuralink battery to evaluate its performance, durability and bio-compatibility.

**Wire migration** – Then there is the



When defective, such batteries have historically been known to overheat. They can even explode if the insulation between the cathode and anode (the metal electrode components) breaks down, resulting in a short circuit.

risk of wire migration. The Link consists of a disk-shaped chip with very thin wire electrodes that connect to neurons in the brain. Connecting these wires by means of a surgical robot is a major challenge in itself. But there is also the possibility the electrodes could move elsewhere in the brain over time due to natural movement, inflammation, or scar tissue formation. This would likely affect the proper functioning of the device, and could cause infection or damage to the brain tissue.

Neuralink had to conduct extensive animal studies and provide evidence its wires did not migrate significantly over time, or cause any adverse effects on the brain. The company also had to show it had a method for tracking and adjusting the position of the wires if this became necessary.

**Implant removal** – Another challenge Neuralink faced was that of safe implant removal. The FDA wanted to know how easy or difficult it would be to remove the device from the brain if this became necessary.

**Data privacy and security** – Strong safeguards are required to prevent data collected by the Link from being hacked, manipulated or otherwise misused. Neuralink would have had to assure the FDA it could avoid nightmare scenarios of hackers rendering its Link users vulnerable to interference, as well as guaranteeing the privacy of brain-wave data generated by the device.

#### The way ahead

Critics acknowledge the potential benefits of Neuralink, but caution the company to hasten slowly. Adequately addressing these issues will take time – and corners must not be cut when arriving at a solution.

Beyond the Link's potential medical uses, Musk has made many radical claims regarding his future vision for the technology. He has claimed Neuralink could augment human intelligence by creating an on-demand connection with artificial intelligence systems – allowing, for example, improved cognition through enhanced memory, and improved learning and problem-solving skills.

He has even gone as far as to say the Link could allow high-bandwidth telepathic communication between two or more people connected via a mediating computer. Common sense would suggest these claims be put in the "I'll believe it when I see it" category.

The situation with Neuralink has clear parallels with current advancements in artificial intelligence (and the growing need to regulate it). As exciting as these technologies are, they must not be released to the public until proven to be safe. This can only be achieved by exhaustive testing.

(David Tuffley is senior lecturer in Applied Ethics & CyberSecurity, Griffith University. This article is republished from The Conversation)



The immense weight of New York City's buildings, estimated to be around 771 billion kg, is making the island buckle. REUTERS

## The Venice of the West? New York city is sinking under its own weight

**Arkata Basu**

The city that never sleeps is slowly sinking under its own weight, a new study has revealed. New York is reportedly sagging at the rate of 1-2 mm/year, even as the sea level rises. It is one of the most densely populated cities in the world, with a population of over 8 million people.

It is also home to nearly a million buildings, including numerous skyscrapers. The immense weight of these structures, estimated to be around 771 billion kg, is causing the city to buckle, the study said. Lower Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn in particular are at higher risk.

Located at the tip of New York state, where the Hudson River meets the Atlantic Ocean, New York City is famously

**The sinking of the Big Apple will not only affect the millions of people living there: the city will also have to adapt to the increasing threat of rising seas and frequent hurricanes. It already ranks third worldwide in terms of assets exposed to coastal flooding**

vulnerable to natural disasters. "New York faces significant challenges from flood hazard; the threat of sea level rise is three-to four-times higher than the global average along the Atlantic coast of North America," lead researcher Tom Parsons wrote in a *New York Post* article.

Hurricane Sandy forced seawater from the Atlantic into the city while the deluge from Hurricane Ida flooded the drainage systems. Researchers fear that repeated storms, rising sea levels and anthropogenic activities will compromise the structural integrity of numerous buildings in the city. Constant exposure to saltwater, due to sea-level rise, can also corrode reinforced steel and chemically weaken concrete.

The sinking of the Big Apple will not only affect the millions of people living there: the city will also have to adapt to the increasing threat of rising seas and frequent hurricanes. It already ranks third worldwide in terms of assets exposed to coastal flooding: 90% of the 67,400 structures built in the expanded flood risk area after Hurricane Sandy have not been built according to floodplain standards.

The researchers also pointed out that apart from the natural subsidence of the land, caused by geologic effects, groundwater over-extraction and heavy construction have exacerbated the sinking problem. New York isn't the only city facing these challenges; Jakarta is another example. The crisis is also emblematic of those in coastal cities around the world, often as a result of global warming.

## THE SCIENCE QUIZ

### On the wonderful human body and its fascinating musculature

**Suresh Seshadri**

#### QUESTION 1

X is a muscle in the body that functions non-stop right through one's life. Name X

#### QUESTION 2

This is the largest muscle in the body and was crucial in helping homo erectus, and now homo sapiens, stay erect by keeping the trunk of the body upright. What is the name of this muscle?

#### QUESTION 3

There are three types of muscles in the body. One of them is called skeletal and is

attached to bones or in some cases the skin. \_\_\_\_\_ muscle is the name of the muscle type found in the uterus and intestines. Fill in the blank.

#### QUESTION 4

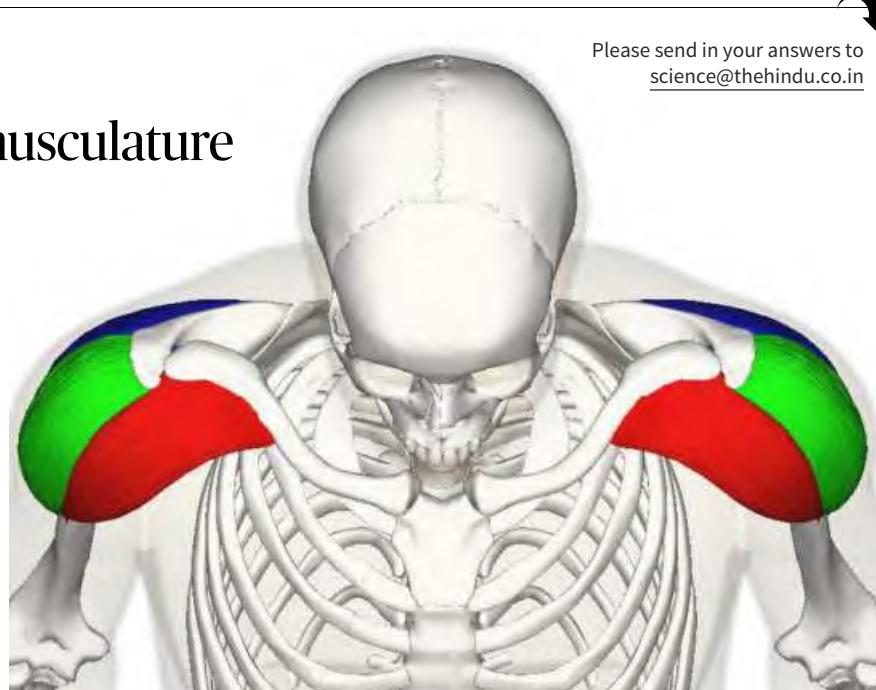
Muscles are activated when they receive signals from the nervous system. What is the name of the chemical that triggers them into action?

#### QUESTION 5

One increasingly hears about the beneficial health effects of walking. One of these benefits is associated with the cardiovascular system and can be laid at the doorstep of the 'secondary or little heart'. Where is this muscle located?

#### Answers to May 30 quiz:

- Method to calculate Bernoulli numbers – **Ans: First complex computer program**
  - Shape of string sagging between two poles – **Ans: Catenary**
  - Path of bead travelled in shortest time – **Ans: Brachistochrone curve**
  - Vehicle component based on Bernoulli's principle – **Ans: Carburetor**
  - Problem based on successive coin tosses – **Ans: St. Petersburg's lottery**
  - Visual – **Ans: Leonhard Euler**
- First contact:** P.N. Moorthy | K. Yashwant | Barath R. | Siva Shakthi A.



**Visual question:** The \_\_\_\_\_ muscle (above) forms the rounded contour of the human shoulder and is also known as the 'common shoulder muscle'. ANATOMOGRAPHY (CC BY-SA 2.1)

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

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