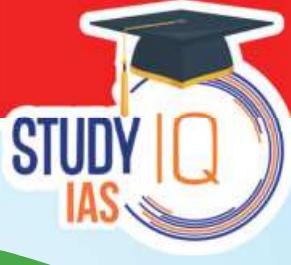


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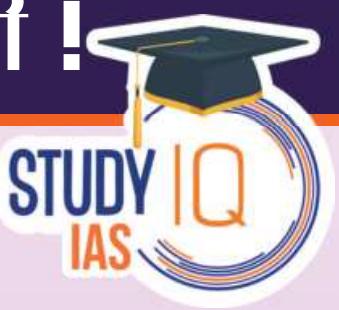


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HEAD COUNT
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NEET-PG
MBBS students seek
cut-off date extension
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We fell short,
says Tata Sons
chairman on
AI flight row

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Tata Sons chairman N. Chandrasekaran on Sunday expressed "anguish" over the Air India fiasco when a man, later identified as Shankar Mishra, went scot-free after urinating on a woman co-traveller mid-flight. He said the airline should have responded swiftly.

"The incident on Air India flight AI 102 on November 26 has been a matter of personal anguish to me and my colleagues at Air India. Air India's response should have been much swifter. We fell short of addressing this situation the way it should have been," he said in a statement five days after the incident came to light.

Mr. Chandrasekaran said the airline would "review and repair" processes to both prevent and address incidents of unruly behaviour.

PMO reviews situation in 'sinking' Joshimath town

Residents blame NTPC's Tapovan-Vishnugad power project for the damage to the sacred town in Uttarakhand, demand proactive resettlement steps by government; NDMA members to visit today

Ishita Mishra
JOSHIMATH

Residents of Joshimath, the Himalayan pilgrim town that appears to be sinking, are blaming major power and road infrastructure projects for their plight and are demanding that the government resettle and give new homes for all those who have lost their properties in the town.

Members of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) are set to visit the town on Monday to assess the situation and advise the Uttarakhand government.

A day after Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami visited Joshimath, which is experiencing land subsidence, residents continued their protest at the tehsil headquarters on Sunday,



Grim situation: Activists address residents of Joshimath in the presence of former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat on Sunday. V.V. KRISHNAN

blaming the Tapovan-Vishnugad power project of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for the "irreversible" damage to the sacred town.

The Prime Minister's Of-

fice (PMO) convened a high-level review of the situation in Delhi on Sunday, which was attended by State and Central officials, and experts in geology and disaster management.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also held discussions with Mr. Dhami about the situation.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

'Fake' Indian COVID medicines flooding China's black market

Ananth Krishnan

BEIJING

particularly among the unvaccinated elderly.

Cheaper alternatives

"Chinese laboratories are raising the alarm over a new potential danger to public health amid a massive wave of COVID-19 infections: a growing trade in fake antiviral medication," Chinese media outlet Sixth Tone reported.

With Paxlovid in short supply and highly regulated in government clinics, sales of Indian generic versions have ballooned through Chinese e-commerce platforms in the wake of the ending of the "zero-COVID" policy on December 7.

China has seen millions of cases since then – an estimate of the National Health Commission pegged the figure at 250 million as of December 20 – and although most have been mild, cities have seen a high number of deaths

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
CHINA OPENS BORDERS
» PAGE 13

IN BRIEF



Army kills two infiltrators near LoC in Poonch

JAMMU

Two infiltrators were killed close to the LoC in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. Meanwhile, one more injured civilian succumbed to his injuries, taking the toll in the Dangri attack to seven. » Page 10

Winter vacation in Delhi's private schools extended

NEW DELHI
In the wake of the cold wave, the winter vacation in Delhi's private schools, scheduled to open today, has been extended till January 15. » Page 2

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 5

Duck tales



Winter visitors: Migratory pintail ducks flock to a water body in Mayong village near Guwahati in Assam on Sunday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Akhilesh turns down tea offered at U.P. police headquarters fearing it could be 'poisoned'

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav created a buzz on Sunday by refusing to have tea offered at the Uttar Pradesh police headquarters in Lucknow, alleging that it may have been "poisoned".

Mr. Yadav had arrived to enquire about the grounds on which the party's social media functionary, Manish Jagan Agarwal, had been arrested that morning.

In a video clip that has gone viral, Mr. Yadav can be heard arguing with the police and saying: "I will not drink the tea of this place. I will bring it from outside. What if it is poisoned? I do not trust you."

Meanwhile, hundreds of SP workers gathered out-



Akhilesh Yadav

accepted a complaint by SP State president Naresh Uttram Patel against Ms. Rajput for allegedly making objectionable remarks against Mr. Yadav's wife and MP Dimple Yadav.

Later, Mr. Yadav visited Mr. Agarwal at Lucknow prison along with the party's chief spokesperson, Rajendra Chaudhary. Speaking to reporters, Mr. Yadav alleged that when he reached the police headquarters, it was empty. "If there is no one to listen at the police headquarters, then imagine the situation across U.P.," he said.

Responding to Mr. Yadav's charge, Prashant Kumar, the Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, said, "A national president of a party had come to the DGP head-

quarters here. Since he is an MLA, he was allowed entry." He added that other MLAs who accompanied Mr. Yadav were also permitted to enter the office.

"Since it was a Sunday, officials were present as per the requirement, and he [Mr. Yadav] spoke with them. Local police officials were also present," he said.

Accepted tea: police The officials offered tea to the SP chief and he accepted it, Mr. Kumar said. "They properly presented themselves and listened to him. Mr. Yadav was briefed about the case and he returned satisfied," he said.

U.P.'s political landscape is witnessing an aggressive SP after its win in the Mainpuri Lok Sabha bypoll.

(With inputs from PTI)

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IN BRIEF



Urs-e-Mubarak: traffic to be affected on Monday, Tuesday

Delhi Police on Sunday issued a traffic advisory informing commuters about alternate routes they may have to take to avoid congestion due to the 811th Urs-e-Mubarak of Sufi Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer Sharif. The three-day-long event began on Sunday. The police said the traffic on Monday and Tuesday will be affected on several stretches including Jama Masjid Chowk, Delhi Gate, ITO, Pragati Maidan, Matka Shah Baba, Purana Quila, Sunder Nagar, Oberoi Hotel, and Dargah Hazarat Nizamuddin. Traffic restrictions were enforced on Sunday from 1 p.m. across central Delhi during the procession. PTI

Elevator crash in Naraina Industrial Area factory kills 3

Three persons were killed and one injured on Sunday in an elevator crash inside a factory in west Delhi's Naraina Industrial Area, the police said. According to the police, calls were received around 5:45 p.m. from DDU Hospital in Hari Nagar and BLK Hospital in Rajendra Place about some men who had been rushed in from a factory where an elevator came crashing down. Kulwant Singh, 30, Deepak Kumar, 26, and Sunny, 33, were declared brought dead at DDU Hospital, they added. Meanwhile, Suraj, 24, is undergoing treatment at BLK Hospital, the police said, adding that investigation into the accident is under way.

Chinese woman tries to kill self in Delhi airport

A 29-year-old Chinese woman allegedly tried to kill herself with a razor in a washroom of IGI Airport's Terminal 3 here, said a senior police officer on Sunday. The woman had landed at T3 late on Saturday night from Bahrain and was due to take a flight to Kuala Lumpur. The incident took place around 4 a.m. on Saturday, when the woman, during her stopover, went to the washroom and lashed her throat and hand. Those who require assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts may contact Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health suicide prevention helpline 011-40769002 (10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday-Saturday). PTI

Witnesses disowning prosecution's case affecting system: court

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The phenomenon of witnesses disowning the prosecution's case has become too frequent and is adversely impacting the criminal justice system, a Delhi court has said while acquitting three people accused of culpable homicide.

Principal District and Sessions Judge (North) Vinay Kumar Yadav was hearing a case against the three accused who were charged under Sections 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code.

According to the prosecution, Ishwar, Irshad and Himanshu had assaulted the complainant Ravinder with bricks in Bhalswa Dair on August 8, 2022.

The court said Ravinder had given a clean chit to the three accused, while naming another unidentified person Balwant as responsible for causing injuries to him.

"This indicates that investigation was faulty, motivated or compromised," the court said.

Noting that the prosecution witness and complainant Ravinder had turned hostile, the court said that the prosecution was unable to show the complicity of the accused even remotely.

However, the court ad-

The court's observation came in a case where three men accused of assaulting a man were acquitted after the victim, also the prosecution witness, turned hostile

ded, the testimony of hostile witnesses cannot be washed away simply because the witnesses have turned hostile and the part of the testimony, which was relevant and truthful, can still be acted upon.

The court observed that the police's case "collapsed under its own weight" as the prime witness denied the complicity of the accused persons.

"In other words, this is another example where the public witness(es) turned hostile and rendered the entire exercise of the criminal justice system futile," the court said.

"This trend of witnesses disowning the prosecution's case has become too frequent, which is affecting the criminal justice system very adversely, as true facts are either suppressed by them or there is some mix-up or manipulation at the stage of investigation, which results to the advantage of the wrongdoers and conveys a negative message to the society at large," the court added.

Winter vacation in Capital's private schools extended till January 15

Delhi on Sunday recorded a minimum of 1.9 degrees Celsius, the lowest for this season; respite likely from Tuesday; IMD issues 'Red' alert, asks people to be vigilant against cold-related illnesses

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

In the wake of the cold wave that has held sway over the Capital for a week, the winter vacation in Delhi's private schools has been extended till January 15. Private schools in the city were scheduled to open today.

"All private schools of Delhi are advised to remain closed till January 15, 2023, in the wake of the cold wave prevailing in Delhi," the circular issued by the Directorate of Education (DoE) read.

Mercury below normal The severe cold wave brought Sunday's minimum temperature at Safdarjung, the official weather station for the Capital, down to 1.9 degrees Celsius, the lowest recorded temperature this season and five degrees below normal.

The India Meteorological Department on Sunday issued a "Red" alert, which is the highest level of the colour-coded warning issued by the weather de-



The maximum and minimum temperatures in the city on Monday are likely to be 18 and 3 degrees Celsius, respectively. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

partment, asking people to remain vigilant.

The IMD has predicted the extreme weather condition to last another 24 hours, after which back-to-back western disturbances are likely to provide respite from the severe cold.

Cold wave conditions over north-west India (are) likely to abate after 48 hours. Dense to very dense fog conditions over many parts of Punjab, Haryana,

Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (are likely) during the next 48 hours," the IMD said in a statement.

The maximum and minimum temperatures in the city are likely to be between 18 and 3 degrees Celsius.

The bulletin said that dense fog is likely to impact transport and aviation, with difficult driving conditions and slower journey times.

Due to the impact of the cold wave, the IMD said that there is an increased likelihood of various illnesses such as flu, running/stuffy nose or nosebleed, which usually set in due to prolonged exposure to the cold.

A severe cold wave is declared when the minimum temperature dips to 2 degrees Celsius or the departure from the normal limits is greater than 6.4 degrees.

Amid complaints against Jain, rejig in Prisons Department

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Sources said top officials at Tihar jail had accused jailed Minister Satyendar Jain of "threat and intimidation"

The Delhi Prisons Department has transferred 19 deputy superintendents of police (DSPs) and over 30 assistant superintendents of police (ASPs), according to an official order issued on Saturday.

The officials includes one who had complained against jailed Minister and Aam Aadmi Party leader Satyendar Jain of "threat and intimidation".

"A total of 19 Deputy Superintendents, 35 Assistant Superintendents and three head wardens were transferred," the order read.

Sources said top officials at Tihar jail had accused Mr. Jain of "threat and intimidation" and lodged a complaint against him with Director General (Prisons) Sanjay Beniwal.

The Additional Inspector General – Prisons (Tihar Jail), Superintendent of Jail No. 07 (SCJ-7), a DSP, an ASP and the Law Officer had complained to Mr. Beniwal that the jailed Minister had been "abusing them and threatening them with dire consequences once he gets out of the prison". Among the complainants, the ASP has been transferred as a result of Saturday's order.

In a statement, AAP government had called the allegations against Mr. Jain "totally false and concocted" and accused the BJP of being behind it.

Harsh Sharma, who had also participated in the 2015 march, said there are many more allies who are marching alongside the community, which is the

Queer Pride felt like a warm hug on a cold winter day, say participants

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Delhiites came out in large numbers to participate in the Delhi Queer Pride on Sunday. The event was held after a two-year gap due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The march made its way from Barakhamba Road to Jantar Mantar amid dhol beats, songs of hope, innovative placards, slogans demanding freedom of choice and a lot of colour.

The pride, which started as an annual event in 2008, has seen its participation grow over the years and is seen as a celebration of the queer community and a protest for its rights.

Have more allies

Harsh Sharma, who had also participated in the 2015 march, said there are many more allies who are marching alongside the community, which is the



Over the years, there has been a growing acceptance of the queer community, said one of the participants. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

most heartening takeaway from the event.

"This year the number of participants is incredible. It is amazing to see so many people openly marching. I think over the years, there has been a growing acceptance of the queer community. This truly is a ray of hope," Mr. Sharma said.

For some, participating in the pride gave them the strength to have conversations with friends and fa-

mily about their sexuality.

"When you meet so many people here and they tell you their stories, it gives you the courage to speak about your sexuality with people who are close to you," said Parul, a college student.

She added that marching with so many people was like, "a warm hug on a cold winter day".

A first-time participant Rajat Soni said that over

the years, he has seen so many videos and photos of the parade that he felt compelled to participate.

One big family

"Everyone here has suffered in some way and has been through difficult situations. This gathering shows that we are one big world family," he said.

While slogans and placards demanding same-sex marriage rung through the air, Aakash, who came from a town in Uttar Pradesh, said, "Yes, there is a long way to go, but look how far we have come. We are no longer criminals. Youngsters are now aware that they do not have to fit into a box and that there are people who will support them."

The Delhi Queer Pride is usually held on the last Sunday of November but was postponed this year due to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi elections.

After eviction notice, Mehrauli JJ dwellers in the line of fire

Soibam Rocky Singh

NEW DELHI



Wheelchair user Aftab Alam has been living in the jhuggi at Mehrauli Archaeological Park for 30 years. SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

2019 moved a petition, the Delhi High Court directed that the entire area under the park be secured and freed from encroachment. The court also cautioned that no construction activity shall be allowed in the area without its permission and every violation would be "viewed strictly".

Where were the authorities when the houses and sheds were being built? How can they raze them now?" he said in a burst of emotions. "Ghonsla ghonsla hota hai, chahe woh ameero ka ho ya gariba ka (a nest is a nest, whether it belongs to the rich or the poor.)

country, and comprises over 100 significant heritage structures and archaeological remains, monuments, graveyards and mosques.

Several litigations on removal of encroachments have been fought over the years to protect its heritage structures, ownership of certain plots of land and concerns of its existing inhabitants.

They had argued that their houses cannot be demolished without rehabilitation as per provisions of the Delhi Slum & JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy.

a 'Total Station Survey' was carried out on August 13, 2021, and the area of Mehrauli Archaeological Park demarcated.

As per the terms of the policy, DUSIB is required to conduct a survey and work out a rehabilitation or relocation programme before carrying out the demolition, the JJ dwellers contended.

The High Court, however, declined Mr. Isreal's plea and instead gave him and the petitioners till January 15, 2023 to vacate their JJs.

Demarcation report The DDA has defended its notices to the residents as compliance with the court's directions.

It has, however, assured the court that the removal of encroachments will not include religious structures and graveyards.

According to the agency,

"Wheelchair user Aftab Alam has been living in the jhuggi adjacent to another private graveyard for the past 30 years. If evicted, he will have nowhere to go. The 35-year-old said, "Where will I go now?"

M ND-NDE

Revenue courts in city gear up for online hearing

Nikhil M Babu

NEW DELHI

has become less cumbersome.

A person can log on to <https://www.erevenue-court.delhi.gov.in/>, create a profile and file a case online. Once accepted, they will get a unique number which can be used to track the case.

How it works

"Earlier, people had to physically visit the office of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, the District Magistrate, or the Divisional Commissioner to file a case. But now they can do it from home. Also, an SMS alert is sent about the next date of hearing, or if there is a notice for them. In the end, judgments are also updated online," a senior official said.

Officials across districts said their work has become more systematic after the shift to online mode. "Both citizens and officials are satisfied with the online system of filing and we have started a help desk in our district," said Isha Khosla, District Magistrate (South East).

Another official said that earlier, if someone used to file a case in a particular district but it pertained to another, transferring it used to be difficult. "But now it's simple," he added.

Dyed-in-wool Shiv Sainiks very much with Uddhav, says Sharad Pawar

Commenting on the 'high-handedness' of the ruling Shinde-BJP government in Maharashtra, the Nationalist Congress Party chief said that people in power should keep their feet on the ground

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Giving a boost to his Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) ally and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday said despite Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's coup that split the Sena, the dyed-in-the-wool Shiv Sainiks were still loyal to Mr. Thackeray.

Speaking in Kolhapur, Mr. Pawar said, "While it is a fact that a division has been created within the Sena and that some legislators and MPs may have switched loyalties, when I travel across the State, I find that the committed Shiv Sainik at the grassroots has not moved away. They are very much with Uddhav Thackeray."

Commenting on the alleged high-handedness shown by Ministers of the Eknath Shinde-Devenendra Fadnavis government, Mr. Pawar said people in power should keep their feet on the ground.

'Vindictive remarks'
"But, their [Ministers] statements about sending someone to jail and scrapping someone's bail does not behove of a ruling party," said Mr. Pawar, alluding



While it is a fact that a division has been created within the Shiv Sena and that some legislators and MPs may have switched loyalties, when I travel across the State, I find that the committed Shiv Sainik at the grassroots has not moved away

SHARAD PAWAR
Nationalist Congress Party chief

to the "vindictive" remarks made by MLAs of the Shinde faction on Uddhav camp loyalist Sanjay Raut, who was released on bail after being in prison for over three months.

'Effort to fight together'
The NCP chief, widely perceived as the 'architect' of the MVA alliance, saw his work unravel after an intra-party rebellion by Mr. Shinde, facilitated by the BJP, toppled the Thackeray-led government. Mr. Shinde became the new Chief Minister while Mr. Fadnavis of the BJP became the Deputy Chief Minister in June last year.

When questioned about the MVA contesting the 2024 Assembly and Lok Sabha polls as a joint enti-

ty, he said efforts were on for the NCP, the Congress and the Thackeray-led Sena to fight together.

"But we are still in the discussions stage... We hope to take other parties along as well. We [the MVA] have been taking a joint stance on many issues. In this vein, I do not foresee too many difficulties in coming together for future polls," the NCP chief said. The Lok Sabha election is due in May 2024 and the State Assembly poll is due in October next year.

On the ongoing border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka, Mr. Pawar said Mr. Shinde had convened a meeting with different parties. The case should be strongly presented before the court by rop-

Eviction drive to clear 500 hectares of forest land in Assam: officials

Press Trust of India
LAKHIMPUR

An eviction drive to clear over 500 hectares of forest land in Assam's Lakhimpur district will be undertaken by the administration on Tuesday, affecting nearly 100 families, officials said.

A drill by the security forces for the drive was conducted on Sunday, they said.

Out of 2,560.25 hectares of Pava reserved forest, only 29 hectares are currently free of any encroachment. In the first phase on January 10, 500 hectares in Adhasona and Mohaghuli villages will be cleared, the officials said.

The Himanta Biswa Sarma-led dispensation has been carrying out eviction drives in different parts of the State since it assumed power in May 2021, with two such exercises undertaken last month.

The drive in Nagaon's Batadrava on December 19 was billed as one of the largest in the region in terms of the number of people affected, with more than 5,000 alleged encroachers being uprooted.

Among the other major eviction drives was the one in Dhalpur area of Darrang district which led to violence, resulting in the death of two persons and injury of over 20 in September, 2021.

Lakhimpur divisional forest officer Ashok Kumar Dev Choudhury stated that at least 701 families have encroached upon the Pava reserved forest land over the last decades. The ille-

Himanta Biswa Sarma govt. has been carrying out eviction drives in different parts of the State since it assumed power in May 2021, with two such exercises undertaken last month

gal settlers include people from different parts of the State as well as locals displaced due to floods and erosion.

District Deputy Commissioner Sumit Sattawan said about 80 families have already left the villages and another 100 are still living there. "We have requested people still residing on these lands to leave peacefully," he said.

The DC said the people living in the encroached areas were notified by the forest department and local administration two years ago to vacate the area.

In July last year, 84 families submitted documents claiming land ownership but these were found to be fake. On September 7, the circle officer of Naobocha personally approached the encroachers and asked them to leave voluntarily, he said.

The drive was supposed to be carried out in September. "We had to defer it as floods hit the area. In the last two weeks, we have again conveyed to the encroachers that the eviction drive will be conducted on January 10," Mr. Sattawan added.

IN BRIEF

Man arrested for threatening 1993-like blasts in Mumbai

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) arrested a history-sheeter on Sunday, a day after he allegedly called up the Mumbai Police and threatened 1993-like serial bomb blasts in the city, an officer said. The caller also said people from different States have been called to Mumbai for carrying out communal riots, according to the ATS officer. The ATS formed two teams to trace the caller. He was tracked down to suburban Malad and arrested. PTI



International Kite Festival inaugurated in Ahmedabad

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Sunday inaugurated the International Kite Festival 2023 in Ahmedabad, which will see the participation of around 125 kite flyers from 68 countries based on the G-20 theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future". Apart from international participants, 65 kite flyers from 14 States in India and 660 from different parts of the State will also take part in the week-long event, which will culminate on January 14. PTI

Goa LoP to seek discussion on Mahadayi river in Assembly

Goa Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao on Sunday said he will write to Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar seeking a discussion on Mahadayi water diversion issue during the upcoming State Assembly session. A four-day session of the State Legislative Assembly will be held from January 16 to 19. Talking to reporters in Panaji, Mr. Alemao said he will be submitting a letter to the Speaker on Monday demanding a day-long discussion on the Kalasa-Banduri dam project on Mahadayi river. PTI

Real Shiv Sena is led by Uddhav: Raut

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday said there is only one Shiv Sena which is led by Uddhav Thackeray and hoped the party will get justice from the Election Commission which is hearing contentions of the two Sena factions, each of them seeking recognition as the "real" Shiv Sena.

Mr. Raut said he trusts EC though "independence and autonomy" has not been seen in autonomous institutions.

Timings DELHI

MONDAY, JAN. 9
RISE 07:16 SET 17:42
RISE 19:47 SET 09:03

TUESDAY, JAN. 10
RISE 07:16 SET 17:43
RISE 20:42 SET 09:38

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11
RISE 07:16 SET 17:43
RISE 21:37 SET 10:09

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 18 02
Safdarjung 18 02
Palam 15 05

Delhi Palam Today
16°C The Cold wave conditions is likely. Morning will be very cold with dense to very dense fog. Day will be cool. Night will be very cold.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
18°C A dry and very cold weather to continue. Dense fog will occur in very cold and uneasy mornig. Day will be cool.

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Festival time



A view of the annual Magh Mela on the banks of the Ganga in Prayagraj on Sunday. PTI

Three held for bid to murder Sri Ram Sene leader

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka Police on Sunday arrested three people on the charge of attempt to murder Sri Ram Sene leader Ravi Kokitkar and his associate Manoj Desurkar in Belagavi. The incident had occurred on Saturday night. Kokitkar and Desurkar were injured when three motorbike-riding men opened fire at them in Hindalgol village.

The accused are Abhijit Somnath Bhatkhande, Rajesh Ningani Kodachawad and Jyoti Gangaram Mutagekar. The accused are Abhijit Somnath Bhatkhande, Rajesh Ningani Kodachawad and Jyoti Gangaram Mutagekar.

Project Sambandh, a retired officer's calling to help kin of Army's non-combat casualties

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Colonel Vembu Shankar (retd), a Shaurya Chakra winner, had a penchant for the Army since childhood.

His decision to begin Project Sambandh – a one-man philanthropic initiative to connect the next of kin of non-combat casualties in the Army – was made in 2017 as he was nearing 20 years of service. Project Sambandh, which Col. Shankar refers to as his calling, was initially started as a 1,000-day endeavour to reach out to families of Army officers who lost their lives under

"non-operational circumstances" such as physical ailments, accidents and suicides.

A few years in, he realised that it would take more than a thousand days to collect information on

the next of kin and help them reconcile with the loss of their loved ones.

"Project Sambandh has identified that the next of kin, particularly young widows and children, face three kinds of challenges –

financial, emotional, and social," Col. Shankar said.

While the financial challenge follows from losing the primary breadwinner of the family, social challenges can be due to the stigma that the family has to face in society.

Initial years

"If nearly 100 Army personnel are killed in the battlefield every year, over a thousand die from non-operational reasons, and for these families, entitlements, grants and schemes are vastly different from those of the battle casualties," Col. Shankar said.

Though the Army assists

the families in the initial years after an officer's death, the connection is lost in the subsequent years, he said.

Over five years, Col. Shankar mapped over 15,000 families and connected them to authorities. This has helped in delivery of more than ₹1 crore as financial assistance.

The main intent of the project is to bring awareness of the challenges the families faced and assist them in connecting them to the Directorate of Indian Army Veterans, Col. Shankar said.

For details, visit project-sambandh.com

TMC worker found dead in Howrah

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

The body of a 42-year-old Trinamool Congress (TMC) worker was found in West Bengal's Howrah district on Sunday, police said.

Lalit Midya was missing since Saturday night. His body was found in a pond near his house in Chatra Mollapara in Chandrapur area in the morning, they said.

Police said they have sent the body for post-mortem and are investigating the death. Midya's family alleged that he was killed by supporters of the CPI(M).



Helping hand: Col. Vembu Shankar during an interview with The Hindu in Chennai on Saturday. R. RAVINDRAN

5 more held in Chhattisgarh for clash over 'religious conversion'

Press Trust of India
CHHATTISGARH

Police on Sunday arrested five more persons in connection with a clash between two groups over alleged religious conversion in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district, an officer said.

With this, so far eight people have been arrested in connection with the inci-

dent which took place in Gorra village under Edka police station limits on January 1, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said.

The police had on January 3 arrested three persons. Five more persons arrested on Sunday have been identified as Premagar Netam, 48, Lacchu Karanga, 32, Santaram Dug-

ga, 35, Punuram Dugga, 45, and Rajman Karanga, 46, all residents of Narayanpur district, the officer said.

They were produced before a local court which sent them to judicial custody, he said.

There have been reports of unrest at various villages for the last two months over the issue of alleged religious conversion.

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GENERAL**
The 86th Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana has resolved to oppose imposition of Hindi or any other language on Kannada and also urged the State government to withdraw all cases against Kannada activists.

A resolution in this regard was adopted at an open session on the concluding day of the meet on Sunday. In all, six resolutions were passed.

The first resolution thanked all those who made the three-day mega event a success. The second one urged the State government to promulgate an Ordinance on comprehensive development of Kannada for ensuring effective implementation of the language in education, judiciary, and administration.

The third resolution urged the government to implement, without any delay, the order of the Supreme Court on the pending case of Mahajan Commission report concerning

Resolution urges withdrawal of cases against Kannada activists, implementation of SC order on pending case of Mahajan Commission report concerning Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute

The Hindu Bureau
HAVERI



Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai having a word with poet Doddarange Gowda at the Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana at Haveri on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the Karnata-Maharashtra border dispute.

Through the fourth resolution, the sammelana called upon the government to withdraw all cases registered against Kannada activists immediately.

The fifth one opposed any imposition of Hindi or any other language on Kannada. "As the Indian Con-

sstitution recognised all regional languages as equal as per the 8th Schedule, Kannada which is one among the 22 such languages is a sovereign language of Karnataka. Any attempt to impose Hindi or any other language on Kannada will be strongly condemned by the sammelana," the resolution said.

The last one is about organising 'Vishwa Kannada Sammelana' in Davangere. Through the resolution, the sammelana urged the State government to involve the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (KSP) in organising the sammelana and take KSP into confidence in all the meetings to be held for the purpose.

Chargesheet against 14 in W.B. communal violence case

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against 14 people in a case pertaining to the clash between members of two communities in West Bengal last year, an official said on Sunday.

The chargesheet was filed in a special NIA court in Kolkata on Saturday under various sections of the IPC and Explosive Substances Act, a spokesperson for the federal agency said.

The case, registered initially at the Ekbalpur Police Station on October 10, 2022, and re-registered by the NIA eight days later, pertains to a clash between members of two communities who engaged in brick-battling, stone-pelting and hurling bombs at each other.

The official identified the chargesheeted accused as Fakruddin Siddique, his brothers Salauddin, Sahabuddin, Idul and Ziauddin, Badrul Hossain and his brother Ohab Hossain, Ghola Md Izhar, Mustafa Hussain, Zakir Hossain, Faiyaz, Sunny, Raju and Imamul Haque.

"Investigations revealed that the accused hatched a criminal conspiracy, gathered into an unlawful assembly with the intention to attack houses/shops of people of a particular community," the spokesperson said.

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LEGAL NOTICE
In the HON'BLE COURT OF THE XII ADDL. DISTRICT JUDGE Cum M.A.C.T., AT:VISAKHAPATNAM M.O.P. 965/2021 Between : J. Kameswari ...Petitioner And Harion Rathour & 2 others ...Respondents NOTICE To, Respondent No.2: Manoj Kumar, S/o. Ram Khiladi, Rat D.No. A-150, A-Block, Vijay Uhar Phase-1, New Delhi, DELHI. (Owner of the Lorry Vehicle bearing Reg. No. DLIC6559)
Please take notice that the above named petitioner has instituted the above MOP against you and other respondents for claiming compensation. The matter stands posted to 25-01-2023 for your appearance. You are hereby directed to appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through duly instructed Advocate on 25-01-2023 at 10:30 A.M. in the above Court to answer all material questions, failing which the petition will be heard and determined in your absence, exparte as per law.
(By Order of the Hon'ble Court)
P. TIRUPATHI RAO, Advocate, Visakhapatnam, (Andhra Pradesh) Cell: 9951399097

LEGAL NOTICE

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of the I Addl. Junior Civil Judge, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh OS No: 438 / 2020

Between :

Dungar Singh Purohit, Proprietor of Tulasi Mirchi traders, Guntur. ...Plaintiff.

AND

Vipul Kansal, Proprietor of M/s. Shiv Enterprises, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. ...Defendant.

To:

Vipul Kansal, Prop. of M/s. Shiv Enterprises, Kirana Mandi, Sector 10DC, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Please take notice that the above suit is filed against you for recovery of debt payable to the Plaintiff. The said suit is posted to 25-01-2023 for your appearance at Guntur, Andhra Pradesh at about 10:30A.M. If you fail to attend the Hon'ble Court on 25-01-2023, the matter will be heard and decided ex parte basing on the material available. It is as per the orders of the Hon'ble 1st Additional Junior Civil Judge, Guntur.

Date of Adjournment: 25-01-2023.

(By Order of the Hon'ble Court)

T. MURALI DHAR, Advocate, Brundavan Gardens, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. Cell: 9951399097

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Kannada meet opposes imposition of Hindi; wants mother tongue in all fields

Resolution urges withdrawal of cases against Kannada activists, implementation of SC order on pending case of Mahajan Commission report concerning Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute

The Hindu Bureau
HAVERI

The 86th Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana has resolved to oppose imposition of Hindi or any other language on Kannada and also urged the State government to withdraw all cases against Kannada activists.

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Govt. calls for caution as avian flu confirmed in Kerala districts

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Health Department has directed all districts to be on the alert as reports of avian flu have been confirmed in many districts. On Saturday, avian flu had been confirmed in the Azhoor gramapanchayat in Thiruvananthapuram district.

The district administration had issued orders that all poultry and other pet birds in the affected wards be killed and that all egg, meat, bird fodder, and litter be destroyed.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, the Health Department said that the public needed to maintain caution and follow the directives of the authorities so that there were no

chances of the avian flu passing on to humans. Usually, human transmission of avian flu does not happen but viral mutation can make this a possibility.

The Health Department has increased the surveillance of all fever and respiratory diseases in the affected areas and any person experiencing lung-related issues should immediately inform the local doctor. The Health and Animal Husbandry Departments are keeping a close watch on the situation and are jointly organising preventive measures.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, the Health Department said that the public needed to maintain caution and follow the directives of the authorities so that there were no

West Bengal gets its first M sand facility through CIL's green mining initiative

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

In an attempt towards environmental sustainability and reducing over-mining of sand, Coal India Limited (CIL) has started a facility in West Bengal to produce manufactured sand, the first such initiative in the State.

The manufactured sand is being produced, an estimated 3 lakh cubic metre per year, in the Kajora area of Eastern Coalfields Ltd (ECL), a subsidiary of CIL, from overburden material of open cast mines. Set up through private participation, the M sand facility has started operations since September 2022.

Sand is one of the major geological resources of the country and M sand is a form of artificial sand manufactured by crushing large hard stones into fine particles.

"Conversion of overburden material into sand is a step to ensure environmental sustainability. Coal India Limited is committed to the cause of green mining." B. Veera Reddy, Director (Technical) of CIL said. The M sand produced will be used fully for captive purposes of



The M sand making facility in West Bengal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ECL.

According to sources, ECL needs 12 lakh cubic metre per year sand for stowing (sand filling mined out portions) purposes in its underground mines. M Sand will, therefore, meet 25% of the sand requirement of ECL, bringing home immediate savings of an estimated ₹6 crore per year.

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Ex-MLA's grandson beaten to death in U.P.

Press Trust of India
UTTAR PRADESH

A 35-year-old grandson of former MLA late Kedar Singh was beaten to death in a village under the Kopardi police station area here, police said on Sunday.

Hisman Singh was beaten within an inch of life in an old rivalry by seven

people in Mahuar village around 10 p.m. on Saturday and left to die, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Mau, Tribhuwan Nath Tripathi said.

The matter is being investigated and an FIR has been filed under relevant sections, the ASP said.

Police have sent the victim's body for autopsy.

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THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

Cast away, 14 fishermen survived just on coconuts

Beulah Rose
MADRASI

When nine fishermen from Kerala and five from Tamil Nadu set out for fishing on November 27, 2022, they never thought that their lives would soon resemble that of Tom Hanks's character in *Cast Away*.

As on any other day, they had started from Thangapattinam in Kanniyakumari district after loading their boat, *Chirsha Mol* – owned by Varghese Raj from the neighbouring village of Eraviputhenthrurai – packing rice and oth-

er staple ingredients that would last for 35 days.

Acclimatised to deep-sea fishing, these fishermen usually stayed at sea for 25 days at a stretch. But on December 4, when they were barely a week into their trip, *Chirsha Mol* developed a snag.

According to Chinnaiyan Vellaiyan, a rescued fisherman, they were about five nautical miles from the shore when the gearbox broke down. For about three days, they were anchored at sea, before they were spotted by a Sri Lankan fishing boat.



Survival instinct: The rescued fishermen were brought to the Coast Guard station at Vizhinjam. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With their help, the damaged gearbox was taken to the shore by one of the fishermen, for repairs.

In the meantime, due to

inclement weather conditions at sea, the boat's anchor got cut and *Chirsha Mol* started to drift. Using a dinghy, the fishermen

managed to reach Ile Anglaise, an atoll which is part of the Salomon Islands, which lies in the Chagos archipelago in the Indian Ocean south of the Maldives.

Using what they had in the boat, the stranded fishermen managed to cook rice using the saltwater. Though a deserted atoll, Ile Anglaise had numerous coconut trees. For 15 days, Mr. Vellaiyan said that they managed to slake their thirst by drinking coconut water and then by collecting rainwater as it rained frequently.

They had almost given up on being rescued until, on December 23, they were spotted by the OSV *Grampian Endurance*, a vessel sailing under the United Kingdom's flag. The fishermen were then handed over to the Indian Coast Guard when the British vessel passed off the Colachel coast on January 2.

Titus, one of the fishermen, is recuperating in an ayurvedic hospital due to extreme exposure to the sun, according to his wife.

The rest of the crew, however, have returned to sea.

Congress adopts 10 declarations for SC, ST welfare in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The Congress on Sunday urged the Karnataka government to accept the Justice Nagmohan Das Commission report in total and bring the enhanced reservation legislation under Schedule 9 of the Constitution before January 30.

It stated that the BJP government was misleading the public over the enhancement of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

The Congress also promised to table the Justice A.J. Sadashiva Commission report on internal reservation among the SC communities in the first State Assembly session, if voted to power. The Congress de-

claration was made during the SC/ST Aikyatha Samavesha at Chitradurga.

Ahead of the State Assembly election, the BJP government enhanced reservation for SCs from 15% to 17% and for STs from 2% to 7%, in its bid to win over the communities.

In response, the Congress has made 10 declarations during the convention on its programmes for the SC/ST communities.

Urging the community to remain united, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said: "No one will bother if you are divided. Reservation has been provided through the Constitution and it is important to protect the Constitution, democracy and your welfare."

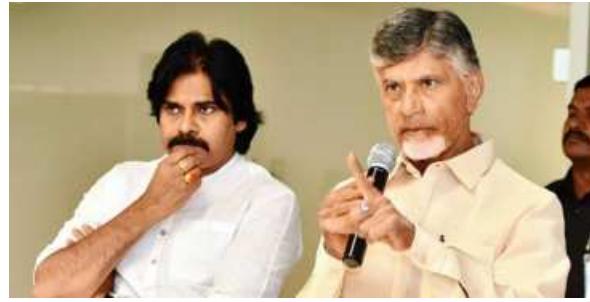
A.P. Opposition parties say govt. muffling their voice

Naidu, Pawan Kalyan flay Government Order; they allege that the order, which had banned public meetings and rallies on roads, was a conspiracy to prevent them from reaching out to masses

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party president N. Chandrababu Naidu and Jana Sena Party (JSP) chief Pawan Kalyan on Sunday reiterated the need for collective efforts to thwart the YSR Congress Party's alleged conspiracy to prevent the Opposition parties from reaching out to the masses by issuing Government Order Rt. No. 1 banning public meetings and rallies on roads, on grounds of public safety.

They called the move anti-democratic and reflective of the "autocratic



Setting the stage: N. Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan at a press conference in Hyderabad on Sunday. NAGARA GOPAL

mindset" of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

The situation prevalent in A.P. is worse than what one can see during an emergency. It is the responsibility of every individual to protect it, they

cised the manner in which the YSRCP was "silencing the critics", particularly leaders of the Opposition parties, with the "support of the police" who ought to stand up against the blatant violations of law.

Referring to the G.O., Mr. Naidu said its legal validity was doubtful but the police stopped him at Kuppam on the pretext of the curbs, on a "premeditated plan, which was to obstruct his public meetings".

Mr. Kalyan said he called on Mr. Naidu to express support after denial of permission to visit Kuppam.

Vistadome coaches: trial run on Kalka-Shimla heritage route soon



Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, has started production of advanced vistadome narrow gauge coaches, which have transparent roof and doors offering a 360-degree panoramic view of the surroundings. PTI

Press Trust of India
KAPURTHALA

People taking the train on the Kalka-Shimla heritage line may soon get to travel in advanced vistadome narrow gauge coaches which will have glass roofs and large windows and offer a panoramic view of the scenic route.

The Rail Coach Factory (RCF) here has commenced production of these coaches, which are expected to be ready by next month. These coaches will have a trial run on the Kalka-Shimla route before they are put into service, officials said.

The production of the vistadome narrow gauge coaches commenced following successful oscillation trials of two prototype coaches on the Kalka-Shimla heritage track in December last year.

The RCF is likely to roll out four of these coaches by the first week of February, its general manager Ashesh Agrawal told PTI here.

Initially, the four coach-

es – AC executive car (12 seats), AC chair car (24 seats), non-AC chair car (30 seats) and one power-cum-luggage and guard car – will be manufactured and handed over to the Research Designs and Standards Organisation for further trials on the 96-km Kalka-Shimla railway track, he said.

After clearance from the Commissioner of Railway Safety, these coaches would be put into service. The date of their flagging off would be decided by the Railway Board, he said.

Mr. Agrawal said the Railway Board has asked the RCF to manufacture 30 vistadome coaches for the Kalka-Shimla line and has also given its nod for manufacturing these coaches for the Kangra Valley line.

The British laid the first rail link to connect Shimla in 1903. In 2009, the Kalka-Shimla rail track was declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

There are 103 tunnels on the rail line, 800 bridges, 919 curves and 18 railway stations.

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Move to a creative 'VUCA'

The curriculum of higher education institutions needs to look beyond digital literacy and focus on digital creativity

Jaskiran Arora

Today, with technology having permeated every sphere of our lives, the educational ecosystem is now taking cognisance of the compelling need to design a curriculum that makes students proficient in providing digitally enabled business solutions.

Digital literacy is more than just computer proficiency. It also involves critical thinking skills and the ability to connect and communicate. So, how can higher education institutions integrate digital creativity into the academic curriculum? This requires the conscious weaving of the following four aspects into the curriculum.

Digital Intelligence

Though Computer Science has always been a very popular stream, today universities are embedding analytics-related courses in non-tech programmes like management and commerce. Progressive specialisations in Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence are not merely restricted to Computer Science students now. These technological perspectives are being embraced by other students to increase efficiency. Capstone projects



like automating business processes using Blockchain and interdisciplinary courses and projects like Drones for Delivery, Metaverse, and Integrated Financial Networks are being added to programme structures for the Law, Management, and Humanities to help students gain diverse perspectives.

Creativity, Innovation and an Entrepreneurial Thinking

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Thinking in the curriculum of different disciplines helps develop essential skills. Offering capsules on Growth Mindset vis-à-vis a Fixed mindset and Disruptive Innovation trains students to think out-of-the-box and helps ignite their imagination and promote entrepreneurial mindsets. This leads to enhanced customer focus and augmented business efficiencies.

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills

As the new world is unfold-

ing, there is an increasing requirement for thinkers than doers. While most of the routine, repetitive jobs will be taken over by robot assistants, the humans will be expected to connect the dots and understand the story behind the data for strategic decision-making. And this will increasingly require employees with very high cognitive skills. Courses like Data Visualisation, Story Telling and Presentation skills, Case Analysis etc. are now becoming core courses in the curriculum to formally

train the students on these cognitive skills, unlike in the past when such courses were offered only as electives. Not just the data descriptive courses, but predictive analytics courses like Analysis and Mitigation of Risk, Creative Problem Solving and Consulting, Critical Reasoning, and handling Black Swan events, are becoming an integral part of the curriculum.

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IMPORTANT DATES

Last date for submission of online application: 30.01.2023 (Monday)

Date & Time of Online Entrance Examination: 20.02.2023 (Monday) 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Date of Interview

Timing of Interview will be intimated by email in due course.

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A timely halt

SC must lay down rehabilitation norms for eviction from public spaces

The Supreme Court's timely intervention has halted the forcible eviction of some 50,000 people from Haldwani in Uttarakhand, where the occupants are accused of squatting on railway property for decades. The Uttarakhand High Court had taken a tough stand against the residents, and passed a slew of directions that would have entailed their eviction within a week, backed by force, including the deployment of paramilitary forces. It is significant that the Bench underscored the human angle to the issue and spoke about the need for rehabilitation before eviction while staying the order. In an earlier round of litigation over the same land, which adjoins the Haldwani Railway Station, court orders had allowed proceedings against individual occupants under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, to be completed. This time, too, it was on a PIL that the High Court had passed its orders. The High Court's detailed judgment shows that the residents' claim is traceable to a 1907 Office Memorandum that says the area be managed under rules pertaining to 'nazul land'. The court has ruled that it was not a government order but only a communication on how to manage the land, and it does not amount to declaring it as 'nazul land', that is, land that has fallen into the hands of the state by escheat. As one of the nazul rules is that there cannot be sale or lease, the court rejected all claims made by occupants based on purported documents for lease, sale, and, in some cases, purchase through auction.

Conflicts between occupants of public land and the state that wants to reclaim the land are a never-ending saga in the country. A shortage of housing, as well as inadequate recognition of the right to shelter, means that large masses of people encroach on vacant land, be it on the bed of water bodies or government property. This often leads to attempts to evict the occupants and spawns litigation. Invariably, there are claims to occupancy rights based on long years of stay at the same location. There are court judgments that stress rehabilitation measures and consultation with the oustees before eviction. Some courts have also recorded the view that mandatory rehabilitation may prove to be an incentive for encroachment. The Haldwani eviction effort has unfortunately taken communal overtones, and there appears to be a clamour for the early eviction of the Muslim residents. India does not have a good record on rehabilitation of those evicted from public spaces, and this case presents an opportunity to the Supreme Court to lay down the law on meaningful rehabilitation as well as effective prevention of encroachments.

Tame, not lame

In a democracy, no one can overlook the cultural sensitivity of the people

Come Pongal and many parts of Tamil Nadu are alive with preparations for jallikattu, a traditional sport involving bulls. On December 8, a five-member Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas challenging the Tamil Nadu law allowing jallikattu. The court is expected to give its judgment before the commencement of this year's event, which goes on for nearly four months in various parts. It is likely to rule on the validity of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017, which does not talk of the "taming of bulls" while giving legal sanction to jallikattu. Though the traditional sport was not allowed for a few years thanks to the apex court's ruling in May 2014, the demand for its revival assumed serious proportions soon after the death of Chief Minister Jayalalithaa in December 2016. As the court had declared void the Tamil Nadu Regulation of Jallikattu Act, 2009, which referred to the "taming of bulls", the framers of the 2017 law defined jallikattu as "an event involving bulls conducted with a view to follow tradition and culture". On hearing petitions against the latest law, the court had sought to address the questions of whether jallikattu should be granted constitutional protection as a collective cultural right under Article 29 (1); and whether the 2017 law and rules "perpetuate cruelty to animals" or were a means to ensure "the survival and well-being of the native breeds of bulls".

In a democracy, no one can overlook the cultural sensitivity of the people. Six years ago, the perception that those in power, both at the Centre and in the State, did not respect this factor gained ground, compelling the Union and the State governments to come up with a State-specific amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, a Central law. The amendment, allowing the event subject to rules and regulations, had ended the crisis that had engulfed the State then in the wake of a huge assembly of people on the Marina Beach for days together. But the revised law, by itself, could not ensure that no human lives were lost, let alone prevent instances of torture to the animal. There is a need to reinforce stricter enforcement of regulations. Also, the bureaucracy should sensitise local communities to the need for the safe and smooth conduct of jallikattu. Every traditional practice undergoes changes over time and jallikattu is no exception to this rule. This message should be conveyed forcefully to all the stakeholders.

In February 1961, I was in primary school. I still remember the visit of the Census enumerator to our house. Fondly called Pachu Pillai, he was a teacher in our school and a family friend. Since many teachers were on Census duty, we (though not the entire school) got a couple of days off. Next year I waited for the Census enumerator to visit our house and was told that the exercise takes place every 10 years.

Freezing of administration boundaries

Recently, this newspaper reported that the freezing of administrative boundaries that precedes the Census would be done with effect from July 1, 2023. Such a freezing is necessary as State governments are in the habit of creating new districts and tehsils or reorganising existing ones. If such changes happen during a Census, there would be chaos in the field as to who should oversee such areas and a likelihood of some areas being left out of the Census. House-listing operations take about a month, but were traditionally taken up in various States at different points of time between March and September of the year prior to the Census. It is not clear whether the government is planning to synchronise the house-listing operations to reduce the interval between the freezing of boundaries and the actual Census enumeration. There is no official statement yet about when the Census would be conducted.

When restrictions were imposed to contain the pandemic in March 2020, several States in the country were on the threshold of starting house-listing operations. Enumerators were appointed and trained, questionnaires were printed, mobile applications were ready for use by willing enumerators and other logistic arrangements were in place. But the pandemic ensured that the house-listing and, consequently, the population enumeration phase were



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The Census alone can provide population data for every village and town, data for the delimitation of constituencies and for determining the quantum of reservation, and validate or reject estimates



N.BALAJI

postponed. Two years have been lost. There is no reason for a further postponement.

The Constitution talks about the use of Census data for delimitation of constituencies and for determining the quantum of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, it does not say what should be the periodicity of the census. The Census Act, 1948, which predates the Constitution, provides the legal background for several activities relating to the Census without mentioning anything about its periodicity. It says, "The Central Government may... declare its intention of taking a census..., whenever it may consider it necessary or desirable so to do, and thereupon the census shall be taken". This provision puts the onus of deciding when to conduct a Census on the executive. This is unlike the position in several countries such as the U.S. and Japan where the Constitution or the Census law mandates a Census with defined periodicity.

Implications of the delay

The Census alone can provide population data for every village and town. Sample surveys can provide reliable data on social and demographic indicators only at higher geographic levels. Apart from the population count, the Census has also been providing data on population characteristics, housing and amenities.

We have population projections at the State and national level that have been fairly accurate in the past. However, it is not feasible to get reliable projections at lower geographic levels such as for districts and cities or even small States and Union Territories. For answers to questions on the improvement in literacy and educational levels, economic activity, migration, etc., or the impact of programmes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, one must depend on sample surveys. But these surveys have limitations and cannot be used to find answers to how many villages have literacy rates below 75% or which tehsils have a low percentage of people getting protected water supply. Such information is important to initiate action to rectify the situation.

The Census data are used to determine the number of seats to be reserved for SCs and STs in Parliament, State legislatures, local bodies, and government services. In case of panchayats and municipal bodies, reservation of seats for SCs and STs is based on their proportion in the population. Other than the Census, there is no other source that can provide this information. Delay in the Census means that the data from the 2011 Census would continue to be used. In many towns and even panchayats that have seen rapid changes in the composition of their population

over the last decade, this would mean that either too many or too few seats are being reserved. Delimitation of parliamentary and Assembly constituencies would continue to be based on 2001 Census till data from a Census after 2026 are published.

The rural-urban distribution of population has been rapidly changing over the years. There is high population growth in the urban areas. Some cities have been growing faster than others through in-migration. The rural-urban distribution of population has been rapidly changing over the years. There is high population growth in the urban areas. Some cities have been growing faster than others through in-migration. For example, areas under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike grew by 49.3% during 2001-11, while the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (11.9%), the Delhi Municipal Corporation (11.7%), and Greater Chennai Corporation (7.0%) had much lower growth rates. Kolkata Municipal Corporation recorded a fall in population during the same period.

The pandemic resulted in deaths among adults and the aged relatively more than children. Its impact on age distribution in severely affected areas would be of interest as it would give an indirect estimate of the number of deaths. This would either validate or reject the various estimates of the number of deaths due to the pandemic.

Census and NPR

The decision to collect data for the National Population Register by piggybacking on the Census operations was the most debated issue before the Census was postponed. Such controversies negatively impact the Census, which is the largest administrative exercise for collecting data. The Census is a single-shot operation and there is no scope for a retake. The Central government's stated stand is that the data for the National Population Register would be updated during the Census. As the Census has been considerably delayed, it would be advisable to separate these two and disassociate the Census from a politically sensitive issue. This would help complete the Census as early as possible and maintain reliability of data.

The first Census after 2026 would be used for delimitation of parliamentary and Assembly constituencies and for apportionment of parliamentary seats among the States. Due to the disparity in growth rates between the States, there could be changes in the distribution of seats in Parliament. That Census is likely to be held in a more politically charged atmosphere. Hence, it is necessary that this Census is done as early as possible.

Imagining the politics of fraternity

As the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra, which is passing through Haryana now, is scheduled to make its way towards Srinagar in another 10 days or so in the punishing north Indian winter, it is fair to ask what it has achieved. From the outset, it was made clear that although the yatra was a political undertaking, it did not have an electoral motive. However, the yatra has succeeded in the important task of imagining and inaugurating a political counterculture grounded on the principle of fraternity or Bandhutva. Here, it is important to underline that in the eyes of our nation's founders, fraternity was not merely a value to aspire to, but a foundational principle to be upheld by all the political forces; hence, it was included in the Preamble as well as in the fundamental duties of our Constitution.

The emergence of the principle of fraternity
Since the emergence of the modern nation state, the values of liberty, equality and fraternity have been the touchstone of all democratic projects across the world. However, these values have been articulated and interpreted differently within specific historical and political contexts. Interestingly, although the values of liberty and equality have been given abundant philosophical and political attention, fraternity remains undertheorised and seldom invoked.

Traditionally there were two ideas of fraternity. The first emerged from the Judeo-Christian world view which envisaged a brotherhood among men owing to the belief that all men were 'children of God'. The second more radical and secular idea of fraternity was born out of the crucible of the French Revolution. Here, fraternity denoted a sense of solidarity and brotherhood among those



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The Bharat Jodo Yatra has succeeded in the important task of imagining and inaugurating a political counterculture grounded on the principle of fraternity

who were opposed to the tyrannical monarchical order. This idea became the basis of modern citizenship.

The Indian context

In the Indian context, Bandhutva emerged during the process of anti-colonial struggle and the concomitant process of nation-building. The most ardent champion of Bandhutva was Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. He was deeply disturbed by the absence of 'public conscience' or empathy among the Hindus for their fellow human beings who were subjected to the degrading practice of untouchability. He rightly argued that the absence of fraternity, owing to caste consciousness within Hindu society, was the primary reason for the colonisation of India and the chief impediment in nation-building.

In *The Buddha and his Dhamma*, he argued that any society which sanctioned the supremacy of one group over the other is bound to have perpetual conflict. The only way to resolve this conflict is to make fraternity universally effective. For Ambedkar, fraternity was the fundamental enabling condition for the realisation of liberty and equality, which would otherwise merely be 'coats of paint'.

Therefore, he warned the Constituent Assembly that India could be held together not merely by laws but by a feeling of brotherhood among the people. If the political class failed to popularise the values of equality and fraternity among the people, India's freedom would be imperilled once more. In fact, so important was Bandhutva to safeguard the moral order of the nation – and humanity at large – that he anchored it within the Navayana Buddhist tradition before embracing it; thereby, elevating it

from the realm of the secular to the sacred.

Satyagraha for Bandhutva against Hindutva
We are living in an age of extreme inequality. Across the world, the principle of fraternity is threatened by the political culture spawned by extreme social and economic polarisation with one enabling the other. As a result, we see xenophobia and racial tensions rear their ugly head. In India, the Narendra Modi regime is the primary vehicle of such a politics of polarisation and Hindutva is its principal source of ideological legitimisation.

It is not as if caste or communal violence was absent earlier; however, what has changed is the political patronage extended to the perpetrators of such violence by this regime. The cases of Bilkis Bano, Afrazul, Kathua, Hathras and Unnao or the use of violent hate speech are painful reminders of such a politics. On the economic front, the top 1% have cornered more than 40% of the wealth in 2021; while the poor and middle classes struggle with inflation. Such a politics threatens to tear apart our social fabric.

In such a context, Mr. Gandhi is safeguarding the principle of fraternity by reintroducing the language of *ahimsa* (non-violence), *nirbhaya* (fearlessness), *samata* (equality) and *samaad* (dialogue) in the political discourse and reinforcing our common humanity. This is nothing new, as these were the very principles which guided our nation during our freedom struggle. While there have been many important mass campaigns to uphold and expand liberty and equality since Independence, this is the biggest mass campaign to defend and entrench fraternity in Independent India. This is a duty considered sacred by Ambedkar.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Food safety

The incident points to the callous attitude of our food safety authorities. Many eateries operate in unhygienic conditions and put to risk the health of their customers. ("Food-borne deaths trigger concern; raids at eateries," Jan. 8). Instead of reacting in a knee-jerk manner after such incidents, it is the duty of the Food Safety Department to regularly monitor the hygienic status of all food outlets and make sure that they adhere to the stringent norms prescribed.

Punitive action must be taken against those violating safety rules.

Biju C. Mathew
Thiruvananthapuram

The land of Tamils
It has become a regular phenomenon for political parties in Tamil Nadu to find fault with every statement of Governor R.N. Ravi ("Political leaders disapprove of Governor's 'Thamizhagam' remark," Jan. 7). The word Thamizhagam is extensively used in Purananoor, Silapadikaram,

Manimekalai, etc. Even Periyar used it. When there are so many important issues facing the State, it is unclear why our leaders make a hue and cry over such trivial issues.
R.Pichumani
Thanjavur

The face of Congress
There is no doubt that one of the main beneficiaries of the Bharat Jodo Yatra is going to be Rahul Gandhi ("Yatra is not to project Rahul as PM face for 2024 election: Jairam," Jan. 7). His stock is certain to soar

after the completion of the yatra if the massive crowds everywhere are of any indication. Although Mallikarjun Kharge is now the party president, it is clear that Mr. Gandhi remains the face of the party. Nitish Kumar too had said a few days ago that he has no problem seeing Mr. Gandhi as Prime Minister. However, parties such as the Trinamool Congress and the Bharat Rashtra Samiti might not be willing to do business with the Congress.
C.V. Aravind
Chennai

Another extension
The Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 has obviously become a hard nut to crack for the Home Ministry ("Home Ministry seeks another six-month extension to frame rules related to Citizenship Act," Jan. 8). Seeking another extension of six months, which is the seventh extension, says a lot. Perhaps the Centre wanted to keep the issue on the back burner realising in hindsight the pernicious impact the law would make on our polity. It is hoped

that the Centre will revisit the egregious Act that discriminates against people on religious lines.
Ayyaseri Raveendranath
Aranmula

To read more letters online, scan the QR code. Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.



CM YK

Making healthy choice the easier choice

Do you eat five servings (400-500 grams) of fruits and vegetables or do 30 minutes of physical activity in a day? Chances are that you do not. Do not worry, you are not alone in not doing so. The 2017-18 National NCD monitoring survey reported that 98% of Indians do not take adequate fruits and vegetables and only 59% of adults do adequate physical activity.

So why are we not making the right choices? Often the reason given is that people do not pay enough importance to health and choose to eat unhealthy due to taste and cost considerations or are simply too lazy to take that walk or go to the gym. In other words, individuals fail in making the right choices and are at fault. But are these individual choices? I believe that these choices are heavily influenced by the environment we live in.

More choices

I can no longer eat a full thali in any of the restaurants and yet I am forced to do so as there is no choice. Restaurants find large portions to be more lucrative. Finding a snack which is neither fried nor salty in a restaurant is nearly impossible. We need more choices for people to be able to eat healthy without compromising the choices for others. We know that food choices in families are now driven by children who are heavily influenced by food marketing on television or by inducements like toys. Surveys have shown that unhealthier choices are available more, priced lower and displayed more prominently in grocery stores to promote their buying.

There are two main reasons that most of us do not eat sufficient fruits and vegetables—culturally our diet is so cereal/pulse-based (due to the historical need to address undernutrition) that scope for adding these is limited. More importantly, it is an affordability issue. So, our food environment is configured in a way that promotes

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unhealthy options and dissuades healthy choices.

Now, let us understand why our intention to walk or exercise does not convert into actual practice. It is always desirable to pursue physical activities that are integrated into our daily work, including household work, walking to the office, market, or bus stop, taking stairs over lifts and morning walks. However, we do not do it as we have many barriers to walking in our environment—air pollution, weather (hot-cold-rains), unusable footpaths, lack of parks or, when available, often unsafe and poorly lit. Socio-cultural barriers are equally important, especially for women not being able to do physical activity—their role within the house.

Thus, physical, economic, and socio-cultural environments in which we make decisions about purchasing, preparing and consuming food or doing physical activity are unsupportive of healthy choices. Can these environments be shaped differently? Yes, there is sufficient evidence globally that there are many policy-level interventions that help create an enabling environment. These include regulatory, fiscal instruments as well as structural and educational interventions.

Multiple fixes

The regulatory approach is best exemplified by regulating the marketing of foods to children. Many countries have banned or restricted the advertising of food and beverages to children on television—food companies cannot advertise on children's channels or at times when they watch television. Regulating salt content in butter, cheese, chips etc. is another area for regulation. India is currently exploring front-of-pack food labelling by self-regulation by industry. Self-regulation has not really worked globally and is just a delaying tactic by the industry. Given that affordability is an

Evidence, globally, suggests that policy level interventions can help people make healthier choices in life

important consideration for eating healthy, fiscal measures have an important role. Some examples are taxing junk food, incentivising healthier options and subsidising fruits and vegetables.

Laying more footpaths, making them walkable by having them low, keeping them clean, removing obstructions and maintaining parks etc. are doable interventions by municipalities.

Commercial interests

Commercial interests like the food industry are powerful interest groups. They would oppose interventions aimed at labelling or reducing salt or sugar. While we need to engage with the industry, we must also learn to insulate these decisions from their influence.

Along with improving awareness of people about making healthy choices, we also need to educate relevant stakeholders. Working with restaurants to promote healthier preparation of food—preventing multiple reheating of oils, lower oil, salt, and sugar use during preparation, and making available small portions are some examples.

India has not really explored these multifaceted policy interventions to address issues of diet and physical activity choices. We have used similar approaches effectively in modifying other behaviours like promoting safer sex, use of toilets. Many best practices exist globally which need to be synthesised and shared with policy makers. Even within the public health fraternity, there is a need for building capacity in planning, implementing, and evaluating these interventions. Ultimately, to make healthier choices easier for people, policymakers must exercise difficult choices. Sufficient momentum needs to be built for these interventions to be part of policymakers' weaponry. Also, if more people opt for healthy choices, then the industry will be forced to respond to keep its market share.

A participatory mapping exercise

Buffer zone mapping should be inclusive and involve local inhabitants

STATE OF PLAY**Srikumar Chattopadhyay**

The demarcation of a 1-km buffer zone around the protected forests in Kerala on the direction of the Supreme Court has raised serious concerns in society. While the creation and maintenance of buffer zones around ecologically sensitive areas are considered essential, the exercise is often beset by a paucity of reliable ground-level data. In its special report on Climate Change and Land-Summary for Policy Makers (2019), the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) stressed on improving sustainable land management 'by increasing the availability and accessibility of data' and termed it one of the near-term actions to address the issue of climate change and adaptation. However, micro-level land use statistics in Kerala, or for that matter of the entire country, is mostly conjectural with marginal ground input.

According to official statistics, Kerala has 11,525 km², or 29.7% of its total geographical area under forest cover. The category of dense and degraded forest accounts for 78.7% of the total forest area. The rest of the area is allotted for forest plantations, leased to other departments or used to accommodate other non-forest activities. Protected forests cover 26.6% of the total forest area and a 1-km buffer zone is proposed around these protected forest areas. Due to the dominance of tree crops and plantations like rubber, there are technical limitations in isolating natural forest vegetation using satellite images at a finer scale. This is evident from the report of the Forest Survey of India (2021), according to



which Kerala has 21,253 km² or 54.7% of the total area under forest. The difference in figures has arisen because of the inclusion of plantations.

The mismatch between the area under forest and the area under actual natural vegetation cover was highlighted in the early 1980s when the Centre for Earth Science Studies brought out a report on deforestation in Kerala. Forest areas are being used for various non-forestry purposes, including the expansion of human settlements, leading to the fragmentation of forest patches. The forest-settlement boundary is pushed deep into the Western Ghats, exposing trails of wildlife movement, and aggravating human-wildlife conflicts.

Fixing the boundary between natural forest vegetation and humanised landscape is necessary. It warrants a detailed land use survey on a cadastral scale at the plot level. Participation of local people is imperative. Such an exercise was first attempted in the U.K. where students provided the bulk of the manpower. The entire department to complete the task in a reasonable time frame. Drawing from past experiences, local panchayat and residents can be mobilised to undertake the programme. Students from schools and colleges, along with teachers can be involved. Scientific institutes and departments may be mandated to extend technical support. The entire database will be on a digital platform and be made available to the public. This could perhaps help in a big way in resolving conflicts. Similar exercises will be required to preserve the ecosystem. The ownership of the maps and local action must rest with the local inhabitants.

The author is a (Retd) Scientist, Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram

Younger diabetics are on the rise in most States

In more than 20 States, the share of young persons with high blood glucose levels increased in the last five years

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

In five States – West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Tripura – more than 8% of men aged below 35 had a random blood glucose level higher than 140 milligrams per decilitre (mg/dl), according to the National Family Health Survey-5 conducted between 2019 and 2021. The trend holds true for women aged below 35 in West Bengal and Tripura as well.

Not only was the share higher in these States, the increase from 2015-16 (NFHS-4) was also considerable. In West Bengal, the share of men aged below 35 with high blood glucose level increased by 2.6% in the five-year period. Among the women, the increase was even higher at 3%. Among the men in Tripura, the increase was much higher at 5.6% and among women, it was 3.5%.

The NFHS classified an individual as having high blood glucose if the random blood glucose level was above 140 mg/dl. Less than 140 was considered normal. The high glucose level is used to identify patients who are potentially diabetic. However, further tests have to be conducted to confirm the diagnosis.

While the share of young people with high blood glucose levels was alarming in the above-mentioned States, the rest of India was not far behind. In the southern States of Tamil Nadu and Telangana, the north-eastern States of Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Mizoram, and Gujarat and Odisha, the share of young men with high blood glucose levels crossed 6% in 2019-21.

In 20 out of the 29 States analysed, the share of such young men increased. Of the nine States where the share decreased, Kerala's decline was notable. From 8.8% young men with high blood

glucose level in 2015-16, the share reduced to 3.9% in 2019-21. Among women, an increase was observed in 21 States. Chart 1A plots the share of men aged below 35 whose random blood glucose levels were high in 2019-21 (vertical axis), against the increase in the share compared to 2015-16 (horizontal axis). Chart 1B plots the same for young women.

Young women in general had lower blood glucose levels than men. Except in West Bengal and Tripura, in other States the share of such young women was less than 6% in 2019-21. The increase from 2015-16 was also relatively muted compared to young men.

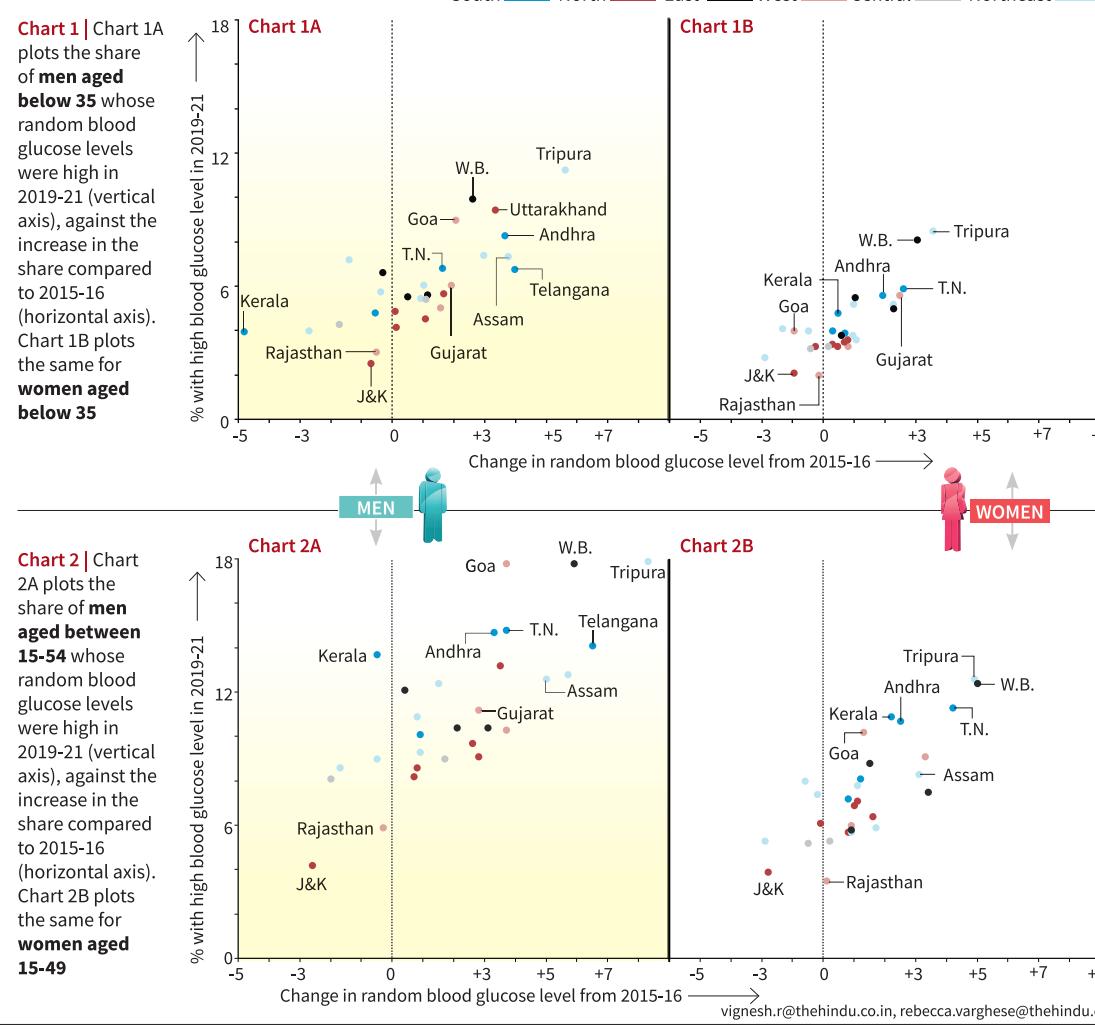
The above conclusions consider people aged between 15 and 34. If only those in their thirties are considered, the share of potentially diabetic young persons were much higher. Close to 9% of Indian women in their thirties were either on medication to control diabetes or had a high random blood glucose level in 2019-21. And the figure for men was even higher at 11.3%.

Most of the trends observed among the younger population holds true even if we include the older age-groups. Chart 2A plots the share of men aged between 15-54 whose random blood glucose levels were high in 2019-21 (vertical axis), against the increase in the share compared to 2015-16 (horizontal axis). Chart 2B plots the same for women aged 15-54.

As can be observed from charts 2A and 2B, Indian women in general are less susceptible to diabetes than men. The number of men with a high random blood glucose level was relatively higher in Goa, West Bengal, Tripura and the southern States of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. This was closely followed by Uttarakhand, Odisha and the north-eastern States of Meghalaya, Assam and Mizoram. The trend mostly holds true among women too. So, in general, diabetic incidence is higher in the eastern, north-eastern and southern States.

Link between age, gender & diabetes

The charts are based on data collated from the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21) and National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16)

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 9, 1973

Waldheim in sub-continent to discuss 'political problem'

United Nations, Jan. 9.

The U.N. Secretary-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, said today that during his visit to the Indian sub-continent early in February, he would discuss the "political problem" with the leaders of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

"We were not able to solve some of the humanitarian problems but the main political issue is still open," he said. "My purpose is to discuss the political problem with the leaders of the three countries and I hope I will be able to contribute to progress in this field."

Dr. Waldheim made only brief references to the sub-continent, West Asia and admission of the two German states into the United Nations during the one-hour press conference and most of the time was devoted to replying to questions on Vietnam.

On Vietnam, he expressed the hope that the negotiations, which had been resumed in Paris between the U.S. Presidential Adviser, Dr. Henry Kissinger, and North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho, would lead to a successful conclusion.

Dr. Waldheim confirmed that he was in touch with Hanoi "through private channel."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 9, 1923

Bombay Police

(ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA) Bombay, Jan. 8. In forwarding the Police Inspector-General's report of the Bombay Presidency the Director of Information says that the outstanding feature of the year 1922 was large increase in serious crime specially in violent crime, against person and property.

General contempt for law and order fostered by the Non-Co-operation movement which reached its zenith in the year under report, the pre-occupations in certain districts general spirit of unrest in industrial world which was turned to full advantage by political agitators and withdrawal of large number of police from their normal duties in connection with two Royal visits are among the reasons to which this increase may be attributed. Moreover, in addition to increased activity of criminal classes, members of the police force had to face an intensive campaign directed specifically against them as servants of Government and maintainers of law and order.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Families evacuated from a quickly sinking Joshimath

60 The number of families evacuated from Joshimath which has been declared a landslide-subsidence zone. There are a total of 4,500 buildings in Joshimath and 610 of these have developed huge cracks, according to Garhwal Commissioner Sushil Kumar. "Land subsidence has been going on slowly in Joshimath but it has increased over the past week," he added. PTI

Discoms' dues to gencos drastically reduce this month

62,682 In ₹ crore, the total outstanding dues owed by electricity distribution companies (discoms) to power producers. The amount has almost halved when compared to the ₹1,21,030 crore in the year-ago period. This reduction is due to steps like the implementation of late payment surcharge rules. PTI

Madhya Pradesh lost more tigers than its rival Karnataka

34 The number of tigers lost by 'tiger state' Madhya Pradesh compared to just 15 in Karnataka, its nearest competitor in housing tigers in the country. Karnataka, home to 524 tigers is competing with MP (526) for the tag of India's 'tiger state'. A senior forest department official said it is a "mystery" as to why Madhya Pradesh has recorded higher tiger deaths. PTI

Eviction drive to clear hectares of forest land in Assam's Lakhimpur

500 In hectares, the forest land in Assam's Lakhimpur district where an eviction drive will be conducted, affecting nearly 100 families. The Himanta Biswa Sarma-led dispensation has been carrying out eviction drives in different places in the State since it assumed power in May 2021, with two such exercises undertaken last month. PTI

An increase in coal-based power generation

15 The % by which the country's coal-fired power generation increased year-on-year in December. Coal-based power generation accounts for 76.59% of the total power generation in the country. The NTPC had earlier said that coal-based electricity generation is the backbone of power supply in the country. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Gaining the gavel: the role of the U.S. Speaker

Within the U.S. political system, how does the Speaker of the lower house of Congress influence decisions? How extensive is the hold of California Congressman Kevin McCarthy, the newly-elected Speaker? Will values of 'Trumpism' play a part in Mr. McCarthy's role in holding the House?

EXPLAINER

Narayan Lakshman

The story so far:

Following the narrow mid-term election victory of the U.S. Republican Party in the House of Representatives in November, California Congressman Kevin McCarthy waged a relentless campaign to become Speaker of the lower chamber of Congress. Facing a factionalised and conflict-ridden congressional conservative caucus, a record-making 15 voting rounds were conducted before Mr. McCarthy succeeded in acquiring the Speaker's gavel. With the Senate and White House firmly in the grip of Democrats, Mr. McCarthy now has the daunting task of advancing the Republican cause in Congress with the goal of improving the Grand Old Party's odds of gaining power across the political spectrum in the 2024 presidential election. Given his proximity to former U.S. President Donald Trump, a man who supported Mr. McCarthy's bid for the post of Speaker, the latter might have a polarising effect both within his party and across the political spectrum, which could serve as a strength or weakness depending on what the national mood is 22 months from today.

What is the role of the Speaker?

The Speaker, whose leadership of the House is mandated under Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, is elected at the beginning of a new Congress by a majority of the lawmakers in the chamber. The Speaker is second in line for the presidency, following the Vice-President, in the event of the President being incapable of continuing in office. While during the fledgling years of American democracy the Speakers of the House usually limited their role to presiding over House proceedings and serving as ceremonial heads, over the years they have increasingly pursued a partisan policy agenda favouring majority control of the House. This shift has been mirrored by the bitter polarisation of the



A daunting role: Newly elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy holds the gavel on January 7. AFP

U.S. electorate, with Republicans and Democrats yielding on progressively fewer issues on which they are able to find common ground and allow genuine good governance to flourish for the betterment of all Americans.

What impact will Mr. McCarthy's proximity to Mr. Trump have?

The odds are high that Mr. McCarthy will subtly seek to promote the core values of 'Trumpism' and rush to the political aid of the former president by challenging last year's FBI search of Mr. Trump's residence at Mar-a-Lago, Florida, for classified documents. The new Speaker may also seek to investigate the oft-repeated false claim of the "stolen" 2020 election and ballot voting and the decision-making behind COVID-19-related school closures and vaccine mandates. Based on the Origination Clause – Article I, Section 7, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution – the House is mandated with initiating revenue bills and could use its leverage in this regard to force financial-

ly painful federal government shutdowns as it has done in the past for political advantage. Mr. McCarthy has also hinted at ways in which House control by Republicans could impact foreign policy decisions of the Biden administration when he indicated that he would be averse to giving a "blank cheque" to Ukraine as part of U.S. and NATO support to the country, in its pushback against the Russian invasion there. Given that there have been signals from the Trump camp that he might run for the highest office again in 2024, Mr. McCarthy is likely to actively align himself closely to Mr. Trump's plans and campaigns over the coming two years.

Yet the price of such political adventurism may be high for Mr. McCarthy. Already there has been a sharp backlash against the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to deny the constitutional right to abortion – an issue that became a rallying point for liberals leading to a better-than-expected performance by Democrats in the midterm election.

What factors will limit the political reach of the Speaker?

Mr. McCarthy's influence as Speaker will be constrained by the tenuousness of his grip on House conservative caucuses. While the Republicans managed to flip the House from Democratic control in the midterm election, the "red wave" that some predicted never happened and they now hold 222 seats in the 435-member chamber. This is almost as narrow a margin as what they had in 2001 (221 seats), implying that it would be a harder slog to get bills passed and crossvoting or abstentions by Republicans could be politically damaging. Mr. McCarthy's headaches are likely to multiply in the face of 15-vote political circus that he had to oversee to get himself elected as Speaker. While he has always been seen as a bridge-builder and a friendly face in Congress with ties to all camps under the Republican tent, the flip-side of his success in lobbying and fundraising is that some factions now view him with suspicion.

THE GIST

The Speaker, whose leadership of the House is mandated under Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, is elected at the beginning of a new Congress by a majority of the lawmakers in the chamber. A record-making 15 voting rounds were conducted before Kevin McCarthy succeeded in acquiring the Speaker's gavel.

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Can foreign universities set up campuses in India now?

What has the UGC proposed with respect to foreign educational institutions? Is this the first time such a move is being considered? How are UGC's rules different from those mentioned in the NEP?

Jagriti Chandra

The story so far:

Foreign universities and educational institutions could soon be allowed to set up campuses in India as per the draft regulations made public by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

What has the UGC proposed?

The UGC announced the draft regulations for 'Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India' and invited feedback from stakeholders. The proposal allows a foreign university among the top 500 global rankings or a foreign educational institution of repute in its home jurisdiction to apply to the UGC to set up a campus in India. Such a campus can evolve their own admission process and criteria to admit domestic and foreign

students. It will also have autonomy to decide its fee structure, and will face no caps that are imposed on Indian institutions. The fee should be "reasonable and transparent". It will also have autonomy to recruit faculty and staff from India and abroad. However, such universities and colleges cannot "offer any such programme of study which jeopardises the national interest of India or the standards of higher education in India." They will also be allowed cross-border movement of funds. There have been several moves towards bringing in foreign universities in the past. In 2010, the UPA-II government brought the Foreign Educational Institutions Bill, which was not passed as the BJP, the Samajwadi Party and left parties opposed it for multiple reasons including concerns of Western influence on Indian ethos.

What are foreign players saying?

"It is still early days, but the UGC move is a good one. They have provided autonomy in admission criteria, fee and have not imposed restrictions on hiring Indian nationals and also allowed repatriation of surplus funds, which are all enabling provisions," Ravneet Pawha, Vice-President (Global Alliances) & CEO (South Asia), Deakin University said. But she further added that, "If foreign institutions want to hire foreign faculty to offer students a differential, where will we get them from? Secondly, while India wants to be a global destination for higher education what about the infrastructure needed to support that ambition. Thirdly, those Indians who have the aspiration to go abroad to live there will still continue to do so, which means we have to look at those who want a foreign education within the country at a reduced cost and

we will need to provide that keeping in mind their paying capacity."

What does the NEP say?

The National Education Policy (NEP) says that the top 100 universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India through a legislative framework. According to Fuqran Qamar, a former adviser for education in the erstwhile Planning Commission, "the draft regulations don't follow the text of the NEP, rather uses it as a pretext." He explains that while the NEP talks about creating a legislative framework, the government is following the regulatory route. Critically, the NEP also proposes attracting the top 100 universities, while the UGC draft permits universities with top 500 global rankings. The objective in promoting India as a global education destination is apparently aimed at saving loss of foreign exchange. Nearly 13 lakh students were studying abroad in 2022 and as per the RBI, ₹5 billion was lost in foreign exchange due to students going abroad in FY 2021-2022. The larger goal of the NEP is to take the gross enrollment ratio (GER) in colleges and universities to 50% by 2035 from the current 27%. But online education and private institutions will not benefit those who have no access to education; it will merely offer more choices to the upper and middle class who have 100% GER, says Mr. Qamar.

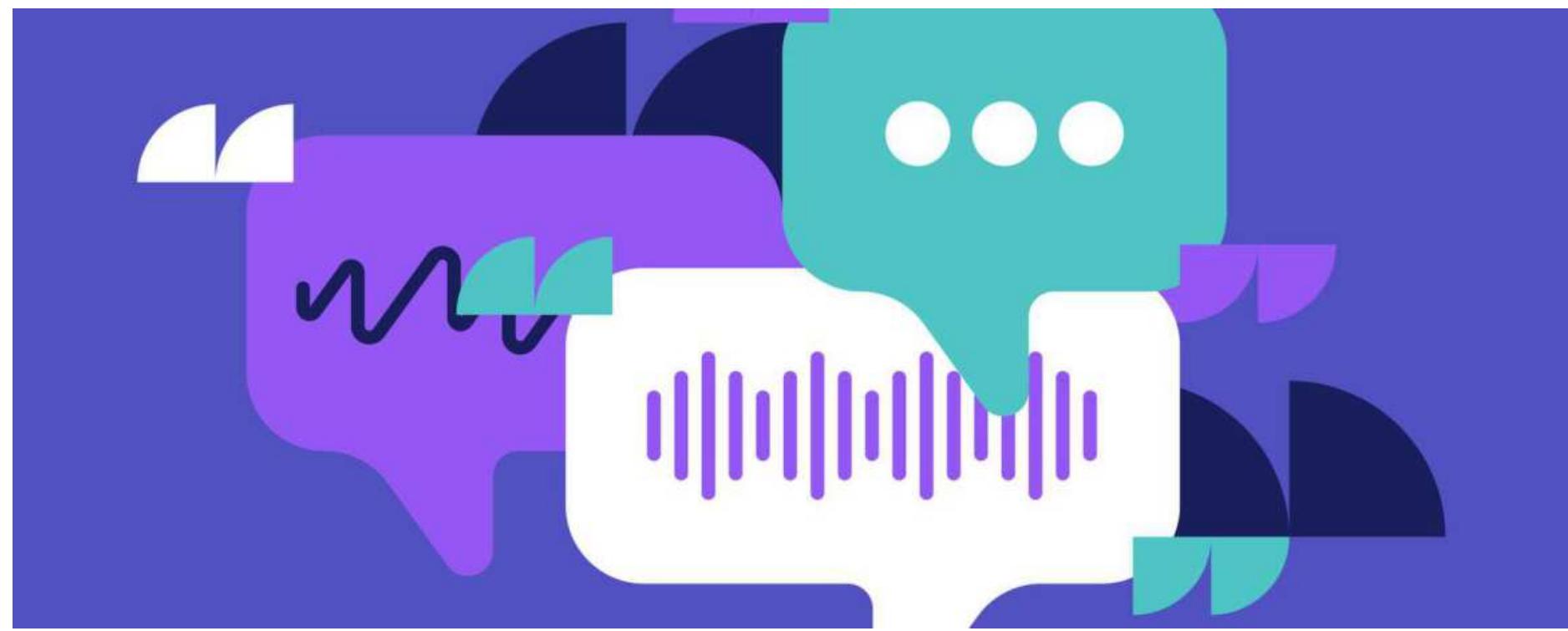
THE GIST

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The objective in promoting India as a global education destination is to primarily save loss of foreign exchange.

CACHE



GETTY IMAGES

The potential of generative AI: creating media with simple text prompts

While generative artificial intelligence has the potential to enable efficiency and productivity across multiple industries and applications, it can also create harm and adversely impact society through misuse, perpetuating biases, exclusion, and discrimination

Ashish Jainan

Generative AI is a cutting-edge technological advancement that utilises machine learning and artificial intelligence to create new forms of media, such as text, audio, video, and animation. With the advent of advanced machine learning capabilities like large language models, neural translation, information understanding, and reinforcement learning, it is now possible to generate new and creative short and long-form content, synthetic media, and even deepfakes with simple text, also known as prompts.

AI innovation

Top technology companies, like Microsoft, Google, Facebook, and others, have commercial AI labs researching and publishing academic papers to accelerate these AI innovations. In recent years, we have seen investments in GANs (Generative Adversarial Networks), LLMs (Large Language Models), GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformers), and Image Generation to experiment and, in some cases, create commercial offerings like DALL-E for image generation and ChatGPT for text generation. For example, ChatGPT can write blogs, computer code, and marketing copies and even generate results for search queries.

For example, the prompt "What is Generative AI" in the ChatGPT tool generates the following text:

Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence that involves creating new, original content or data using machine learning algorithms. It can be used to generate text, images, music, or other types of media. Generative AI works by training a model on a large dataset and then using that model to generate new, previously unseen content that is similar to the training data. This can be done through techniques such as neural machine translation, image generation, and music generation. Generative AI has the potential to revolutionize many industries by automating the creation of content and

enabling the generation of new ideas and concepts. However, it also raises ethical concerns about the potential for biased or inaccurate content to be generated and disseminated. It is important for developers and users of generative AI to consider the potential impacts and ensure that the technology is used ethically and responsibly.

Similarly, the prompt "futuristic athletic sneaker, digital art, 3d render on a yellow background with paint splashing in the air" in Microsoft Bing Image Create, generated this image (see picture 1).

Different ways Generative AI is used
Below are some interesting use cases for generative AI; this is not an exhaustive list but offers a sense of the varied possibilities.

Generative AI can craft sales, marketing, and brand messaging. Agencies can generate personalised social media posts, blogs, and marketing text and video copies by providing a text prompt to a Generative AI service, like ChatGPT. In addition, the service can quickly iterate different text by simply tweaking the prompt to effectively communicate with the audience. DALL.E, a generative image generation service, can also generate original imagery to align with the branding. Many startups are exploring services like DALL.E2, Bing Image Create, Stable Diffusion, and MidJourney to create their brand logo and to align the same with Generative AI text messaging. Instoried is using Generative AI for marketers to become better copywriters.

GitHub, Copilot6 and ChatGPT can generate code and help with developer productivity. It can suggest entire functions, snippets, and even fully functioning modules and generate code in real-time right in your editor. ChatGPT can also help you write code to build a technology service or integration quickly. Generative AI can also be used for generating synthetic data for data augmentation and creating additional training data to train and test AI models to experiment at scale.

Furthermore, generative artificial



Picture 1.

intelligence can sift through numerous legal research materials and produce a pertinent, specific, and actionable summary. As a result, it can reduce the countless hours of human research and enable them to focus on more complex and exciting problems. In addition, ChatGPT can assist in providing answers to complex queries and augment search algorithms to generate responses to complex search queries. Generative AI can accelerate the discovery of new research, drafting and synthesising documents and reports. Wranga is using AI to generate media reviews to help parents to monitor and steer their children's content consumption habits.

Generative AI can also help create and simulate complex engineering, design, and architecture. It can help speed up the iterative development and testing of novel designs. Architecture, machine design, and even house floor plans are all be made by Generative Image and video technology. A Generative AI service, for instance, can let engineers and consumers design and iterate over floor plans and architectures with as little as a text prompt or vocal command.

It can also help health professionals with their medical diagnosis. AI can generate potential and alternative treatments personalised to patients' symptoms and medical history. For instance, DeepMind AlphaFold can predict the shape of protein.

Concerns around AI use
Overall, generative AI has the potential to enable efficiency and productivity across multiple industries and applications at scale. However, if not designed and developed responsibly with appropriate

safeguards, Generative AI can create harm and adversely impact society through misuse, perpetuating biases, exclusion, and discrimination. Therefore, we must add rigour and responsibility to developing AI technology, enforce ethical guidelines, conduct regular audits for fairness, identify and address biases, and protect privacy and security. Several concerns surround the use of generative AI, including bias and exclusion.

Generative AI systems can perpetuate and amplify existing biases. If the models are trained on biased, non-inclusive data, they will generate biased outputs, such as offensive or discriminatory language, demeaning and degrading imagery, and prejudicial content. For example, initially, generative imagery would show only images of white men for the prompt "CEO." Big tech has taken corrective actions to mitigate such bias issues and develop AI responsibly in the last few years. Generative AI systems can create content for malicious purposes, such as deepfakes, disinformation, and propaganda. It can also generate offensive or inappropriate content. Nefarious actors may use AI-generated media to manipulate people and influence public opinion. These systems can potentially access sensitive information, raising concerns about data privacy and security.

It may also produce low-quality and less accurate information, specifically in the context of complex engineering and medical diagnosis. It can be challenging to determine who is responsible for the content generated by a generative AI system – the acquisition and consent model around the training data and intellectual property issues make it difficult to hold anyone accountable for any harm resulting from its use. Overall, it is essential to carefully consider the potential harms, threats, and concerns of Generative AI systems and ensure that they are used responsibly and ethically. Therefore, we must add adequate policy, regulation, awareness, and education guardrails to develop and use Generative AI services ethically and responsibly.

The writer is Director of Product for the Bing organisation at Microsoft

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on Mount Everest, Earth's tallest mountain above sea level, located in the Mahalangur Himal sub-range of the Himalayas

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

Mt. Everest's recognition as the highest point on the Earth's surface was confirmed only in the 1850s thanks to a mega survey undertaken in the Indian sub-continent. What was the survey called and what was the original name for the mountain?

QUESTION 2

What is the local name in Tibetan and Nepali for the grand mountain?

QUESTION 3

The currently accepted height, recalculated in the 1990s, is 29,035 ft (8,850m). By how many feet has the mountain 'grown'

from the earlier accepted height?

QUESTION 4

Because of the planet's oblong shape, Everest's peak is not the farthest point from the Earth's centre. Which stratovolcano in the Andes has the honour?

QUESTION 5

It is well-known that Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary were the first humans to successfully scale the peak. In which year did the expedition take place? Who led it?

QUESTION 6

Which legendary climber when asked why he wanted to scale the peak, famously uttered "Because it's there?"



Visual question:

Identify this legend receiving the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award. What is his claim to fame? AFP

Questions and Answers to the January 6 edition of the daily quiz: 1) A.R. Rahman composed a jingle for this brand by adapting Mozart's 25th symphony. **Ans:** **Titan**

2) This country has a street named after the Mozart of Madras. **Ans:** **Markham city in Canada**

3) The common link between the songs Tere Rang and Pookkalae Sattru Oyivedungal. **Ans:** **Both songs are sung by Shreya Ghoshal and Haricharan**

4) This song set in the Hamsadhwani ragam was composed by the maestro for this 2002 movie directed by Mani Ratnam. **Ans:** **Vellai Pookal and Kannathil Muthamittal**

5) This song penned by a former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister was crooned by several leading artists for this occasion. **Ans:** **Semmozhiaana Thamizh Mozhiyaan**. **It was composed for the World Classical Tamil Conference 2010.**

6) A.R. Rahman was nominated for a BAFTA in 2011 for this movie. **Ans:** **127 Hours**

Visual: The movies where Kamal Haasan and A.R. Rahman have collaborated on. **Ans:** **Thenalai and Indian Early Birds:** Ramprakash| Farook Abdulla| C. Saravanan



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

This is turning out to be a mammoth task!

I am planning to skip dinner and leave work early as I have had a very hearty lunch

S. Upendran

What is the difference between 'terrorist' and 'extremist'? (Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru)

There is a tendency nowadays, especially among reporters, to use the two words synonymously – it is, however, wrong to do so. A 'terrorist', as the word suggests, is someone who uses 'terror' to achieve his goal. He not only talks the talk, but also walks the walk. He is someone who will not hesitate to use violence to get what he wants. Individuals can be labelled 'terrorists' and so can organisations.

The lone terrorist was shot dead by the police as she tried to detonate the bomb.

Like a terrorist, an 'extremist' believes in a cause very strongly, and he does not hesitate to share his thoughts on the matter. He uses his ability to communicate to try and bring about political and religious changes in society. Many of his ideas are seen by most people as being unreasonable and unacceptable. Unlike a terrorist, an extremist does not always resort to violence to achieve his goals. There are a few, however, who will not hesitate to use it, if the situation demands it.

Most people in his own party consider the newly elected MP to be an extremist.

How is the word 'mammoth' pronounced? (G. Venkateswaran, Thanjavur)

The word consists of two syllables. The vowel in the first is pronounced like the 'a' in 'dam', 'Sam' and 'ham', and the 'o' in the second, sounds like the 'a' in 'china'. The word is pronounced 'MA-meth' with the stress on the first syllable. It comes from the Russian 'imamant' meaning 'earth'. The word was first borrowed into English to refer to the remains of the large woolly elephant whose bones were discovered in Siberia. With the passage of time, the word acquired another meaning – 'gigantic' or 'extremely large'.

Installing a lift in this old house is proving to be a mammoth task.

Why do we say 'hearty meal'? (K. V. Nalini, Nellore)

Most of us normally use the word 'hearty' when we congratulate someone. When someone gets married we normally say, 'Hearty congratulations!'. The word 'hearty', however, has several different meanings. In the context of a meal, it means 'large'. When you have a 'hearty meal', you have a large meal; you eat something in large quantities.

Harish always makes it a point to have a hearty breakfast.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Tenuous:

lacking substance or significance (used as an adjective)

Synonyms:

slight, thin, flimsy, fragile

Usage:

It was very easy for the opposing team to break down his tenuous arguments

Pronunciation: bit.ly/tenuouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /tenjʊəs/

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

From Page One**PMO reviews situation in Joshimath town**

According to an official statement from the PMO, Uttarakhand Chief Secretary S.S. Sandhu informed the review meeting that after a ground-level assessment, it was determined that a strip of land around 350 metres wide had been affected.

The PM's Principal Secretary, P.K. Mishra, stressed that the immediate priorities for the State should be the safety of people living in the affected area. A team of the National Disaster Response Force and four of the State Disaster Response Force have reached Joshimath, where the district administration is working with the affected families to evacuate and relocate them to safer places with adequate arrangements for food, shelter and security.

Atul Sati, convener of the Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti which is leading the residents' protest, said the government only stopped the development project when the town was on the brink of disaster. "We had warned years back that NTPC's work is going to get this town to sink. No one paid heed. Look at the situation of Joshimath now," he said.

Putting equal onus on the construction of the Helang-Marwari bypass by the Border Roads Organisation, Dinesh Chaudhary, a shopkeeper in Sunil village of the Joshimath region, said that merely halting the projects would not help. "The government must put a full stop on the NTPC and BRO projects. Only then Joshimath will be saved," he said.

The residents of Joshimath, also known as the gateway town to the Badrinath temple, said they had been complaining to the government about cracks in their houses for over a year now. However, the administration became active only after its own building started developing cracks. In fact, now even roads and rocks on trekking routes have visible fractures.

Dehradun-based social activist Anoop Nautiyal alleged that the Chamoli district administration had only managed to evacuate 68 families in a week and make temporary rehabilitation arrangements for 1,271 people. He said the slow pace at which the administration was working on evacuation and rehabilitation was not enough in this "time of emergency". "On January 4, the administration had space for rehabilitation of 385 people. Five days after the rescue operations started, allegedly on a war-footing, the administration, till January 8, was able to manage to create space for rehabilitation of 1,271 people. This figure is not even 6% of the total population of Joshimath," Mr. Nautiyal said.

According to the 2011 Census, Joshimath has a population of over 16,000 people. Administrative officials say the town currently has over 20,000 people living here. Chamoli's Additional District Magistrate Abhishek Tripathi said the administration had asked NTPC and Hindustan Construction Company to each make temporary arrangements for the rehabilitation of 2,000 residents. "We will rehabilitate people in Pipalkothi, 35 km from Joshimath, if need be," he added.

Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat, who visited the area, asked people to vacate their houses if they were damaged.

In the PMO meeting, it was decided that all four members of the NDMA and the Border Management Secretary would visit Joshimath on January 9 to assess the findings of technical teams and advise the State government on short and long-term actions. "Residents are being informed of the developments and their cooperation is being sought. Advice of experts is being sought to formulate the short-medium-long term plans," it said.

Fake' Indian medicines in China's black market

While there has been no evidence of the fake versions causing harm so far, experts are concerned as they are ineffective against the virus and could end up resulting in patients not seeking treatment. Paxlovid has been made available through government clinics, but has been in limited supply. Sales are also highly regulated, with doctors evaluating patients' need for the drug and largely limiting it to senior citizens.

As the *Sixth Tone* report noted, channels used previously to sell made-in-India cancer drugs are now offering antivirals. "On the Chinese e-commerce platforms... at least four generic COVID drugs produced in India – Primovir, Paxista, Molnunat, and Molnatrias – have been listed for sale in recent weeks. Primovir and Paxista are both generic versions of Paxlovid, while the other two are generic versions of Molnupiravir. All four drugs appear to have been approved for emergency use by the Indian authorities, but are not legal for use in China," the report said. Some Chinese who tested Primovir pills they had purchased found the drugs did not contain Nirmatrelvir, a key component.

Yin Ye, the head of BGI, a Chinese genomics company, wrote on December 31 that of the 143 samples tested of what was sold as Primovir, only one contained Nirmatrelvir. After China eased restrictions in 2019 on the import of drugs, unapproved medicines, including cancer drugs from India, have entered the country in large numbers, although the trade had been curtailed because of limited transport channels during the pandemic.

He Xiaobing, the head of Beijing Memorial Pharmaceutical, told *Sixth Tone* that India was "the only country where we can source reliable and affordable COVID drugs with guaranteed therapeutic effects".

"But the strong demand was used by illegal groups who produce counterfeit drugs," he added. "This will badly affect patients' treatment."

Army kills two infiltrators near LoC in Poonch, seizes weapons, war-like stores

The recovered arms and ammunitions include one AK-47 rifle, two magazines, 21 rounds, one modified AK-56 rifle, one Chinese pistol and IEDs; death toll in the Dangri attack touches seven

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

Two infiltrators were killed close to the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. Meanwhile, one more injured civilian died of injuries, taking the death toll in the Dangri attack to seven.

According to the Army, soldiers manning the LoC observed suspicious movement of two infiltrators, who were trying to sneak across the LoC in the Balakot Sector in Poonch, around 7 p.m. on Saturday. "Around 7.45 p.m., there was a loud mine explosion triggered by infiltrating terrorists. Our troops saw the movement near the fence and engaged the terrorists by bringing aimed fire onto them. Once the firing has ceased, our troops on the fence and troops on LoC readjusted the cordon to prevent their escape," an Army spokesman said.

The Army employed night-enabled quadcopter and other surveillance devices to keep a vigil on the cordoned area. "Troops commenced a search operation at 2 a.m. on January



Huge cache: Army personnel displaying arms and ammunition recovered from the militants gunned down in Poonch on Sunday. PTI

8. Two bodies were recovered along with weapons, magazines, ammunition and other war-like stores."

Huge haul
Among the seized weapons included one AK-47 rifle, two magazines, 21 rounds, one modified AK-56 rifle, one Chinese pistol with one magazine and five rounds, two Chinese hand grenades and two high-intensity IEDs and a mobile phone. "Search operation continues in the area," the Army

said. On December 29, three terrorists, who were attempting to infiltrate, were challenged by effective fire and managed to escape into the forests. On December 30, the Army recovered two pistols, three magazines, 24 rounds of pistol, 30 rounds of AK-47, night-vision goggles, a dagger, winter clothing, rubber gloves and eatables sufficient for sustenance for a prolonged period in the area.

The death toll in the Dangri attack has touched seven. The victim was identified as Prince, whose brother Deepak also lost his life in the attack. Prince breathed his last at the Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu, where he was shifted for treatment. He is survived by an ailing mother.

The Army said the operations to nab terrorists involved in the Dangri attack would continue along with other security forces operating in the region, particularly in Rajouri and Poonch districts.

Pak. national among 5 named by NIA in Ludhiana blast case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The NIA said that Pakistan-based Zulfikar gave IEDs to operatives in Punjab hired by mastermind

dia to smuggle the IEDs. Zulfikar, who is an alleged cross-border smuggler of arms, explosives and drugs; Harpreet Singh, who operated from Malaysia; Surmukh, Dilbag and Rajanpreet Singh were part of the conspiracy. The IED was delivered to Gagandeep.

Various provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Explosive Substance Act, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act have been invoked against the accused. The NIA took over the case in January 2022.

According to the agency, Lakhbir Singh Rode, chief of the banned organisation International Sikh Youth Federation, from Pakistan was the mastermind of the explosion. Gagandeep Singh, who allegedly carried the IED to the court complex, was killed and six persons were injured in the incident on December 23, 2021.

The NIA alleged that in order to execute his plans for triggering the blasts at various places in Punjab, Rode roped in Pakistan-based elements and also recruited operatives in India.

SC stay on Allahabad HC order on U.P. local body elections a deviation from its earlier judgment

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court stay of a direction of the Allahabad High Court to immediately notify local body polls in Uttar Pradesh in the general/open category without reserving seats for Other Backward Classes (OBC) is a deviation from its own May 10, 2022, judgment concerning local body elections in Madhya Pradesh.

On December 27 last year, the Allahabad High Court had followed the law laid down by a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court in *Suresh Mahajan v State of Madhya Pradesh* in May.

In the *Suresh Mahajan* judgment, a three-judge



Neither State Election panel nor the State or the Legislature can countenance dispensation to the contrary

JUSTICE A.M. KHANWILKAR
Supreme Court

Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar (now retired) had held that until the triple test/conditions were completed, no reservation for Backward Classes could be provided. In case such an exercise cannot be completed before the issue of the election programme, the seats, except those reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, must be notified for general category. Political parties "who claim to be

the protagonist of parti-

for them in local bodies. Justice Khanwilkar had highlighted the constitutional mandate to conduct fresh elections to local bodies every five years.

"This constitutional mandate is inviolable. Neither the State Election Commission nor the State government or for that matter the State Legislature, including this court in exercise of powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, can countenance dispensation to the contrary," the May judgment had underscored.

The Allahabad High Court had applied the May 10 judgment in the case of Uttar Pradesh while directing the notification of the election programme without OBC reservation.

The High Court had learnt that the Uttar Pradesh government had

neither a dedicated commission in place nor complied with the triple test conditions despite the admitted fact that the terms of several local bodies were expiring by January 31, 2023.

In fact, the State government notified the setting up of the Uttar Pradesh State Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission on December 28, a day after the High Court judgment. On January 4, a two-judge Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud stayed the High Court direction to notify elections immediately while recording an assurance from Uttar Pradesh that the commission would "expeditiously", by March 31, "ascertain the proportion of population of backward class in the total population, local body-wise".

Piyush Goyal to visit U.S. for 13th trade policy forum

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will visit the U.S. to participate in the 13th India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum (TPF) from January 9 to 11. Mr. Goyal will meet Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo in Washington on January 11. He will also interact with USTR (U.S. Trade Representative) Ambassador Catherine Tai, said a press release.

"The 12th TPF Ministerial meeting was held on November 23, 2021, in New Delhi," the press note said.

Mr. Goyal will meet leading American entrepreneurs and CEOs of reputed multinational enterprises and attend a community meeting in New York.

Couple fake death to avoid repaying loan

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

A couple from Doda district in Jammu, who faked death in a road accident to escape repaying debt, has been traced to Haryana, said the J&K Police on Sunday. "They were believed to have drowned in the Chenab river after their car plunged into it near the Gadsoo area on December 20, 2022," the police said.

The police had launched a rescue operation but could not trace any bodies. However, police recovered a broken number plate, two ID cards, and eShraman card of Manjeet Singh and his wife's purse. The police said during the investigation it came to fore that Mr. Singh had taken ₹30 lakh as loan.

Police nab 22-year-old from Navi Mumbai for damaging crosses in Mahim cemetery

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police on Sunday arrested 22-year-old Dawood Ibrahim Mohammed Haroon Qureshi from Navi Mumbai for allegedly vandalising 18 crosses at the cemetery attached to St. Michael's Church.

Senior Inspector Sudhakar Baburao Shirasath said based on technical evidence, Mr. Qureshi was picked up from Navi Mumbai and they are questioning him. "As of now, he didn't reveal the reason for his act," he said.

Earlier, the Mumbai Police filed a case against unidentified persons for allegedly vandalising several



The vandalised cross inside Mahim cemetery in Mumbai. A forensic team collected fingerprints from the premises. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

crosses at the cemetery. According to the police, the person in the video footage of surveillance cameras in and around the church and found a person entering the graveyard.

damaging the crosses. According to the police, the person in the video footage of surveillance cameras in and around the church and found a person entering the graveyard.

The trespasser was seen

Case against juvenile in Kathua gang-rape case

Press Trust of India
JAMMU/NEW DELHI

Shubam Sangra, declared an adult by the Supreme Court, is formally charged under Sections related to murder, rape, kidnapping and wrongful confinement before the Chief Judicial Magistrate in Kathua.

Though the trial is ex-

pected to start in Pathankot district of Punjab, as ordered by the Supreme Court in 2018, the Crime Branch submitted a chargesheet under Sections related to murder, rape, kidnapping and wrongful confinement before the Chief Judicial Magistrate in Kathua.

A hearing is scheduled for January 24.



APPEAL
Sangita is 13 years suffering from Ewing Sarcoma. Her family is extremely poor and cannot afford the huge expenditure of Rs 4,00,000/- to undergo Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. She needs your blessings and support. Donations sent by C.H.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.

WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through IWWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No.GF.1, Corridor Apartments, O.N.O.13, N.O.29, Pyrocks Garden Lane, Chennai - 600016.
Ph: 044-42127401/2823524/7339782027, E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

Yatra to have impact in J&K, says Chand after rejoining Cong.

Vijaita Singh
Sanjeev Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Bharat Jodo Yatra will have a good impact in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), former J&K Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand said on Sunday. The yatra, which is currently passing through Haryana, is expected to enter the Jammu region around January 20 after covering Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

Speaking to *The Hindu* over the phone, Mr. Chand, who rejoined the Congress after leaving Ghulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Alliance Party (DAP) on Friday, said the yatra will help build bridges between communities.

The yatra is expected to end on January 30, with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hoisting the National Flag in Srinagar.

On the participation of top political leaders from the Valley in the Srinagar leg of the yatra, Mr. Chand said, "This will send a very good message to the people of the Kashmir Valley as well as Jammu and to the rest of the country."

Asked about the recent spike in the targeted killings of Hindus in the Valley, he said, "From the time of our government, Kashmiri Pandits and other Hindu employees have been there in the Valley. But such selective killing is a recent phenomenon. I would request the adminis-

The yatra is expected to enter Jammu around January 20 after covering Punjab and Himachal

tration to shift them [Hindus] to the Jammu region as life is more important than livelihood."

Security arrangements
A senior government official told *The Hindu* that the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) commandos who provide proximate security cover to Rahul Gandhi are being "rotated every day".

Three days before the yatra reaches J&K, a CRPF team will reach there and hold detailed discussions with the local administration and the police.

"The security box or the main vehicle is provided by the CRPF, the additional forces and arrangements are done by the local police... When the individual is exposed, as in this case, challenges mount, but we have safeguards in place," the official said.

An Intelligence agency official said as of now there does not seem to be any "specific threat" to the yatra in J&K. "As several political leaders are expected to join Mr. Gandhi in J&K, a watch will have to be kept, but there's no specific chatter to suggest any serious threat to the yatra," the official said.

From Kangra, regarded as the most politically significant district in the State and where the Congress won 10 of the 15 seats in the

Himachal Cabinet gets seven Ministers; 6 MLAs made chief parliamentary secretaries

Vikramaditya Singh, son of former CM Virbhadr Singh, among those inducted in the swearing-in held after a prolonged delay; Kuldeep Singh Rathore, former Congress State president, kept out

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Sunday expanded his Cabinet by inducting seven Ministers. Six other MLAs were appointed chief parliamentary secretaries.

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the Oath of Office and Secrecy to the appointees at a function in the Raj Bhawan in Shimla.

Dhani Ram Shandil (Solan district), Chander Kumar (Kangra), Harshwardhan Chauhan (Sirmour), Jagat Singh Negi (Kinnaur), Rohit Thakur (Shimla), Anirudh Singh (Shimla), and Vikramaditya Singh (Shimla), son of former Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh, are the new Ministers.

Though three Ministers are from Shimla district, Kuldeep Singh Rathore, who was instrumental in uniting the party during his tenure as the Pradesh Congress Committee president, was excluded.

From Kangra, regarded as the most politically significant district in the State and where the Congress won 10 of the 15 seats in the



Team assembled: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (left) at the oath-taking ceremony of chief parliamentary secretaries. TWITTER/@CMOFFICEHP

recent election, only one legislator has made it to the Cabinet.

Ahead of the Cabinet expansion, the Chief Minister announced the names of six MLAs as chief parliamentary secretaries, to "accommodate" the legislators in the government, given the cap of 12 Ministers, including the Chief Minister, for the State.

The CPSs, who were sworn in by the CM, are Sundar Thakur, Ram Kumar, Ashish Butail, Kishori Lal, Mohan Lal Brakta, and Sanjay Awasthi.

Mr. Sukhu had given a

list of 10 legislators to the party high command to be inducted as Ministers. However, only seven were elevated. Party insiders said the leadership had reservations over finalising all the 10 names in one go.

This was the first Cabinet expansion of the government. The Congress came to power bagging 40 seats in the 68-member Assembly.

On December 11, Mr. Sukhu took oath as the Chief Minister and Mukesh Agnihotri as Deputy Chief Minister.

The appointment of

CPSs has once again kicked up a debate. Hemant Kumar, a lawyer, pointed out that in 2005, a Division Bench of the Himachal Pradesh High Court had quashed the appointment of 12 CPSs by the then Congress government, terming it "illegal and unconstitutional".

However, in 2007, the Assembly enacted the Parliamentary Secretaries Appointment Act, 2006, which has not been adjudicated judicially. Hence, CPSs are being appointed in the State under the said Act, Mr. Kumar said.

'Pranab was a consensus maker who only worked for improving the country'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former President Pranab Mukherjee was a "consensus maker" and a "trouble-shooter" who could handle contradictions to take the nation forward, a group of his former colleagues and political compatriots observed on Sunday in a panel discussion organised by the Pranab Mukherjee Legacy Foundation.

"He (Mukherjee) said without contradiction there is no movement in life. His life and work are inseparable from the building of modern India," CPI (M) leader Sitaram Yechury said participating in the discussion "Remembering Pranab". Mr. Yechury said Mukherjee used his energy and intellect only for one purpose and that was to improve India.

The CPI(M) general secretary said that though he and his party had their differences with the former Congress stalwart, it was after the Vajpayee government that the idea of a broad secular alliance was forged of which Mukherjee became the main "point-



Remembering the leader: A panel discussion was organised by the Pranab Mukherjee Legacy Foundation on Sunday. FILE PHOTO

sman" and the "trouble-shooter".

Pawan K. Varma, former diplomat and MP, said what struck him while working with Mukherjee in various capacities was his mastery over a subject and the brief which had been presented to him.

"He had the ability to focus on what is required," Mr. Varma said, adding that his diary in which he took hand-written notes was probably a national treasure.

He also recalled the controversy over the former President addressing the RSS convention saying he understood "we are a civilisation which has survived on dialogue even with the

person with whom you do not agree". This ability for dialogue is what makes you help build a nation.

N.K. Singh, Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, pointed out similarities between former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Mukherjee. He said while Vajpayee handled a coalition government, Mukherjee also brought about consensus through his leadership of various Group of Ministers (GoMs).

Former Chhattisgarh Governor Shekhar Dutta recalled how he had the unique ability to bring different people together and never stopped learning himself.

BJP leader Keshari Nath dies

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Former West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi passed away at his residence in Prayagraj on Sunday. The 88-year-old BJP leader was a five-time

MLA from Allahabad South. He also served as Speaker three times.

In his condolence message, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded Tripathi's contribution in building the saffron party during the 1990s.

INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
ISRO CENTRALISED RECRUITMENT BOARD (ICRB)
RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANTS, JUNIOR PERSONAL ASSISTANTS,
UPPER DIVISION CLERK AND STENOGRAPHERS

दिनांक 20.1.2.2022 के विज्ञापन संख्या इसरो:आइ.सी.आर.बी.: 02 (ए.जे.पी.ए.):2022 के दिनांक 09.01.2023 का शुद्धिकृत।

Corrigendum dated 09.01.2023 to Advt No.ISRO:ICRB:02 (A-JPA):2022 dated 20.12.2022.

दिनांक 20.1.2.2022 के विज्ञापन संख्या इसरो:आइ.सी.आर.बी.: 02 (ए.जे.पी.ए.):2022 से संबंधित इसरो की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है। शुद्धिकृत से संबंधित संपूर्ण विवरण के लिए कृपया इसरो की वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in देखें। ऑनलाइन प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि 16.01.2023 तक बढ़ाई जाती है।

A corrigendum to Advt No. ISRO:ICRB:02 (A-JPA):2022 dated 20.12.2022 is hosted in ISRO website. For complete details on corrigendum please visit ISRO website at www.isro.gov.in. The last date for receipt of on-line applications is also extended up to 16.01.2023.

T.T.DEVASTHANS, TIRUPATI MARKETING DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited for supply of "54,000 kgs of Cardamom (ELACHI) 8 mm size (AGEB) variety through e-tenders" for a period of 04 months to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the website <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in>. For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 226455, FAX No: 0877-2264554.

ROC. NO. PR/4 / 13950 / Adv. No.340 / PRO / 2023, Dated: 08.01.2023
Sd/- Executive Officer

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement)

BESCOM invites tender vide Enquiry No: BESCOM/GM(DSM)/DGM(SG&EV)/BC-53/2022-23/ENQ-93 dated: 06.01.2023 for Hiring an agency for setting up EV accelerator cell in the State of Karnataka.

Bid Documents available: from 11.01.2023 17:00 hrs onwards. Last Date for submission of Queries through e-portal: Upto 18.01.2023 before 17:00 hrs. Pre- bid meeting: On 19.01.2023 @ 11:00 hrs through video conference: <https://meet.google.com/nki-jedx-qap> Last date for Bid submission: Upto 02.02.2023 @ 17:00 hrs. Opening of Bid Documents: On 03.02.2023 @ 11:00 hrs. The Bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the e-procurement portal from the Web site <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the office of the General Manager (DSM), 2nd Block, 1st Floor, Corporate Office, BESCOM, Bangalore, Contact No: 080-22340816.

Sd/-
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

The General Manager (DSM),
BESCOM

IN BRIEF



BJP demands apology from Nitish for 'sexist' remark

The BJP has slammed Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for saying that "men are careless and do not take responsibility about population control in the State, while women remain uneducated", terming it a "sexist" remark which has tarnished the image of the State and the dignity of the CM's post. The BJP demanded an "apology" from Mr. Kumar, who made the remark on Saturday while addressing a public meeting at Hajipuri in Vaishali district as part of his ongoing *Samadhan Yatra*. "Has Nitish Kumar forgotten the limitations of language morality? It was not expected from him," State BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand said. "The words [that the] Chief Minister Nitish Kumar used [are] the height of insensitivity. He has tarnished the dignity of the post of chief minister," tweeted State BJP leader Samrat Choudhary.

Mixing of faeces in water tank: VCK to stage stir on Jan. 11

Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) founder and Chidambaram MP Thol. Thirumavalavan on Sunday announced a State-wide protest on January 11 against the "inhuman act" of mixing human waste in the overhead drinking water tank used by the Scheduled Caste members at Vengaivayal in Pudukkottai district in Tamil Nadu recently. The incident came to light after several members of the community drank the contaminated water and fell sick. Villupuram MP D. Ravikumar felt that these acts could spread across the State if the government did not punish the miscreants. TNCC SC/ST cell chairman M.P. Ranjan Kumar said they would support the VCK's agitation. "We will also organise a protest later," he said.

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the Mo. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi - 110029

National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) – MDS 2023

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the next NEET-MDS on 1st March 2023.

Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website <https://natboard.edu.in> for details pertaining to eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates

Availability of Information Bulletin	9 th January 2023 onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	9 th January 2023 (3 PM Onwards) to 30 th January 2023 (Till 11:55 PM)
Date of Examination	1 st March 2023
Declaration of the Result	By 31 st March 2023

Candidate Care Support: +91-22-61087595

- Helpline Portal on applicant login page
- Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website



THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT LADAKH SKILL DEVELOPMENT MISSION Civil Secretariate, Leh, Ladakh-194101 email : secy.techeduc@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE FOR GEM BID

The Ladakh Skill Development Mission (LSDM) invites bid for two projects: (i). Skill Gap Analysis and Livelihood Study and (ii). Employability and Life Skills training, through GeM portal.

The complete RFP (Bid document) containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objective & scope of work and evaluation criteria, terms and conditions etc., can be downloaded from the GeM Portal <https://gem.gov.in/> with the details as under :-

S. No.	Name of Project/ BID	GEM BID No. & Dated	Bid End Date/ Time
1.	Skill Gap Analysis and Livelihood Study in UT of Ladakh	GEM/2023/B/2950244 Dated : 05-01-2023	18:00:00
2.	Employability and Life Skills training in UT of Ladakh	GEM/2023/B/2950612 Dated : 05-01-2023	19:00:00

Further details, if any, may be obtained from the OSD, Technical Education and Skill Development, Civil Secretariat, Leh, Ladakh - 194101 during working hours or through email : secy.techeduc@gmail.com.

Sd-
(Padma Angmo) IIS
Mission Director
Ladakh Skill Development Mission.</

IN BRIEF



BSF deploys radars to check tunnels along Pakistan border

Drone-mounted ground penetration radars have been deployed for the first time by the Border Security Force (BSF) to check for the presence of underground tunnels used by terrorists to infiltrate the India-Pakistan border in the Jammu region, officials said. The indigenously made technical gadget has been pressed into action at this front recently as part of the below-the-earth tunnel detection exercise carried out by the force to ensure no terrorist is able to sneak into the Indian territory and conduct strikes in Jammu and Kashmir or any other location of the country. These structures in the region have also been used to smuggle narcotics, arms and ammunition. PTI

Himachal government increases VAT on diesel

The Congress government in Himachal Pradesh has increased the value-added tax (VAT) on diesel by ₹3 a litre, inviting sharp criticism from the BJP. A notification with regard to the amendment of VAT on diesel was issued on January 7, which came into force from midnight. The government dropped VAT on petrol by 0.55 paise. The VAT on diesel, which was earlier ₹4.40 a litre, shall after the amendment be ₹7.40 a litre. With this, the price of diesel will go up from the current ₹83 to ₹86 a litre in the State. The BJP said the Congress had put a financial burden on people in a bid to enjoy power.

Indian Oil chairman will also be firm's managing director

Most big listed companies globally are run by a managing director or CEO and a chairman presiding over the board of directors. But, India's largest oil company, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), is an exception for never having a managing director or a CEO in its 63 years of existence. But this is likely to change soon with the Oil Ministry agreeing to redesignate the top post as chairman and managing director. The company has long been demanding for such a change to bring it on a par with other large public sector and private firms. That demand has now been agreed to, sources said. PTI

Ceiling fans get costlier as BEE mandates star labelling

Ceiling fans will get costlier by 8% to 20% as the category has come within the ambit of mandatory star labelling from January 1, as per the revised Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) norms. Star labelling denotes energy savings of a minimum 30% for one-star rated fans to over 50% for five-star rated fans. Though leading manufacturers such as Havells, Orient Electric and Usha International have welcomed the move, they also believe it will lead to cost increase of 5% to 20% as high energy efficient five-star rated fans will require new imported motors and electronic components. Under the new mandate, manufacturers will have to display the star ratings on their fans. PTI

Despite SC order, single women denied abortion

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

When Mumbai-based Shalini (name changed) walked into the State-run JJ Hospital in December last year seeking an abortion, she was turned away. Doctors at the hospital decided that her case was legally complicated. Her pregnancy had crossed 20 weeks, she was unmarried and the reason for her pregnancy was determined "as due to failure of contraception". She then approached the Wadia Hospital, a charitable institution, which too turned her away.

Shalini wanted to discontinue her pregnancy as she was not ready to have the baby. When her pleas to two hospitals fell on deaf ears, Shalini had to finally move the Bombay High Court citing the Supreme Court judgment to

get a favourable recourse. Despite the fact that in September last year, a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court passed a judgment that unmarried women too can terminate their pregnancy until 24 weeks, the situation on the ground remains dismal. Women are having to run from pillar to post to seek abortion.

Nikhil Datar, a senior gynaecologist and medical director at Cloudnine Hospital, says that despite the SC having given an extremely progressive judgment on an individual case basis, the verdict leaves much to be desired.

Dr. Datar's activism since 2008 had helped pave the way to amend the rules of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, framed in 1971.

He has helped 320 women access abortion *pro bono* by helping them chal-

Equal rights

Abortion laws in India have come a long way but there is always room for change as recent developments show



■ The MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021, introduced a key change in Section 3 by extending the upper limit for termination of pregnancy from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories

■ The top court went a step further, ruling that marital status should not be a barrier for women to seek an abortion up to 24 weeks of pregnancy

lenge the MTP Act provisions in court.

The SC judgment is progressive. However, a Catch-22 situation arises because there is no clear indication in the SC judgment telling the government to amend the MTP Act to include unmarried women within the extended 24-week ambit.

Dr. Datar says, "It would have been better if the court had directed the government to change rules

in accordance with the judgment. Unless rules in the Act are changed in black and white, women will find it difficult to seek abortion in health facilities."

Rule 3(2)(b) of the MTP (Amendment) Rules, 2021 does not permit single women to abort after 20 weeks. Dr. Datar says the rule is discriminatory as it only allows "special categories" including survivors of sexual assault, minors,

widows or divorcees, women with disabilities, a malformed foetus or women stuck in humanitarian emergencies, to access abortion post 20 weeks.

Amit Mishra, a practising lawyer in Delhi, had moved the SC against this discrimination, in the case of an unmarried 25-year-old Manipuri woman which led to the landmark verdict last year. Mr. Mishra told *The Hindu* that even after the judgment, many doctors are apprehensive citing the fact that the Act has not been amended.

Mr. Mishra also points out that doctors are scared of prosecution under the complex labyrinth of laws which includes linking of MTP with the Indian Penal Code.

"Under Section 3(1) of IPC, termination of pregnancy is a criminal act if it does not fulfil MTP condi-

tions. With the law not amended, this has a chilling effect on doctors when the police are not aware of the recent SC judgment," he says.

"The government will have to step up to promote safe abortions irrespective of the fact that the woman is married or not. This can include putting up awareness boards outside hospitals citing the judgment," he said.

Dr. Datar has moved the Supreme Court filing another special leave petition (SLP) challenging the current MTP (Amendment) Rules, 2021. "There are multiple loopholes," he says.

For instance, currently there is no mechanism under the rules to monitor the movement of abortion pills. Misoprostol and Mifepristone are popular drugs used for medical abortion at clinics.

Jaishankar hails role of centres of faith abroad

The young members of the diaspora can learn values and traditions from such institutions to stay connected to their Indian roots, says Minister at Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas function

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The increasing number of Indian "centres of faith" abroad are a "matter of pride", External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Sunday.

Addressing Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, 2023, the first event of the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, in Indore, Mr. Jaishankar said the young members of the Indian diaspora could learn values and traditions from such institutions to stay connected to their Indian roots.

"Many of our embassies, in fact, I think most of them today now offer yoga, dance and music classes. We ask them also to support and facilitate community functions and collective activities. It is a matter of pride for us that centres of faith are growing abroad," said Mr. Jaishankar, making a special mention of "the one in Abu Dhabi" in the UAE.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the construction of the Hindu temple project in Abu Dhabi on February 11, 2018 and the construction of the structure is expected to be completed soon.



Spreading light: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Indore on Sunday. PTI

Unveiling a model of the temple, Mr. Modi had said, "The first traditional temple in Abu Dhabi will act as a catalyst for the flourishing of humanitarian values and harmony between the two countries. The temple will become a medium for India's identity."

Staying connected
Reflecting that sentiment, Mr. Jaishankar connected the Indian identity with faith, and added, "The centres of faith are growing abroad because they also serve to inculcate values, promote culture and nurture traditions. The youth living abroad today, therefore, have many more opportunities than before to stay connected."

He said the New Educa-

tion Policy would "create more pathways for deeper involvement of the diaspora".

Mr. Jaishankar conveyed the government's commitment to ensure a "more secure travelling experience abroad" and "non-discriminatory treatment" for Indians in foreign countries. In this regard, he mentioned the recent agreements on "migration and mobility" that India has concluded with multiple countries such as Austria.

"Younger generations are also very much in the forefront of connecting India to the world. They do so not only through their activities at home but by studying, working and travelling abroad," said Mr. Thakur.

In the past eight years, India became the third largest nation with start-ups, he said.
(With inputs from PTI)

NMC to reconsider MBBS internship cut-off date for NEET

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Officials say they will not take any step which will prove detrimental to the future of students

will not take any step which is detrimental to the future of the MBBS students."

Delays caused during the past two years of COVID-19 had led many MBBS students to finish their year-long internship late.

According to data collated by FORDA from 23 States, the internship culmination dates for the MBBS students were varying from April to November 2023.

In Bihar, for instance, the internships will culminate sometime in August. In Chhattisgarh, the internships will end only in November. The students started interning late as the entire health system was busy with pandemic damage control. Most of them were asked to report for hospital postings to fulfil workforce shortage during COVID," Aviral Mathur, president of FORDA, said.

After the NEET-PG dates were announced, MBBS doctors and students from across India have written to FORDA requesting the extension of the internship date cut-off.

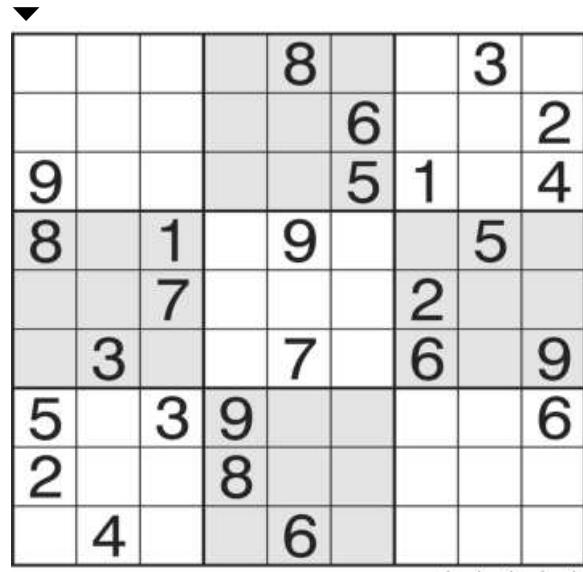
Panel decision

A senior official from the National Board of Examinations (NBE) told *The Hindu* that the cut-off date was decided by the National Medical Commission (NMC).

"NMC officials are studying the matter and they may take a call to extend the cut-off date limit for the internship further. Once they indicate a change, we will reissue the NEET-PG bulletin," an NBE official said.

A senior official from the NMC confirmed, "We

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

R	R	D	A	B	A			
Y	E	T	I	R	D	H	A	D
L	N	Y	A	L	D	R		
G	I	N	G	M	O	L	A	S
L	I	S	T	E	N	H	A	R
I	S	T	E	N	H	A	R	S
U	N	C	L	E	G	N		
C	O	N	S	I	N	G		
N	S	A	N	G	I	N		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	7	9	6	4	1	3	8	2
2	8	3	5	7	9	4	6	1
7	5	1	6	3	2	8	0	4
8	1	9	5	6	7	3	2	0
3	7	2	4	8	0	5	1	6
6	3	9	7	0	1	2	4	5
5	3	8	6	2	7	0	9	1
2	8	6	0	5	3	1	7	4
4	6	0	7	9	5	3	2	8

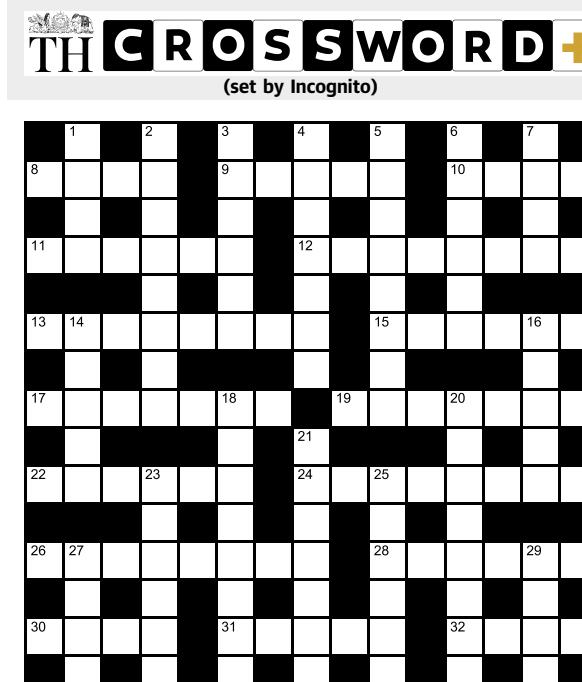
FAITH

The ultimate wealth

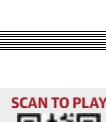
Andal's Thiruppavais are a delight to the devotees of the Lord. It is the offering of Andal to the Lord to attain Him. Sung one pasuram a day adding a divine charm to the month of Margazhi, these offerings of Sri Andal are all unique due to devotion they evoke, said Dhamal Perundevi in a discourse. "Oruthi Magai Piranthu", sung on the 25th day of Margazhi, has a great significance as it captures the entire life of Lord Krishna, outlining the birth, the accomplishments, Rukmini's wedding, Kuchelopakyanam, His many roles including that of charioter to Arjuna and His divine discourse, the Bhagavad Gita.

Periazhvar showered the child Andal with great love and even as a child, instructed her about the Lord and his magnificence. To saints like him, these were not stories but events they lived through, transporting themselves back in time. Thus the threat of Kamsa wanting to kill any male child of his sister Devaki was very real. Fearing that a mere slip such as mentioning the Lord's name or his birth star might alert Kamsa and put the divine child in danger, Periazhvar says, 'Athathin pathamaal thondriya Achyutan' without direct disclosure. Likewise, Andal also says, "Oruthi maganai pirandhu, oruthi maganai valarndhu" (born to one woman and raised by another), without directly mentioning Devaki and Yashodha.

In this pasuram, Andal refers to *thiruthakka selvam*. She is talking of the ultimate aishwaryam (wealth), which is bhakti. When Krishna offers all the earth's wealth, the latter says if this wealth would render me egoistic and make me forget You, Krishna, I do not want that – I want only the permanent wealth of being with You."



Across
8 Monk rejected a meal devoid of energy (4)
9 Moved through water with setter and holy man (5)
10 Some parts of minivans, with initial capitalisation, may be terrible! (4)
11 Robed girl had title (6)
12 After initially biting, reptile swallows unknown number in snowstorm (8)

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


1 My French bird and animal (8)
15 Ladies laid out standards of perfection to be achieved (6)
17 Hide amount of money in ice-cream container and eat (7)
19 Tailless monkey dances behind post office for game creature (7)
22 Major Danny's country (6)
24 Rescues student captured by primitive people (8)
26 & 31 Absent, eh? Reveal everything! (5,3,5)
28 Jerk beginning to tremble in front of enchantress (6)
30 When returning, sentry gives away a narcotic substance (4)
31 See 26 (5)
32 Grace changing lane (4)
Down
1 Temporary, but intensely pursued interest, with love for melancholic Portuguese song (4)
2 Vehicle going on top of horses carrying head of estate results in bloodbaths (8)
3 Familiar with duets composed about Oscar (4,2)
4 Losing them may make you mad (7)
5 Fin oil spread around pious islander from South-east Asia (8)
6 Sputter, "Include a couple of Zulus in dossier" (6)
7 Father returns Rhode Island brace (4)
14 Small volume inserted into eggs for creating ornamental moulding in architecture (5)
16 John's end of rope is unfastened (5)
18 Boatman sails around island in Canadian province (8)
20 Looked deeply into old pit containing a dinosaur head (8)
21 Spear creature having wrong age before one (7)
23 Drag in river flood (6)
25 Most recent Los Angeles trial (6)
27 Separate component (4)
29 Take tea followed by tea orally and converse (

DAKAR

40 dead and 85 injured in Senegal bus accident, says fire brigade



Forty people died and 85 were injured when two buses collided near the town of Kaffrine in central Senegal on Sunday, a fire brigade official said. "There were 125 victims, of whom 40 have died," said Colonel Cheikh Fall, who is in charge of operations for the West African country's National Fire Brigade. AFP

LONDON

U.K. PM Sunak says he is open to discussing pay raise for nurses



U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on Sunday he was willing to discuss pay raise for nurses to end strikes that have deepened a crisis within the health service. The National Health Service, long treasured and funded by taxpayers, delivers free care to all, but is under strain following years of underinvestment. REUTERS

MEXICO CITY

Migrants, drugs on agenda as U.S. President heads to Mexico



U.S. President Joe Biden will seek Mexico's help tackling illegal flows of migrants and drugs, particularly opioids, during a visit beginning on Sunday for a North American leaders' summit. Another priority is stepping up joint efforts to fight trafficking of fentanyl and other drugs behind an addiction crisis in the U.S. AP

BEIJING

19 dead in China crash as annual holiday travel rush gets under way



A traffic accident in southern China killed 19 people and injured 20 early on Sunday as the annual Lunar New Year holiday travel rush got under way, authorities said. The accident occurred outside the city of Nanchang in Jiangxi province. The cause of the accident was under investigation, the traffic management brigade said. AP

As China opens borders after 3 years, thousands return home

Travellers to the mainland are no longer required to undergo quarantine on arrival; Beijing has downgraded managing COVID-19 from Class A to Class B, which no longer allows lockdowns

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

Thousands of Chinese travellers on Sunday returned home for family reunions - some delayed by as long as three years - as China finally opened its borders and dismantled the last remnant of its "zero-COVID" regime.

Starting Sunday, travellers to China for the first time were no longer required to undergo quarantine on arrival.

Since early 2020, China has had among the world's strictest travel restrictions, requiring as long as three weeks of central quarantine and "green codes" to be issued from Chinese embassies, many of which were largely reluctant to grant them.

On Sunday, thousands returned to the mainland across multiple land border crossings in Hong Kong and Vietnam and on international flights, for long awaited family reunions ahead of the upcoming Chinese New Year holiday.



Up close: A passenger from an international flight being received at the Capital International Airport in Beijing on Sunday. AFP

last year the period was reduced to five days.

On December 7, China finally ended its "zero-COVID" regime amid a surge of cases. Beijing last month also announced it would end travel restrictions starting Sunday, although travellers will be required to take PCR tests within 48 hours of travel.

On Saturday, China's government announced the tenth edition of its official COVID-19 prevention protocol, which has now downgraded managing the disease from Class A to Class B, no longer allowing

for lockdowns and quarantine.

The recent surge of cases in China, which crossed 250 million by December 20 according to estimates of the National Health Commission, has now peaked in many cities, which are in the coming two weeks expecting by far the biggest domestic travel rush since 2019 ahead of the week-long Lunar New Year holiday, starting January 22. Experts fear the holiday could see a rise in cases in rural areas as many from the cities travel home.

China is also expecting to see a surge in outbound tourism after three years of closed borders, despite many countries now requiring travellers from China to take PCR tests before their trips. The orders for international flights were up 628% from last year, State media quoted online Chinese travel agency LY as saying. Hong Kong, the United States, Thailand and Japan are among the most sought after travel destinations.

Moscow, Kyiv exchange 50 captured soldiers each

Reuters

Russia and Ukraine swapped 50 captured soldiers each on Sunday in a deal that both sides welcomed even as they fought one another in eastern Ukraine.

Russia's Defence Ministry said the 50 returned Russian soldiers would be flown to Moscow for medical and psychological rehabilitation.

Ukraine also confirmed the information, and said Russia had freed 50 Ukrainian servicemen as part of the deal.

Andriy Yermak, head of the Ukrainian presidential office, posted images of the freed Ukrainian soldiers holding bags of food near a bus and a video of them singing the Ukrainian national anthem once underway.

Sweden can't meet Turkey demands for NATO bid: PM

Agence France-Presse

SÄLEN

Turkey, which has for months blocked NATO membership bids by Sweden and Finland, has made some demands that Sweden cannot accept, Sweden's Prime Minister said on Sunday.

"Turkey has confirmed that we have done what we said we would do, but it also says that it wants things that we can't, that we don't want to, give it," Ulf Kristersson said during a security conference.

Sweden and Finland broke with decades of military non-alignment and applied to join the U.S.-led defence alliance in response to Russia's February invasion of Ukraine. But Turkey has refused to approve their bid until the two countries take steps, including joining Turkey's fight against banned Kurdish militants. Most of Turkey's demands have involved Sweden because of its more robust ties with the Kurdish diaspora.

Finland's Foreign Minister said that the country would join NATO at the same time as its neighbour.



prove their bid until the two countries take steps, including joining Turkey's fight against banned Kurdish militants. Most of Turkey's demands have involved Sweden because of its more robust ties with the Kurdish diaspora.

Iranian held in Germany suspected of terror plot

Agence France-Presse

BERLIN

An Iranian man has been arrested in western Germany suspected of preparing an "Islamist attack" using cyanide and ricin, the police and prosecutors said on Sunday.

The 32-year-old man was "suspected of having prepared a serious act of violence threatening the security of the state by obtaining cyanide and ricin with a view to committing an Islamist attack", the police said. But a search of the man's residence in the town of Castrop-Rauxel found no evidence of toxic substances, an official said.

Ricin is a highly toxic substance, which is classed as a "chemical weapon" in Germany. Much like cyanide, ricin can be lethal.

Palestinian Minister's travel permit revoked

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Israel on Sunday revoked the Palestinian Foreign Minister's travel permit, part of a series of punitive steps against the Palestinians that Israel's new hard-line government announced days ago.

Riad Malki said in a statement issued on Sunday, eminent economists and scholars world over observed that amid Sri Lanka's crucial debt negotiations, "all lenders - bilateral, multilateral, and private - must share the burden of restructuring, with assurance of additional financing in the near term."

Cancel Sri Lanka's debt, global scholars tell creditors

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's recovery from last year's devastating economic crisis will need its creditors to "share the burden" of debt restructuring, leading global economists have said, calling all lenders to cancel the debt of the cash-strapped island nation.

In a statement issued on Sunday, eminent economists and scholars world over observed that amid Sri Lanka's crucial debt negotiations, "all lenders - bilateral, multilateral, and private - must share the burden of restructuring, with assurance of additional financing in the near term."

Greater support
However, Sri Lanka cannot ensure this on its own, they noted.

"It requires much greater international support. Instead of geopolitical manoeuvring, all of Sri Lanka's creditors must ensure debt cancellation sufficient to provide a way out of the current crisis," the statement said.

The nearly 200 signatories to the statement included economists Jayati Ghosh, Thomas Piketty, Yanis Varoufakis, Prabhat Patnaik, Utsa Patnaik, Jean Drèze, Ha-Joon Chang, Jomo Kwame Sundaram, and writer Amitav Ghosh.



Colombo is still in talks with creditors to obtain assurances.

form of International Sovereign Bonds (ISBs), but higher interest rates mean that they receive over 50% of external debt payments, they pointed out.

Awaiting guarantee
The default move came while crippling shortages sparked mass street protests across the island. The agitations spanned months and ousted former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in July 2022. President Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected in his place, through a parliament vote. In September 2022, Sri Lanka reached a staff level agreement with the IMF for a provisional bailout package, that the Fund made contingent on adequate financing assurances from Sri Lanka's creditors.

As the import-reliant island nation's Balance of Payments crisis spiralled and led to a painful economic crash last year, the government opted for a pre-emptive default on its \$51 billion foreign debt in April 2022.

The senior academics held Sri Lanka's private creditors responsible for the country's first ever default, arguing: "Such lenders charged a premium to lend to Sri Lanka to cover their risks, which accrued them massive profits" and contributed to the default. Private creditors own nearly 40% of Sri Lanka's external debt stock mostly in the

The coffee-table book features articles by well-known writers on Hindu religion and philosophy on subjects such as Srinivasa Kalyanam, Sri Ramanuja and his association with Tirumala, the story of Ananthalwan, Krishnadeva Raya's Amuktha Malyada, the beauty of Sri Lakshmi Sahasram and on the importance of Vaikunta Ekadasi. The collector's edition also features rare pictures of Lord Venkateswara, Sri Padmavathi and Tirumala.



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MONEYWISE

ASKUS

K. Nitya Kalyani

QI wish to buy health insurance for myself and my wife. I am 68 and my wife, 60. Please guide me in selecting the best policy with low premium. Is it worth buying two separate policies to avoid higher premium?

VILAS DESAI

AIn this era of escalating healthcare costs and longevity, this expenditure appears to be something each one of us will have to face sooner or later. It is natural to want to plan for it via insurance and your thinking is in the right direction. The thing with insurance is, it is to your advantage to start early. The premium is always according to the age slab you belong to, no doubt, but as you grow older, your proposal will be evaluated with reference to your age and the proportionately higher risk of illness and treatment expenses.

In short, getting insurance becomes a challenge. (There are specialised policies offered by various companies tailored to senior citizens, at a cost of course.)

Waiting period

When you do get insured, you still have to work out your waiting period of about four years for pre-existing conditions to be covered and a shorter waiting period for specified procedures. Add to this any loading of premium due to adverse medical history, if any.

You would have had better options if you had planned on this sooner. Now, you can do some window shopping among various companies and see who offers a lower premium for the same cover. This is done easily on the websites of various companies where there is a premium calculator and also on the websites of insurance brokers and aggregators where you can generate a quote once you input some parameters like age.

Coming to choosing the right cover, please make an assessment of how much cover you need with reference to where you live, which hospitals you may prefer to get admitted to and also, what the costs for some typical hospitalisations for various reasons are.

If you already have an insurance agent or broker, he is the right person to guide you on which policy to buy, though your choice will be restricted to those companies they represent.

You can take the initiative do search on the Internet for various covers from the dozens of insurance companies to pick the right policy.

A good policy to study to understand how this works is to look for the standardised individual health policy.

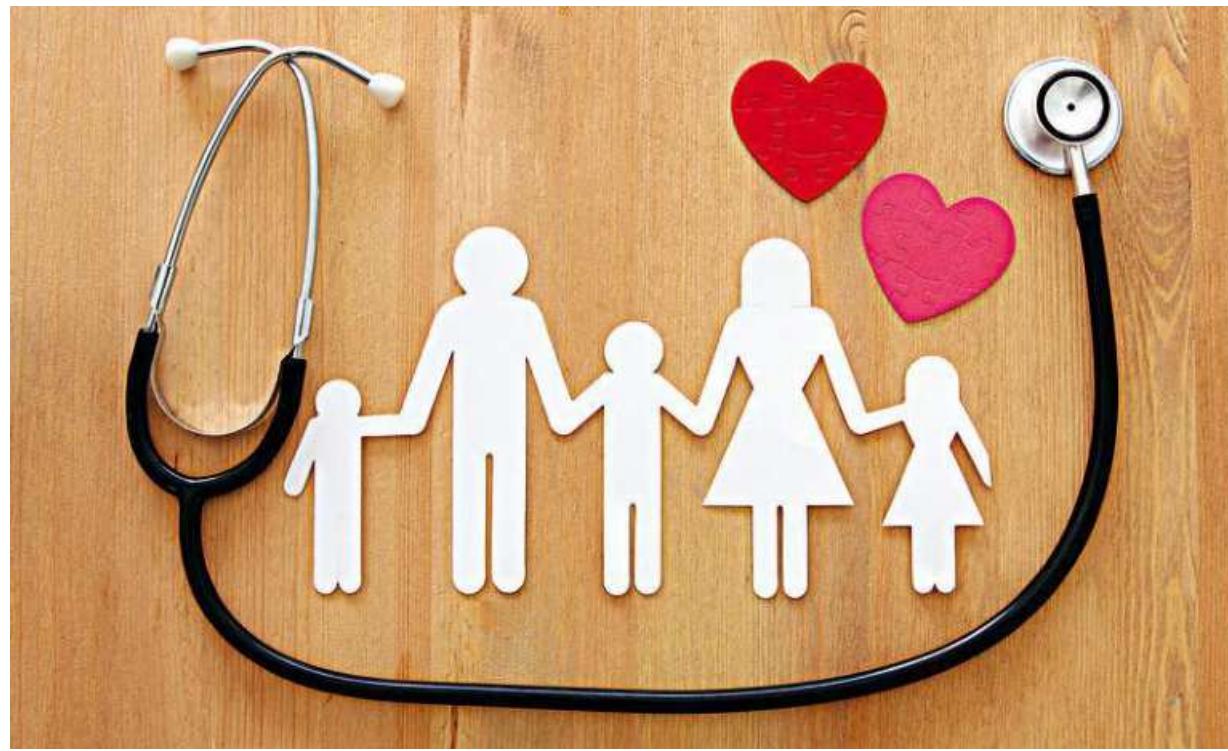
This is a policy each and every general insurance or health insurance company has to offer and you can recognise it by its name which will be a combination of the company's name and the words Arogya Sanjeevani Policy, for example, ABC General Insurance Arogya Sanjeevani Policy.

If this policy offers you what you need, opt for it. You can also compare the same policy across companies as they offer the same coverage at different price points. And, comparing this policy with any other health insurance policy of the same company will give you an idea of how pricing works for different terms and conditions and bouquets of covers. No one policy can be recommended because insurance offerings are varied. But such research should be a good starting point.

As for buying different policies for your wife and yourself, consider the various factors that affect it. If it is a floater policy, remember that both of you share the same sum insured, albeit for a lower premium. Here you should take a view on whether the SI will get exhausted within some policy year and you may be left without cover.

Unless it is a floater cover, the premium for the younger person won't be affected by the age of the older person. In fact, you can take a family cover with individual SIs and you will even get a discount. Another factor is income tax benefits on the premium paid. If your wife is a tax assessee and she would like to independently avail the benefit, she should have a separate policy to do so. If not, you can pay the premium on a joint policy and the total premium will be eligible for tax benefits subject to the ceiling.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)



Health insurance evolving to suit millennial needs

The rise in health emergencies, transcending age groups, has sounded a caution alarm for youngsters to be prepared with a safety shield

HEALTHY MILLENNIALS

Siddharth Singhal

India has a major share of the millennial demographic – 34% of the total population – to be precise. While this might be a significant percentage, before the pandemic struck, this consumer segment seldom considered having an adequate insurance policy.

The pandemic has brought about an irreversible revolution in the insurance industry, and also accelerated the awareness level, regardless of age.

The rise in health emergencies, transcending age groups, has sounded a caution alarm for youngsters to be prepared with a safety shield as well.

Fortunately, the insurance ecosystem is working in tandem with this transition to effectively cater to millennial needs with innovative health insurance products. More modular, more consumer-centric, here's how health insurance products are evolving to suit millennials.

OPD coverage

Traditionally, the key reason for the younger lot not buying health insurance was that they did not anticipate an event of hospitalisation. However, health insurance no longer gets triggered only when one is hospitalised. OPD, as a category, gained immense traction over the past few months, all because of high-paced product innovation. With OPD coverage, one can now expand coverage to include ex-

periences such as doctor consultations, lab tests, medicines, dental care, and preventive healthcare, which account for more than 70% of healthcare expenditure in the country.

Though beneficial for everyone, this coverage is specially targeted towards millennials who would find OPD expenses more relevant for them.

Cumulative bonus

While NCB, or the no-claim bonus, is a well-known feature in health insurance, the cumulative bonus is considered to be an even more comprehensive version of it.

Even though health insurance shields policyholders from the unprecedented financial shock, it's also seen as a constant recurring expense.

However, new-age plans are woven into customer centricity and offer protection along with affordability.

Under cumulative bonus, policyholders can easily increase their sum insured even if they make a claim during the term of the policy.

The bonus gets added to your sum insured at the beginning of every policy year. The useful feature makes sure that you stay protected even if the need

to make a claim arises.

Maternity plans

Maternity-related expenses are likely inevitable for most millennials.

While parenthood is a natural and beautiful milestone in one's life, it is also something that needs thorough financial planning. The condition here is, maternity plans need to be bought well before the pregnancy actually occurs.

However, now there are plans available in the market that have made it smoother for people planning a family in the near future. Earlier, the waiting period would range anywhere from 2 to 4 years. Now, the plans offer a waiting period of about 9 months to 1 year which has made it easier to anticipate and assess maternity expenses and buy a policy.

Plans are also now more comprehensive with added benefits and features such as coverage for NICU, lawful termination of pregnancy and even in-vitro fertilization.

Mental health coverage

Mental health issues had earlier been brushed under the carpet. However, it took a global pandemic to drastically change that.

Isolation, loss of loved

ones, restricted socialising – there are several factors that have pushed people off the edge. While the prolonged state of the pandemic has adversely affected the mental health of all age groups, studies suggest that more millennials are now prone to depression, anxiety and similar issues.

Keeping this in view, the IRDAI has also mandated the coverage of mental health issues under the ambit of health insurance. To comprehensively cover mental health, one should opt for OPD coverage to ensure doctor consultations are also part of the policy.

Wellness benefits

The pandemic has been a wake-up call for everyone to take stock of their health and immunity. Now, health insurance plans also reward you for staying healthy. So, every time you hit the gym or e-track your steps, your insurer can assess your risk profile better and reward you for performing better.

Mainly targeted at the younger consumer set, wellness benefits are earned by a policyholder who meets the fitness criteria of the insurer.

It could be a discount on premium or a higher sum insured or vouchers that the customer would be rewarded with.

This not only incentivises the policyholder to stay healthy but also helps keep the cumulative risk lower. Not to forget, this encourages the policyholder to renew their health insurance as well.

(The writer is Business Head, Health Insurance, Policybazaar.com)

To buy or to rent?

THINKINVESTOR

You should consider buying a house when you have decided to live in a city for several years. Importantly, you should be comfortable selling the property when you wish to relocate

Venkatesh Bangarawswamy

Should you rent a house or buy one for self-occupation? While this question is often asked in the context of young professionals, it is becoming relevant for soon-to-be retirees too. In this article, we discuss the benefits and issues relating to buying a piece of property for self-occupation.

Cost of satisfaction

There is no bigger satisfaction than living in your own dream house. Buying a house is, therefore, a financial decision with a strong emotional element. There are several factors you must consider. For one, when you borrow to buy a house, you are promising the bank to repay the loan with your future income; you could be locking in approximately 30% of your post-tax monthly income for the next, say, 10 years to buy a lumpy, illiquid asset today. For another, if you are a working professional, your employment could require you to relocate to another city or country. What would you do with the house? As a young professional, it is preferable to live in a rented place till you settle down in your profession and stabilise your income levels.

In the past, parents encouraged adult children to buy a house as commitment savings. That is, monthly mortgage payments acted as forced savings, preventing an individual from spending all his/her income. You can now easily set up a systematic investment plan in an equity fund and in a recurring bank deposit instead of buying a house to practice disciplined savings.

But what about soon-to-be retirees? A retiree requires stability of income and lifestyle; moving from one rented house to another during retirement is not easy. Fortunately, most individuals own a property before they retire. But what if you are unable to maintain a large property? Or what if your house is your largest saving and you need monthly cash flow? For one, you can sell the property and live in a retirement home, using the sale proceeds to fund lifestyle expenses. For another, you can sell the house, buy a smaller one and maintain an income-generating investment with the remaining sale proceeds.

Conclusion

You should consider buying a house when you have decided to live in a city for several years. Importantly, you should be comfortable selling the property when you decide to relocate; keeping the property for sentimental reasons and earning rental income may not always be optimal. That said, buying a house for self-occupation is not just a financial decision. Your emotional satisfaction is, indeed, priceless.

(The writer offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Citi Bank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 3%
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
ICICI Bank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.60-17.95	10,772-12,683	2,154-2,537	Up to 2% (Min. Rs 1,000 and Max Rs 10,000)
State Bank of India	10.90-15.40	10,846-12,000	2,169-2,400	NIL till 31.01.2023
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.10-14.60	10,648-11,790	2,130-2,358	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	12.10-15.80	11,148-12,106	2,230-2,421	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	10.15-16.70	10,660-12,346	2,132-2,469	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.75-16.00	10,562-12,159	2,112-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	10.49-17.99	10,744-12,694	2,149-2,539	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.15-15.25	10,909-11,961	2,182-2,392	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.84%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.90-12.50	10,846-11,249	2,169-2,250	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.60-20.35	11,274-13,345	2,255-2,669	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.30-12.70	11,198-11,300	2,240-2,260	Up to 1%
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.25-15.05	10,440-11,908	2,088-2,382	Up to 1%
Karnataka Bank	13.58	11,526	2,305	Up to 0.25% (Minimum Rs 250)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Car Loans

Rates and Charges

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.75-10.55	10,319-10,759	Up to Rs. 1,000
Bank of Baroda	8.40-11.85	10,234-11,084	Up to 0.50% (Rs 2,500 - Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	8.80-11.50	10,331-10,996	waived off till 31st March 2023
Bank of India	8.60-10.60	10,282-10,772	NIL
UCO Bank	8.85-10.40	10,343-10,772	1% (Upto Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India	8.40-9.25	10,234-10,440	NIL
IDBI Bank	9.10-11.45	10,403-10,984	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	9.05-12.55	10,391-11,262	NIL
Indian Overseas Bank**	9.80	10,574	0.5% - 0.6% (Rs 500-Rs 10,000)
ICICI Bank	8.50 onwards	10,258 onwards	Rs 999-Rs 9,000
HDFC Bank	8.50 onwards	10,258 onwards	Up to 0.50% (Rs 3,500-Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.07-11.37	10,396-10,964	Up to 0.60% (Rs 2,500-Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	10.75	10,809	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500

RIGHT ON TOP

Djokovic and Sabalenka clinch Adelaide titles



Top seed Novak Djokovic saved a match-point as he held on to defeat Sebastian Korda 6-7(8), 7-6(3), 6-4 on Sunday and win the Adelaide International. Earlier, Aryna Sabalenka fired an Australian Open warning shot by winning her first title since 2021, beating rising Czech teenager Linda Noskova 6-3, 7-6(4).

ANOTHER MISSING STAR

Osaka joins list of big names missing from Australian Open



Two-time Australian Open champion Naomi Osaka, on Sunday, became the latest star to pull out of the opening Grand Slam of the year. No reason was given with Tennis Australia tweeting: "We will miss her at AO2023." Ukrainian Dayana Yastremska was promoted to the main draw.

WISH LIST

Aussie skipper Cummins wants all bases covered for India series



Australia skipper Pat Cummins wants everything at his "disposal" for the "big" series in India next month and besides frontline spinner Nathan Lyon, he feels Ashton Agar and Travis Head too will be vital to the team's bowling plans. Australia is gearing up for the four-match Border-Gavaskar series, starting in Nagpur on Feb. 9.

YOUNG CHAMP

Anahat Singh wins U-15 British Open squash title



India's fast-rising squash player Anahat Singh beat Sohaila Hazem of Egypt to win the girls under-15 title at the prestigious British Junior Open in Birmingham on Sunday. The 14-year-old had earlier claimed the under-11 title in 2019 and finished runner-up the year after in the under-13 category.

Suryakumar Yadav – the jewel in the crown of India's white-ball warriors

He does not doubt his ability and that's the reason for his success in this format; needs to maintain this mindset when the pitch is not as helpful, says skipper Hardik

SRI LANKA IN INDIA**Ashwin Achal**

RAJKOT

Suryakumar Yadav's value as the ultimate match-winner came to the fore once again on Saturday. An unbeaten 51-ball 112 flattened Sri Lanka in the third T20I here, giving India a 2-1 series win.

In scoring his third T20I century in the span of six months, Suryakumar has established himself as the white-ball crown jewel of this Indian team.

Game-changer

For skipper Hardik Pandya, life is good when Suryakumar clicks. "Today it felt like Sri Lanka versus Surya. It makes my life very easy. Surya is so important for us in white-ball cricket. He changes the



Happy faces: When Suryakumar fires he is bound to leave those around him delighted. VIJAY SONEJI

game," Hardik said at the post-match press conference. "The way he plays his shots actually breaks the morale of the bowler, and that helps other batters as well."

Suryakumar is well

aware of his strengths, so there is little reason for Hardik to give him advice. "You don't tell Surya anything (before he goes in to bat)."

"The sort of form he is in, and the clarity he has –

you don't have to speak to him. He does not doubt his ability and that's the reason for his success in this format," Hardik said.

Suryakumar was given the ideal platform for launch by Rahul Tripathi.

India-Sri Lanka T20I series in numbers

BATTING	M	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s
Suryakumar	3	170	112*	175.25	1/1
Shanaka	3	124	56*	187.87	0/1
Axar	3	117	65	195.00	0/1
BOWLING	M	Wkts.	BBI	Econ.	4W
Umran	3	7	3/48	9.63	0
Madushanka	3	5	2/45	11.25	0
Mavi	3	4	4/22	9.00	1

Tripathi, playing his second T20I, shifted the momentum India's way by blazing a 16-ball 35 in the PowerPlay.

Special mention

"A special mention of Rahul – the kind of intent he showed can change the momentum of the game.

The next batter thought there was something in the wicket, but because of his innings, all of a sudden that ball stopped moving and the bowlers changed their lengths. Then Sri Lanka was chasing the game," Hardik said.

The Indian team has for long spoken about playing

aggressive cricket in T20Is, but this has not always come to fruition on the field. The third T20I, however, went with the script, with the batters showing good intent from start to finish.

Hardik admitted that this approach was made easy by the batting-friendly Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium pitch. The key would be to retain this mindset when the pitch is not as helpful, Hardik said.

"It's not that we have to always hit. There might be a case where we do the same thing and score 150. You look for boundaries, and with a good ball, you go for a single."

"But if you think defensive on the first ball itself, you won't even be able to put away the bad balls. The intent and aggression is more important on a tricky wicket," he said.

South Africa denies Australia a clean sweep

SA IN AUSTRALIA**Agence France-Presse**

SYDNEY

South Africa was untroubled as it batted out for a first draw in almost six years on the final day of the third Test here on Sunday, denying Australia a series whitewash.

Australia went into the fifth day of the rain-ravaged Test requiring 14 wickets for an improbable victory, but the Proteas comfortably negotiated their way through to earn a first draw in their last 47 Tests.

The scores: Australia 475/4 dec. drew with South Africa 255 in 108 overs (Tembu Bavuma 35, Khaya Zondo 39, Simon Harmer 47, Keshav Maharaj 53; Josh Hazlewood 4/48, Pat Cummins 3/60 & 106/2 in 41.5 overs (Sarel Erwee 42 n.o., Heinrich Klaasen 35).

MoM: Usman Khawaja.

MoS: David Warner; Australia won three-match series 2-0.

Our job is to observe and guide players, says Sharath

S. Dipak Ragav

CHENNAI

The chairman of the junior selection committee, S. Sharath, was given a promotion on Saturday by being announced as one of the five national selectors. During his tenure, India won the 2022 U-19 World Cup and the U-19 Asia Cup.

Commenting on the tasks ahead in a year with the 50-over World Cup and a potential ICC World Test Championship final, Sharath said that while there is a roadmap envisioned, the new committee is yet to sit down and meet and will take it step-by-step.

Though he has played more than 100 First Class games with close to 9,000 runs, he is also the only one with no international cap among the five selectors.

Addressing the issue of not being an international, Sharath explained, "as a selector, the main role is to communicate clearly with the players. More importantly, we should leave our history as a player behind. Our job is to observe, encourage and guide players where needed to help them improve as cricketers."

"I am very thankful to the BCCI and TNCA for giving me this opportunity. It was an emotional moment for my mother as well to see me named as a selector after I missed out on playing for the country," said Sharath as he signed off.

Danilo scores winner for Juventus

EURO LEAGUES**Agence France-Presse**

TURIN

Danilo made sure that Juventus paid the perfect tribute to deceased former captain Gianluca Viali by netting the only goal in Saturday's 1-0 win over Udinese which fired the Turin giant second in Serie A.

Massimiliano Allegri's team jumped one point above AC Milan and to within just four of league leader Napoli.

Sharath added. "I have a good relationship with V.V.S. Laxman (NCA director), and we have worked well over the past year. We have an immense talent pool in the country. Even from the last batch of under-19, we have quite a few players doing well in Ranji Trophy. So our job is just to harness it," he added.

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"I am very thankful to the BCCI and TNCA for giving me this opportunity. It was an emotional moment for my mother as well to see me named as a selector after I missed out on playing for the country," said Sharath as he signed off.

The Netherlands reasserts its supremacy; Indian slide continues; a first for Germany

WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN**Uthra Ganeshan**

NEW DELHI

1998, Utrecht (June 20-July 1)

The Netherlands made history by being the only country to win the World Cup on home soil twice. It was also its third tournament title and the first time the men's and women's events were organised simultaneously.

The 1996 Olympic champion also became only the second team after Pakistan to hold both the Olympic and World titles at the same time and it extended that domination by winning the 2000 Olympics as well. Spain reached



Drought ends: The jubilant Germans after their maiden title win in 2002. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

only its second final after the inaugural edition but fell short again, losing 3-2 in extra time, in a repeat of the 1996 Olympic final.

India, meanwhile, continued its slide down, finishing last in its group with a

single, narrow 1-0 win against New Zealand and big losses to Canada (1-4), Germany (1-4), South Korea (3-4) and the Netherlands (0-5) before fighting past Poland and New Zealand a second time in the

classification matches. **Top three:** The Netherlands, Spain, Germany; **India:** Ninth.

2002, Kuala Lumpur (Feb. 24 to March 4)

Germany reached its second final and finally ended the title drought, winning its first World Cup trophy. After three fourth-place finishes, four bronze medals and a silver in the eight previous editions that underline their frightening consistency, the Germans broke the final barrier with a 2-1 win against former champion and firm favourite Australia.

Germany lost just one game in the tournament – to Spain – while Australia registered comprehensive wins in every game before

stumbling in the final. It was the first edition with 16 teams in the fray and saw the emergence of players like Jamie Dwyer and Sohail Abbas and was the first major senior tournament for many youngsters from the Indian side, including the likes of Deepak Thakur, Jugraj Singh and Gagan Ajit Singh that lifted the 2001 Junior World Cup.

It was also the edition that saw India coach Cedric D'Souza being uncrossionously sacked midway through the tournament after three consecutive defeats. But it didn't much change the fortunes, the team finishing 10th.

Top three: Germany, Australia, the Netherlands; **India:** 10th.

ISL-9**Shayan Acharya**

MUMBAI

One of the most awaited fixtures of the Indian Super League turned into an one-sided affair with Mumbai City FC thrashing Kerala Blasters 4-0 at the Mumbai Football Arena on Sunday. Riding on an engrossing first-half – where the Des Buckingham-coached Mumbai outfit scored all the goals – the undefeated home team not only went up notch up 33 points to top the table but also ended Blasters' eight-match unbeaten streak.

Early strikes
Mumbai City took the lead in the fourth minute, with Jorge Pereyra Diaz putting the ball into the back of the net, following a deflection off Blasters' goalie Prabhunandan Singh Gill. Six minutes later, the Islanders doubled its lead with a brilliant header by the seconed Greg Stewart.

With the Blasters defence struggling, Bipin Singh made it 3-0 in just 16 minutes. Mehtab Singh

sent a long ball to Diaz, who tapped it near the edge of the box and passed it on to Bipin for the seconed campaigner to find the net.

When the two teams met the last time in October last year, Mumbai had defeated Blasters 2-0, and back at home, the Islanders kept the momentum going. In the 22nd minute, the calm and composed with Diaz made the most of a brilliant ball from Ahmed Jahouah to get his second goal.

Heading into the half-time trailing 0-4, the Blasters fans, who turned up in large numbers, may have expected the team to bounce back.

The visiting side made a slew of changes but it failed to change its fortunes.

New record
With this victory, Mumbai City has created a new tournament record of eight wins in a row, going past Jamshedpur FC's seven-match streak last year.

The result:
Mumbai City FC 4 (Pereyra Diaz 4, 22, Greg Stewart 10, Bipin Singh 16) bt Kerala Blasters 0.



Hitman: Diaz slotting in one of his two goals for Mumbai City. FOCUS SPORTS/ISL

IN BRIEF



USA drubs Italy, emerges United Cup champion

The United States came up with a powerhouse performance to sweep past Italy 4-0 and claim the inaugural mixed teams United Cup title here on Sunday. Earlier, USA crushed Iga Swiatek-led Poland 5-0 to make the decider, while Italy outgunned Stefanos Tsitsipas' Greece 4-1.

The results (final): USA bt Italy 4-0 (Jessica Pegula bt Martina Trevisan 6-4, 6-2; Frances Tiafoe bt Lorenzo Musetti 6-2, retd.; Taylor Fritz bt Matteo Berrettini 7-6(4), 7-6(6); Madison Keys bt Lucia Bronzetti 6-3, 6-2).

Cross country star Varsha banned for three years

Railways' Varsha Devi, the winner of the National cross country women's title in Nagaland last year, has been banned for three years after failing a dope test. The 28-year-old was tested at the cross country Nationals last year. Delhi's Prashant Choudhary also tested positive in Nagaland and has been suspended for three years.



Mendigutxoa scores the winner for Gokulam Kerala

Gokulam Kerala must be happy with the team's 1-0 victory against Churchill Brothers here on Sunday. Spaniard Sergio Mendigutxoa scored the winner.

Other result: At Panchkula: RoundGlass Punjab 3 (Luka Majcen 12, Brandon Vanlaremdika 15, Krishnananda Singh 7) bt NEROCA FC 1 (Yumnam Gopi Singh 44).

LIVE TELECAST

Pakistan vs New Zealand: 1st ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3 p.m.

I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Sathiyan suffers shock reverse, eight Indians advance

TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

G. Sathiyan, ranked 39th, suffered a shock defeat to Singapore's Izaac Quek, placed precisely 200 rungs below, while eight Indians moved into the singles second round in the Asian WTTC Continental Stage table tennis tournament in Doha on Sunday.

Nation's top-ranked male player on the world list and widely expected to advance, Sathiyan led 2-0

and again 3-2 before Quek completed an 8-11, 3-11, 11-5, 11-6, 6-11, 11-5 upset. Sanil Shetty was the other Indian to lose after running into Iran No 2 Amir Hossain Hodaei in six sets.

Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai and Manush Shah faced varying levels of challenges in their opening encounters.

Among the women, Swastika Ghosh was the pick.

The results (first round, involving Indians):

Men's singles: Harmeet Desai bt

Abdulla Albaloshi (UAE) 1-3, 11-5, 11-4, 11-5; Manush Shah bt Alan Kurmangaliyev (Kaz) 11-1, 7-11, 11-7, 8-11, 12-10, 11-5; Amir Hossain Hodaei (Iri) bt Sanil Shetty 11-4, 11-13, 7-11, 11-6, 11-5, 11-7; Izaac Quek (Sgp) bt G. Sathiyan 8-11, 3-11, 11-5, 11-6, 6-11, 11-5, 11-9; A. Sharath Kamal bt Jann Mari Nayre (Phi) 11-7, 11-3, 11-5, 11-7.

Women's singles: Reeth Rishya bt Zhang Wanling (Sgp) 12-10, 11-3, 1-11, 11-7, 12-10; Swastika Ghosh bt Zairen Akashava (Kaz) 13-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-7; Diya Chitale bt Sarvinos Mirkadirova (Kaz) 11-5, 11-1, 11-4, 11-5; Sreeja Akula bt Amrata Phadke (Bra) 11-6, 11-5, 11-3, 11-3; Manika Batra bt Markhabo Magdieva (Uzb) 11-2, 11-3, 11-2, 11-7.

The results (first round, involving Indians):

Men's singles: Harmeet Desai bt

field. The champion of the last event in Chandigarh Donghyun Kim of Korea has been seeded sixth in the boys' event, while the girls' champion Dominika Podhajecka of Poland does not have a seeding.

Suhitha has drawn to play Dominika in the first round.

Cahir in main draw

After three rounds of qualifying event, only Cahir Warik in the boys' sec-

tion and Aishi Bishit in the girls' section were the only Indian players to make it into the main draw.

Interestingly, in a similar tournament at the DLTA in 2018, Emma Raducanu of Britain had won the girls' title before scaling the world ladder in dramatic style in New York to win the US Open women's title in 2021.

It should be exciting to get a glimpse of the future stars this week.

The results (qualifying event, third and final round):

Boys: Joewyn Rey Pascua (Phi) bt Brendan Hendrata (Ind) 7-6(6), 6-1;

Delhi and Rajasthan are champions

Sports Bureau

Delhi beat Gujarat 25-21, 25-21, 22-25, 25-22 in the boys' final of the ONGC 44th National sub-junior volleyball championship at Karkardooma on Sunday. In the girls' final, Rajasthan beat Uttar Pradesh.

Boys (final): Delhi bt Gujarat 25-21, 25-21, 22-25, 25-22. **Third place:** Uttar Pradesh bt Uttarakhand 19-25, 25-13, 20-25, 25-19, 15-7.

Girls (final): Rajasthan bt Uttar Pradesh 15-25, 25-20, 25-20, 25-19. **Third place:** Tamil Nadu bt Haryana 19-25, 25-27, 25-18, 25-16, 15-9.

Ganesan (USA) 2, Amir Milushev (Uzb), 3, Aayush Bhat (USA), 4, Yerassyl Yerdila (Kaz), 5, Jiangjun Kim (Kor).

6. Donghyun Hwang (Kor), 7. Amirkhamza Nasridinov; 8. Daksh Prasad.

Girls: 1. Ashton Bowers (USA), 2. Zuzanna Pawlikowska (Pol), 3. Anna Sedysheva; 4. Alexia Harmon (USA), 5. Dana Baidault (Kaz), 6. Vlada Mincheva; 7. Suhitha Maruri, 8. Aiya Nupbay (Kaz).

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Boys: Joewyn Rey Pascua (Phi) bt Brendan Hendrata (Ind) 7-6(6), 6-1;

The seedings: Boys: 1. Adhitya

Ganesan (USA), 2. Amir Milushev (Uzb), 3. Aayush Bhat (USA), 4, Yerassyl Yerdila (Kaz), 5, Jiangjun Kim (Kor).

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She Can primed to do a repeat in feature event

HYDERABAD: The 3-year-old filly She Can, who won well in her last start, should score an encore in the Byerly Turk Million (Gr. 3), the feature event of Monday's (Jan. 9) races here.

1 DECCAN PRINCE PLATE (DIV. III) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.00: 1. Baisa (I) Kiran Naidu 60, 2. Divine Connection (R) S. Jodha 57, 3. Stay Smart (6) Gaurav Singh 55, 4. Decca Ranger (3) Santosh Raj 54, 5. Tantalising Star (2) B. Nikhil 53, 6. Nishaan (5) Abhay Singh 52, 7. Lucknow (4) Kuldeep S 55, 8. Blast In Class (4) Ajay Kumar 50.5.

1. BELLIQUE, 2. HIGH REWARD, 3. HAPPY GO LUCKY

2 AGOSTINI PLATE (1,200m), Terms: Maiden, Fillies 3-y-o only, 1.30: 1. Alcalho Free (2) Surya Prakash 54.5, 2. Fara (7) Mohit Singh 54.5, 3. Fantasy (10) Aneel 54.5, 4. Fly Me (6) Md. Ismail 54.5, 5. Moon Walk (8) B. Nikhil 54.5, 6. Oskars Glory (9) Surya Prakash 54.5, 7. Planet Royale (1) Suraj Narredu 54.5, 8. Queen Empress (3) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 9. Reigning Beauty (4) Afroz Khan 54.5 and 10. Toofee (5) Gaurav Singh 54.5.

1. MR. PERFECT, 2. SOPRANOS, 3. N. R. I. FANTASY

5 G. VASUDEVA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), rated

40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.10: 1. Morior Invictus (5) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Unsung Hero (4) Rafique Sk 60, 3. True Icon (1) B. Nikhil 57.5, 4. Thanks (8) Kuldeep S 57, 5. Bellagio (3) Afroz Khan 55, 6. La Mirage (2) Suraj Narredu 54, 7. Candy Girl (7) Gaurav Singh 53.5, 8. Crimson Rose (9) Akshay Kumar 53.5 and 9. Castlerock (6) G. Naresh 52.

1. CRIMSON ROSE, 2. UNSUNG HERO, 3. THANKS

6 BYERLY TURK MILLION (Gr. III) (1,200m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III), 4.55: 1. Aiza (5) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Inside Story (1) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Star Cruise (9) Kuldeep S 60, 4. Canterbury (7) Md. Ekram Alam 58, 5. Good Tidings (2) Santosh Raj 57.5, 6. Aarya (4) Abhay Singh 57, 7. Sweet Melody (8) Afroz Khan 57, 8. Alina (3) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56 and 9. Space Time (6) Aneel 54.

1. AIZA, 2. GOOD TIDINGS, 3. STAR CRUISE

7 KASU BRAHMANANDA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), rated 60 to 85, 4.20: 1. Ballerina (1) P. Trevor 60, 2. Amrya (3) Mukesh Kumar 59, 3. Kingston (6) Gaurav Singh 58.5, 4. Black Onyx (2) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 5. Xfinity (9) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 6. Stuning Force (8) Mohit Singh 54.7, 7. Ayr (4) Afroz Khan 52.5, 8. Trump Star (5) Santosh Raj 52.5 and 9.

1. SHE CAN, 2. PROUD MARY

8 MOMENT ON GLORY PLATE (1,200m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III), 4.55: 1. Aiza (5) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Inside Story (1) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Star Cruise (9) Kuldeep S 60, 4. Canterbury (7) Md. Ekram Alam 58, 5. Good Tidings (2) Santosh Raj 57.5, 6. Aarya (4) Abhay Singh 57, 7. Sweet Melody (8) Afroz Khan 57, 8. Alina (3) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56 and 9. Space Time (6) Aneel 54.

1. AIZA, 2. GOOD TIDINGS, 3. STAR CRUISE

Day's Best : BALLERINA

Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3. (ii) 3, 4 & 5. (iii) 6, 7 & 8.

Tanala: All races.

Daksh and Suhitha are two Indians to be seeded

THE HINDU

ITF TENNIS

Sports Bureau

NEW DELHI

Daksh Prasad and Suhitha Maruri are the two Indian players who have got seeding in the ITF junior tennis tournament to be staged at the DLTA Complex here from Monday.

Daksh has been seeded eighth in the boys' event, and Suhitha seeded seventh in the girls' section, of a very competitive

field. The champion of the last event in Chandigarh Donghyun Kim of Korea has been seeded sixth in the boys' event, while the girls' champion Dominika Podhajecka of Poland does not have a seeding.

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