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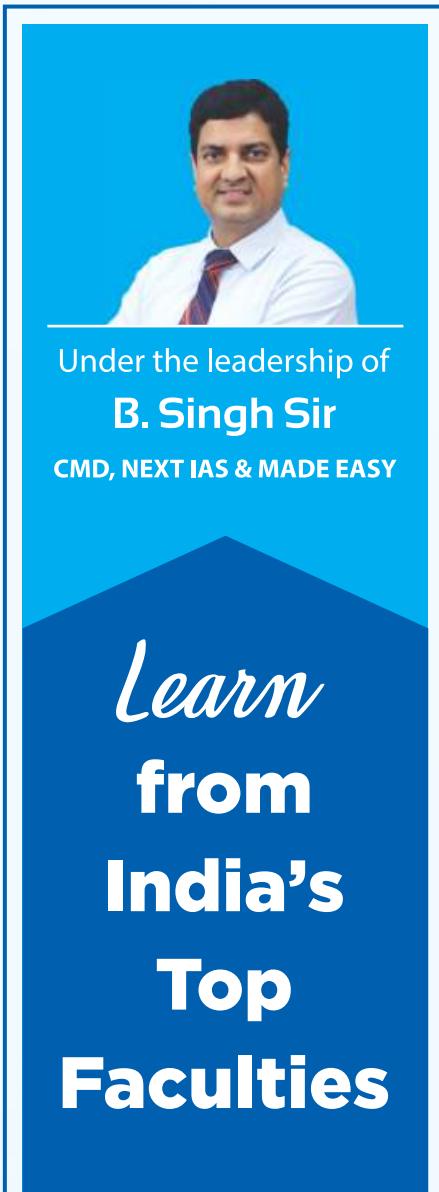
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(7:30 AM - 10:30 AM)

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**17<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2022**

(6:30 PM - 9:30 PM)

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**15<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2022**  
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by Sudhir Kumar Sir  
**1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2022**  
(3:00 PM to 5:30 PM)

**Sociology**  
by Raj Rai Sir  
**1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2022**  
(3:00 PM to 5:30 PM)

**Mathematics**  
by Maneesh Singh Sir  
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# NEXT IAS

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**9**

AIR  
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 • IGP Only : 191

AIR 11 	AIR 13 	AIR 14 	AIR 16 	AIR 20 	AIR 21 	AIR 26 	AIR 27 	AIR 28 	AIR 29 
Shubhankar P Pathak	Priyamvada A Mhaddalkar	Abhinav J Jain	Anshu Priya	Arpit Chauhan	Dilip K Kainikkara	Utsav Anand	Saksham Goel	Mantri M Bharadwaj	Bhavishya
AIR 30 	AIR 37 	AIR 38 	AIR 40 	AIR 43 	AIR 44 	AIR 49 	AIR 50 	AIR 51 	AIR 53 
Naman Goyal	V Sanjana Simha	Ravi Kumar	Kushal Jain	Shubham Shukla	Anjali Shrotriya	Divyansh Singh	Abhijit Ray	Akshay Pillay	Pratibha Dahiya
AIR 56 	AIR 59 	AIR 61 	AIR 62 	AIR 64 	AIR 67 	AIR 68 	AIR 70 	AIR 73 	AIR 74 
Kiranmayi Koppisetti	Mukul Jain	Mohit Kasniya	Tirumani Sri Pooja	Kanika	Anand Malhotra	Anendya Raajsshre	Narayan Amit Malempati	Namrata Choubey	Ayush Venkat Vats
AIR 75 	AIR 77 	AIR 78 	AIR 80 	AIR 85 	AIR 93 	AIR 94 	AIR 97 	AIR 98 	AIR 99 
Surbhi Singla	Ashutosh Kumar	Surbhi Goyal	Nikhil Mahajan	Ashish Kumar	Deepesh Kumari	Indrashis Datta	Bhaisare S Ashok	Aniket D Hirde	Tharun P Madala

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IARI: stubble  
burning in  
Punjab at  
3-year low

Jacob Koshy  
NEW DELHI

Though early days, the number of crop fires reported out of Punjab are at a three-year low, suggest data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) that tracks such fires via satellite. Only 320 fires have been reported this year, as opposed to 620 and 1,935 in 2021 and 2020, respectively.

Uttar Pradesh, however, saw a rise in instances, show data till October 6, with 80 crop burning events recorded this year as opposed to 52 last year.

"While there is a 6% reduction in acreage under rice (in Punjab) this year due to erratic rains, it would be premature to assume that burning would be less," said Dr. Ravinder Khaiwal, professor at PGIMER's Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, Chandigarh.

### Triumphant trio

Human rights activists/organisations from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday



1. Ales Bialiatski (in pic) | A prominent Belarusian rights activist and founder of Viasna Human Rights Centre. He is currently held in prison without trial

2. Memorial | The organisation founded in 1987, compiles information on human rights abuses and tracks the fate of political prisoners in Russia

3. Center for Civil Liberties | Founded in 2007, the Ukraine-based organisation has identified and

## Rights champions in Belarus, Russia, Ukraine get Nobel

Reuters  
OSLO

A trio of human rights watchdogs from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, a highly symbolic choice of laureates drawn from three nations at the centre of the war in Ukraine.

The honour went to detained activist Ales Bialiatski of Belarus, Russian

rights group Memorial and Ukraine's Center for Civil Liberties. "They have made an outstanding effort to document war crimes, human right abuses and the abuse of power," the head of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Berit Reiss-Andersen, told reporters.

**CONTINUED ON**  
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HEADQUARTERS SEIZED  
» PAGE 11

## Panel to study SC status of Dalits post conversion

Three-member commission to be headed by ex-CJI K.G. Balakrishnan has been asked to submit report in two years; development comes even as Supreme Court is hearing petitions on the issue

Abhinav Lakshman

NEW DELHI

The Union government has now formed a three-member Commission of Inquiry headed by former Chief Justice of India, Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, to examine whether the Scheduled Caste (SC) status can be accorded to Dalits who have over the years converted to religions other than Sikhism or Buddhism.

The notification for the formation of the commission was issued on Thursday, days before the Supreme Court on October 11 is expected to hear the Centre's present position on a batch of petitions seeking the inclusion of Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims and the removal

### Hanging questions

A look at the present status of the law, the past amendments and the Centre's argument in the case:

**What does the law say now?**  
The 1950 law provides for only those belonging to Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist communities to be categorised as SCs

**How were Sikhs and Buddhists included?**  
The Kalekar panel report (1955) and the high-powered panel report (1983) were the basis for amending the Order to include Dalit Sikhs and Dalit Buddhists as SCs in 1956 and 1990 respectively

**Centre's argument**  
The religions included as SCs under the law are branches of Hinduism. Dalits who converted to Islam or Christianity "cannot claim to be backward" since untouchability is a feature of Hindu religion and its branches alone

The three-member Commission is headed by ex-CJI K.G. Balakrishnan

of religion as criterion for inclusion as SCs.

Currently, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 provides for only those belonging to Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist communities to be classified as SCs based on the social disabilities and discrimination they faced due to untouchability. It was amended in 1956 to in-

clude Sikh communities and again in 1990 to include Buddhist communities as SCs.

The three-member commission will also comprise Professor Sushma Yadav, member, UGC, and retired IAS officer Ravinder Kumar Jain, and has been given a two-year deadline to submit a report on the issue – starting from the day Justice Balakrishnan takes charge of the commission.

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has said the commission's inquiry will also look into the changes an SC person goes through after converting to another religion and its implications on the question of including them as SCs.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 8

### IN BRIEF



Conversion row:  
AAP Minister  
issues apology

**NEW DELHI**  
Delhi Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam tendered an apology on Friday after the BJP raised a political storm over visuals of an alleged "mass conversion" to Buddhism where the AAP leader is purportedly seen being part of a pledge to not worship Hindu deities. While AAP did not officially react to the BJP's allegations, party sources said the Delhi CM was displeased with the Minister.

**CITY**  
» PAGE 2

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# Amid row over mass conversion, AAP Minister Gautam apologises

BJP lashes out at the Delhi Minister and AAP approaches the police with a complaint against him and demands his removal from the Cabinet; party insiders describe Gautam as a 'stauch Ambedkarite' and a 'steady hand'

Jatin Anand

NEW DELHI

**D**elhi Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam found himself in the middle of a political storm after visuals of an alleged "mass conversion" to Buddhism, involving around 10,000 people (as per Mr. Gautam's claim) seemingly boycotting Hinduism and Hindu deities at an event organised by a social organisation founded by him, emerged here on Friday.

Held at the Dr. Ambedkar Bhavan, Rani Jhansi Road, on the occasion of Ashoka Vijaydashmi – which in the Buddhist tradition is commemorated as the day that Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism – the event was organised by Mr. Gautam's 'Mission Jai Bheem' on Wednesday.

Soon after the visuals of the event went viral, the BJP lashed out at the Delhi Minister and the AAP, approaching the police with a complaint against him and demanding his removal from the Cabinet. Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta alleged that Hinduism and Hindu deities were deliberately insulted at the event as part of a "well-thought conspiracy", while Leader



Rajendra Pal Gautam (third from right) at the event on Wednesday COURTESY GAUTAM'S TWITTER ACCOUNT

of the Opposition in the Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri accused Mr. Gautam of "openly insulting Hinduism in public".

Responding to these charges, Mr. Gautam said he was "pained at the propaganda" being spread by the BJP against him and apologised for hurting "anyone's religious sentiments".

"I am a deeply religious person and respect all Gods and Goddesses equally. I cannot even dream of disrespecting them through actions or words. I am pained at the rumours being spread by

the BJP about me and I apologise with folded hands if I have hurt anyone's religious sentiments," Mr. Gautam said on Friday.

#### An annual event'

According to AAP sources, the programme, which is an annual event, was aimed at commemorating the day that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar made 22 vows, which included denouncing Hinduism and its deities, and entered the fold of Buddhism along with lakhs of Dalits in Maharashtra's Nagpur in October 1956. These vows, accord-

ing to AAP sources, were repeated on Wednesday in Mr. Gautam's presence "like they have been every year". But the visuals of the ceremony were allegedly "doctored" to include "only vows related to the denunciation" of Hinduism and its deities in order to trigger a row.

"The fact that 10,000 people from all over the country would be part of the event to embrace Buddhism had been announced by Mr. Gautam, who organised the event in his personal capacity, several days in advance on his social media accounts," the

sources also said.

#### Popular face

"Mr. Gautam has been a staunch Ambedkarite since the late 1980s and has been associated with the Buddhist faith since then. The vows, which were an invocation of Dr. Ambedkar's own, are repeated at the event every year," an AAP source said about the two-time Delhi Minister, who currently holds the portfolios of Social Welfare, SC and ST, and Gurdwara Elections.

Termed a "steady hand" by party insiders, Mr. Gautam, AAP's MLA from north-east Delhi's Seemapuri Assembly constituency, comes from the Jatav community, which has strong traditional ties with Buddhism and is known to enjoy goodwill among his constituents, especially those from the socially disadvantaged communities.

A law graduate from Delhi University and a practising advocate, Mr. Gautam took his oaths in the name of Lord Buddha during both his swearing-in ceremonies as a member of the Delhi Cabinet. A member of the AAP's national executive, Mr. Gautam was first sworn in as a Minister in 2017.

# Is the Aam Aadmi Party caught between Hindutva and Ambedkar politics?

Nikhil M Babu

NEW DELHI



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at a press conference in Delhi FILE PHOTO

in 2021 where he, along with his party colleagues, offered prayers on Deepavali.

**'Baba Saheb's dreams'**  
In the same 2021 budget, his government allocated ₹10 crore to conduct programmes to honour B.R. Ambedkar.

In January, while campaigning for the Assembly polls in Punjab, Mr. Kejriwal said if his party came to power in the State, only photos of Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh would be installed in all government offices. Following AAP's win in Punjab, photos of the two historic figures were installed in the offices of Punjab and Delhi Secretariats.

In February, the Delhi government organised an over two-hour-long "grand musical" event based on Ambedkar's life twice a day for two weeks. The AAP chief has said in many speeches that he has been working towards fulfilling "Baba Saheb Ambedkar's dreams".

Meanwhile, an AAP source said that Mr. Gautam was likely to face "consequences" for the Wednesday event. In March this year, he was divested of the Department of Women and Child Development following criticism.

campaign trail to several poll-bound States, has hailed both Lord Ram and B.R. Ambedkar in an effort to appeal to two different constituencies.

**'Ram Rajya'**  
For instance, speaking in the Delhi Assembly during the budget session in March 2021, Mr. Kejriwal said that his government had been working to bring about a "Ram Rajya" in the Capital.

"Lord Ram was the emperor of Ayodhya. During his rule, people were content as they had access to all basic facilities. This was called the 'Ram Rajya,'" he had said about what he wanted to achieve in the Capital.

He also spoke about how his government had built a 30-foot-high replica of the Ram Temple in Delhi

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय, ए-७, सेक्टर-२४, नोएडा - २०१३०१ (उ. प्रदेश)	
निवास सूचना	
प्रतिष्ठित पंजीकृत तथा अनुमती फॉर्म / संस्थार्स से वर्ष २०२२ - २३ के लिए	
निम्नलिखित कार्यों के विभिन्न मात्रा व वर्तुल उपकरण सत्ताई व खरीद के सम्बन्ध	
विक्री पारा वैज्ञानिक ग्रन्थालय से आवश्यक है। इच्छुक एवं अनुभवी कंपनियों से	
निवास आमत्रिया की जाती है। निवास प्रत्र पर्याप्त अन्य जानकारी विवाहाचार से प्राप्त	
कर सकते हैं जिसमें (१) मामला विवाहाचार, लाइट एवं सार्टेंड (विकाराये हेतु) (२) वाहन सुविधा	
(विकाराये हेतु) (३) फ्लैट्स, बैरां, बेग्स, सन्तोष एवं अन्य (४) मामला एवं	
सरवाहाचार कार्य (विविल) (५) मामला एवं खराचार कार्य (इलेक्ट्रोनिक एवं एक्सिलिंग)	
(६) मुश्तु सामग्री एवं लेखन सामग्री आदि है। जिसको १५ दिन के अंतर	
(जिसमें प्रकाशित दिवस भी शामिल है) प्राप्त एवं जामा किये जा सकते हैं।	
प्राचार्य	

#### NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

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Tender No.: 138 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 139 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 140 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 141 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 142 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 143 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 144 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 145 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 146 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 147 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 148 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 149 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 150 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 151 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 152 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 153 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 154 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 155 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 156 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 157 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

Tender No.: 158 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

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Tender No.: 165 Name of Work with its Location: Construction work in c/w improvement of existing power supply network at Hesar power house under ADEN / Sirsa. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 1662877.61 Earnest Money: Rs. 23300.00 Note:- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.irops.gov.in.

# Andheri (East) by-election a litmus test for Uddhav's post-split Sena

Thackeray camp is fielding deceased Sena MLA Ramesh Latke's wife Rutuja as it is depending on the sympathy factor; Shinde camp will not field its own candidate but support BJP's choice of former BMC corporator Murji Patel for the seat

## Abhinay Deshpande

MUMBAI



Uddhav Thackeray

The by-election to the Andheri (East) Assembly seat on November 3 is going to be a 'Maha Sangram' of sorts as both the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and the rival Eknath Shinde camp-BJP alliance will be pitted against each other.

The Thackeray camp will field deceased Sena MLA Ramesh Latke's wife Rutuja as it heavily depends on the sympathy factor. Latke died of a heart attack while on a trip to Dubai in May.

For the Shinde camp, which has been making rapid strides to claim legitimacy to carry on the legacy

litmus test for Uddhav Thackeray to prove his strength ahead of the BMC elections. Mr. Thackeray is often criticised by the Eknath Shinde faction and the BJP for joining hands with the Congress and Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party for power by "compromising" the Hindutva principles of Bal Thackeray. With an eye on upcoming BMC elections, the BJP is working out a robust plan to wrest control of the civic body.

"This is the first battle post-split, and both the factions will try their best to prove their strength. However, as Chief Minister Shinde doesn't have a hold over Mumbai, he is not going to field any candidate

The bypoll will be first

from his faction and naturally support the BJP," political analyst Hemant Desai told *The Hindu*.

Though the BJP has a strong support base in Andheri, the sympathy factor is likely to help the Shiv Sena, Mr. Desai observed. "They [Shinde and BJP] will put all efforts to win as it will have a massive impact on the upcoming BMC elections. And in case the sympathy factor doesn't work and the Sena losses, it will be a big psychological blow for them," he said.

Senior members of the Thackeray camp alleged that Mr. Shinde had lost the legitimacy to claim the legacy of Shiv Sena as he is seen as playing second fiddle to the BJP despite lead-

ing the alliance.

"There is speculation about the Election Commission freezing the party symbol (bow and arrow). We are very confident that the symbol will be allotted to us as Uddhav ji has the majority. People of Andheri will stand up together and vote for our Sena, the true Shiv Sena of Balasaheb Thackeray," Member of Parliament and Thackeray camp's spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi said.

She said that Ramesh Latke was a popular leader and had a personal connection due to his good work in the constituency.

Allies Congress and the NCP have announced that they will support Ms. Latke, the Sena candidate.

₹10 cr. spent on Shinde's Dasara rally, claims plea

## The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

A petition has been filed in the Bombay High Court on Friday seeking an investigation against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his camp for allegedly spending "more than ₹10 crore" for holding the Dasara rally at Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai on October 5.

Deepak Jagdev, the petitioner, has alleged that the under-construction Samruddhi Mahamarg that connects Mumbai to Nagpur, and is yet to be open for public, was used to bring supporters at Bandra Kurla Complex.

The plea alleges that expenses to the tune of ₹10 crore were spent on newspaper advertisements, 2,000 hoardings, rent for the ground, transportation and on food packets distributed to those present there.

Questioning the source of this 'money', Mr. Jagdev states, "if Shiv Sena's MP Sanjay Raut can be jailed for ₹5 lakh and Nationalist Congress Party leader Anil Deshmukh is behind bars for ₹4.5 crore for his own property then Mr. Shinde is also liable for punishment."

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RISE	06:18	SET 18:00
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SUNDAY, OCT. 09		
RISE	06:18	SET 17:59
RISE	17:53	SET 05:30
MONDAY, OCT. 10		
RISE	06:19	SET 17:58
RISE	18:24	SET 06:31

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# Delhi government announces new promotion policy for school students

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Friday announced a new promotion policy for students, keeping with the 2019 amendment to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 (RTE). Under the new assessment guide-

lines, students of Classes 5 and 8 will not be promoted to the next class if they do not pass the yearly examination. These guidelines will come into effect from the next academic year.

The 2019 amendment in the RTE Act allows States to determine the conditions under which students could be held back

from promotion.

"As per SCERT's new assessment guidelines, if a child is unable to clear exams in Class 5 and Class 8, then the child will get a chance for re-examination within two months to improve performance record," the government said. Those who fail to improve their performance in

their second attempt will be held back for a year.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the no-detention policy introduced in the RTE Act, to protect the interest of children, was progressive but was harming the children's prospects as the education system could not take advantage of the policy.



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# Uma Bharti to hit the streets for new liquor policy in M.P.

## Shubhomoy Sikdar

RAIPUR



Senior BJP leader Uma Bharti announced on Friday that she would launch a campaign on November 7 against the sale of liquor in Madhya Pradesh. The move comes days after Ms. Bharti hailed the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government's decision to run a de-addiction campaign.

"I will go around the streets of Madhya Pradesh till the State government holds proper consultations before implementing a new liquor policy," the former Chief Minister said.

Earlier, Ms. Bharti had declared that she would not return home till her demand to protect people from the ill-effects of alcohol was met. "I will visit all the places where the sale of liquor is banned. If I find liquor being sold there, I will videograph it and inform [CM] Shivraj [Chou-

hanji," she said.

In the past, Ms. Bharti had called for controlled liquor sales to complete prohibition. In July, she had said that she would take out a women's march on the issue of closure of liquor shops on Gandhi Jayanti (October 2). However, on the day of the proposed march, she joined Mr. Chouhan in the launch of a de-addiction campaign and merged the women's rally with it.

She denied that the proposed campaign had anything to do with politics as she did not want to contest the 2024 elections.

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## INBRIEF



## Have asked Yogi to develop JP's village in U.P., says Nitish

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday said that he has written to his Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath for speedy completion of long pending development work in the ancestral village of Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan. During the launch here, through videoconference, of a number of projects at Sitab Diyara, the legendary socialist leader's village, Mr. Kumar regretted the tardy pace of work in U.P. Mr. Kumar will visit Sitab Diyara on Saturday on the occasion of JP's death anniversary. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will attend a function at Sitab Diyara on the occasion of JP's birth anniversary.

## U.P. police dismiss claims of forced sloganneering at AMU

Amid allegations that a Hindu student pursuing M.Tech at the Aligarh Muslim University was thrashed and forced to chant pro-Pakistani slogans such as 'Pakistan Zindabad' by a group of students at the University's campus, the U.P. police said that no such incident had occurred. They said that the two students had a scuffle, after which they submitted complaints against each other at the proctor's office. In the complaint, no issue involving the slogans was mentioned.

# U.P.'s lone Muslim Minister on mission to win over minorities

Danish Azad Ansari has been tasked with fending off criticism of the Yogi Adityanath govt's policies and bridging the trust deficit between the Muslim community and BJP, which is aiming to expand its electoral base ahead of the 2024 LS election

Mayank Kumar  
LUCKNOW

In Uttar Pradesh, the onus of fending off criticism of the Yogi Adityanath government's policies and bridging the trust deficit between the Muslim community and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has fallen on the shoulders of Minister of State for Minority Welfare Danish Azad Ansari – the Cabinet's lone Muslim face.

The 34-year-old MLC has been the most ardent defender of the BJP government's ongoing survey of 'unrecognised' madrasas in the State, which has drawn flak from Opposition parties and Muslim organisations. He has passionately vouched for the move, pointing out that the exercise is aimed at connecting madrasas with government schemes and providing students access to modern education.

Last month, Mr. Ansari leapt to the government's defence when former U.P. Chief Minister and Bahu-

jan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati said the survey was being carried out to "terrorise" the Muslim community and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen chief and Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi termed it a "mini-NRC (National Register of Citizens)". "The Opposition is furthering such propaganda as the Muslim community is drawn towards the BJP government," the Minister had countered.

**Steady rise**  
Hailing from Ballia in eastern Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Ansari rose through the ranks in the party after beginning his political journey by joining the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, the student wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, in 2005. In 2018, during the first term of the Yogi Adityanath government, he was appointed as a member of the Urdu Language Committee and the general secretary of the State BJP's Minority Morcha.



**QQ** The Opposition is furthering propaganda as the Muslim community is drawn towards the BJP government

**DANISH AZAD ANSARI**  
Minister of State for Minority Welfare

ing the BJP wrest the Rampur and Azamgarh seats from the Samajwadi Party (SP) in the Lok Sabha by-polls in June. "In Rampur, the Muslim community accounts for around 50% of the electorate. The election was a direct contest between the BJP and the Samajwadi Party. The ruling party's victory would not have been possible without the support of the Muslim community, which voted for it in large numbers. Even in Azamgarh, the BJP secured the backing of the community," he told *The Hindu*.

**Uphill task**

However, several Muslims believe that the BJP emerged victorious in the bypolls owing to division of votes and disaffection towards the SP among voters from the minority community. "In Rampur, many Muslims were unhappy with the SP and abstained from voting. In Azamgarh, the BSP candidate, Shah Alam alias Gudu Jamali, polled over 2.6 lakh votes, making a dent

in the SP's vote share," said Afzal Alam, a retired government officer.

He added that Mr. Ansari was a newcomer and faced an uphill task of winning the trust of Muslims. "Traditionally, the Muslim community votes against the BJP. It will be a challenging task for the Minister to act as a bridge between the party and the community," Mr. Alam said.

**'Long-term asset'**

According to political analysts, the Minister is a "long-term asset" for the BJP as he is a Pasmanda Muslim. The party has been trying to woo the backward community as part of its attempts to expand its electoral base ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

"The party is witnessing a generational shift with the emergence of new leaders. He may become a prominent Muslim face in the long run," said Sumit Kumar, a social scientist based in New Delhi who follows U.P. closely.

## U.P. to set up eight units of anti-corruption organisation

**The Hindu Bureau**  
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government will set up new units of anti-corruption organisation in eight ranges in the State to curb malpractices in the government departments. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with senior officials recently.

"The State government is going to open new units of anti-corruption organisation in Azamgarh, Mirzapur, Chitrakoot, Prayagraj, Devipatan, Basti, Aligarh and Saharanpur. The units will soon be established in these districts under the leadership of the Assistant Superintendent of Police. Office buildings have also been identified at four of these places," read a note from the U.P. government.

The decision is in line with the promise made by the BJP to expand the scope of the organisation in its 'Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra' during the 2022 U.P. Assembly elections which calls for rooting out corruption from the government departments in the State. As of now, 11 such units are active in the State.

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## RTI activist rescued

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man, who used to file RTI pleas, was allegedly abducted by a hotelier in Delhi's Adarsh Nagar, the police said. Akshay Manchanda was rescued from Sonipat.

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## T.N. bans online 'games of chance' and gambling

## T. Ramakrishnan

CHENNAI

Online gambling and online 'games of chance' have been banned in Tamil Nadu. At the same time, the other online games will be regulated.

The ban covers rummy and poker, according to an ordinance promulgated by Governor R.N. Ravi on October 1, a copy of which was made available to *The Hindu* on Friday. A top government official said the date of the law coming into effect would be notified shortly.

Cleared at a meeting of the Cabinet on September 26 under the chairmanship of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, the law has been formulated as a sequel to the recommendation made by a committee, led by former judge of the Madras High Court K. Chand

Karnataka to increase SC reservation by 2%, ST by 4%

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

Following an all-party meeting convened by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday, which concluded with a consensus on increasing reservation for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the State government in principle agreed to increase the existing quota by 2% for SCs and by 4% for STs in Karnataka. When it comes through, quota for SCs will go up from 15% to 17% and for STs from 3% to 7% in Karnataka.

A special Cabinet meeting has been convened on Saturday to take a decision on increasing the quota. All related issues will be discussed in the meeting and then a final notification issued in this regard.

## Tipu Express renamed as Wodeyar Express

The Hindu Bureau  
MYSURU

The Railways has renamed Tipu Express, which plies between Mysuru and Bengaluru, as Wodeyar Express while an express service from Mysuru to Talaguppa has been named after poet laureate Kuvempu.

The demand was made by Mysuru MP Pratap Simha, in a letter to Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaish-

# Rahul Gandhi cites Basaveshwara's teachings to target BJP in Karnataka

Idea behind the Bharat Jodo Yatra was inspired by people like the 12th century social reformer, who preached against hate and inequality, says the Congress leader; he also refers to alleged misrepresentation of Basaveshwara in State's textbooks

The Hindu Bureau  
MYSURU

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday invoked the teachings of the 12th-century social reformer Basaveshwara against hate and inequality while targeting his alleged misrepresentation in the textbooks by the BJP government in Karnataka.

Addressing a gathering in Bellur town at the end of the day's padayatra, Mr. Gandhi said Basaveshwara preached against hatred and asked people to treat others like their equals. He said the idea behind the Bharat Jodo Yatra was inspired by the teachings of people such as



Journey continues: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during Bharat Jodo Yatra in Mandya district on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Basaveshwara.

Mr. Gandhi, who had an interaction with a cross-section of educationists at Nagamangala earlier in the day, said he was asked by them why the Kannadigas' way of life and Karnataka's

history, culture, and language had come under an attack. "They asked me which force is attacking Basavanna in Karnataka," he said making a veiled attack on the BJP government in the State.

## Bharat Jodo Yatra completes 30 days

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Bharat Jodo Yatra, launched on September 7 at Kanniyakumari, completed 30 days on Friday, having covered a distance of over 700 km across Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. Former party chief Rahul Gandhi, who has been at the yatra centre stage, is expected to address a press conference on Saturday to share his experiences so far.

Starting the Karnataka

leg of the padayatra by walking alongside a young girl dressed as *Bharat Mata* [Mother India] at Mandya district, Mr. Gandhi was joined by the late Gauri Lankesh's mother, Indira, and sister on Friday.

In the next 120 days, the party is not only hoping that the padayatra would become a path to its political revival, but also repackaging Mr. Gandhi as a people's politician. It has aimed to bring together different factions in States like poll-bound Kerala.

## Agri-credit societies to be set up in all panchayats, says Shah

Press Trust of India  
GANGTOK



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) will be set up in all panchayats of the country to boost various activities over the next five years, such as marketing of dairy products, and people of Northeast will largely benefit from the move.

The Minister noted that there are only 65,000 active PACS in the country at present, and it is imperative that all panchayats must have one such body by 2027 to promote farming and dairy activities at the grassroots level.

"The co-operation ministry is working on a plan to set up multi-purpose PACS in panchayats over the next five years in order to promote various cooperative activities at the grassroots level," he said, inaugurating the 'Eastern and North-Eastern Zones Dairy Cooperative Conclave-2022' at Manan Kendra.

Such PACS will carry out activities like sale of gas and petrol and storage and marketing of dairy and farm products with an aim to alleviate poverty and empower women, Mr. Shah, who arrived here around noon, said.

Mr. Shah also pointed out that the eastern and northeastern states will benefit the most from the establishment of the PACS as its farm and dairy products will be efficiently

PACS will benefit NE States, says Amit Shah

marketed, thus generating optimum financial benefits for people engaged in animal husbandry and allied sectors.

Alleging that the previous governments had neglected the cooperative sector, Mr. Shah said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had the vision to identify the role that the segment could play in poverty alleviation and women empowerment and decided to set up a separate ministry.

He left for Guwahati later in the day. Mr. Shah is visiting Assam for three days beginning Friday during which he will attend a meeting on floods, inaugurate a State-level SPs conference and address BJP workers.

Mr. Shah will also attend a meeting of Chief Ministers and DGPs of north-eastern States on narcotics, review the functioning of the North Eastern Space Application Centre and inaugurate the newly built office of the BJP's Assam unit during the visit, sources said here.

## 'To say Rajaraja is not a Hindu is akin to saying a Catholic is not a Christian'

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

Former MP and Congress veteran Karan Singh on Friday said it was "absolutely ridiculous" to say that the King Rajaraja I of the Chola dynasty was not a Hindu.

He was reacting to the recent controversy that erupted after film-maker Vetrimaran commented

in a function that there were attempts to give a Hindu identity to Rajaraja Chola. He implied that the Chola king was a Shaivite and Hinduism as a religion did not exist in that era. Actor Kamal Haasan on Thursday had backed this line of argument.

In a statement, Mr. Singh said to say that Rajaraja was a Shaivite and not a Hindu was akin to saying

that "someone is a Catholic but not a Christian". "These semantic gymnastics in a way denigrate and confuse our great religion," he said.

### Three main streams

According to him, though the word 'Hindu' may have gained traction only later, deities like Shiva, Vishnu, Hanuman, Ganesha, Mahalakshmi and Mahakali were

all part of "Sanatan Dharma for millennia". "One should not try and create a division between Shaivism, Vaishnavism, and Shaktism," he said, adding they were the three main streams of Hindu religion.

Mr. Singh added that the Brihadeeswara temple built by emperor Rajaraja was an architectural marvel, where he had worshipped many times.

## For A.P.'s Konda Reddi tribal families, bamboo shoots form recipe to health and happiness

SPECIAL

T. Appala Naidu  
DUMPAVALASA

The entrance of Kondla Lachumamma's thatched house at Dampavalasa hamlet of Y. Ramavarama mandal in Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR) district of Andhra Pradesh is decorated with a garland of bamboo shoots.

The Konda Reddi tribal families hang such garlands to the roofs of their dwellings and dry them for a week.

A week later, or whenever the shoots are fully dried, the families store them for consumption till the next monsoon.

People of the tribe believe that bamboo shoots are highly nutritious. The dried bamboo shoots are a part of their diet during the monsoon as it "improves



Part of food chart: A Konda Reddi tribal woman hangs garlands of bamboo shoots in her house at Dampavalasa village in Alluri Sitamaraju district. T. APPALA NAIDU

their immunity against viral fevers."

"For generations, bamboo shoots are an integral part of our food chart. Now-a-days, even non-

tribes have started consuming them in view of their nutritious value. We collect the shoots both for own consumption and for sale," says Ms.

Lachumamma.

Post-COVID, the non-tribes from the mainstream areas are after the bamboo shoots in a bid to boost their immunity.

"A bamboo shoot is dried for a week. Later, it is boiled and used in the preparation of a variety of dishes such as mixed vegetable curry and dal. The dried shoots can also be stored in powder form. At least six dishes can be prepared with the shoots," says Ms. Lachumamma.

"We serve food prepared with bamboo shoots to children of all ages. The collection and preparation of the shoots require patience. We prefer to invest our time and labour on the ingredient to enjoy our traditional food," says Kondla Tulasamma, a mother of two.

The tribal people inhabiting in the forest and hill ranges are entitled to collect every form of bamboo tree, which is classified as Minor Forest Produce. They have the right to exploit its commercial value for their livelihood.

## Metro tunnel boring machine stuck after hitting garbage pile

Suchith Kidiyoor  
BENGALURU

Rudra, the tunnel boring machine of Namma Metro project, is stuck for a reason that officials could never have anticipated. It has hit, not a hard rock, but a massive pile of garbage.

A few weeks ago, officials noticed that Rudra, deployed for building a tunnel network of phase II of Namma Metro in Bengaluru, was unable to carry out drilling work as it encountered unusual hurdles. The staff, who took a

### Officials of Namma Metro shocked to find buckets, decayed bones 33 feet below the surface

peek through the cutter heads of the machine, were in for a shock. They found a huge garbage pile – including plastic buckets, tyres, bags, disintegrating bones – blocking the way of the machine. This was at the depth of 33 feet from the surface.

After much deliberation,

they found out that decades ago, the State government had permitted quarrying in the area. Over the years, private owners, who had properties adjacent to quarry, also started illegal quarrying. "Later, the then civic agency converted the quarry land to a dumping site. Subsequently, people who owned the property started covering the dumping site with debris and sand. They have even sold properties," said MD of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited Anjum Parvez.

The waiting time for darshan extended beyond 30 hours as the queue lines stretched to over 4 km outside the Vaikuntam queue complex. The Narayangiri gardens, which has several massive halls that can accommodate over 15,000 devotees, were also packed to capacity.

Tirumala Tirupati De-

vasthanams (TTD) personnel were on their heels running from pillar to post meeting the requirements of the devotees.

The Srivari seva volunteers had a tough time supplying drinking water, buttermilk and food packets to those waiting in the queue lines.

The trekking routes from Alipiri and Srivari Mettu also experienced high footfall.

The TTD management appealed to the devotees to take note of the conditions and plan their visit to the temple accordingly.

Tirumala Tirupati De-

People wait for 30 hours for darshan at Tirumala

The Hindu Bureau  
TIRUMALA

A heavy rush of devotees was witnessed at the Lord Venkateswara temple for the second day in a row on Friday.

The waiting time for darshan extended beyond 30 hours as the queue lines stretched to over 4 km outside the Vaikuntam queue complex. The Narayangiri gardens, which has several massive halls that can accommodate over 15,000 devotees, were also packed to capacity.

Tirumala Tirupati De-

## Act strictly against reckless driving: Kerala High Court

The Hindu Bureau  
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday directed the Transport Commissioner to issue a circular asking the enforcement officers to send a message to the drivers of all vehicles that reckless driving will not be tolerated and that they will be made accountable to law to the fullest extent possible.

Justice Devan Ramachandran also observed that recklessness by those at the wheel and their pro-

### An accident of the nature that happened at Vadakkenchery should never occur again, says court

clivity to violate the law should not be tolerated and should be dealt with the most stringent response in law. An accident of the nature that happened at Vadakkenchery should never occur again and for this, action was paramount – not merely ex-

cuses or explanations. No excuse could ever justify the loss of lives on the street and nothing could dry the families' tears.

S. Sreejith, Transport Commissioner, who appeared before the court in response to its directive, submitted that even though a large number of violators were being booked daily, it did not seem to create a tangible result on the ground presumably because the offenders were under the impression that the consequences were a trifle.

M ND-NDE



## Slow lane driving

The World Bank has warned India's uneven recovery could soon falter

**A**t the onset of 2022-23, the Indian economy was expected to grow anywhere between 7.2%, as per Reserve Bank of India projections, and 8.2%, as per the International Monetary Fund forecast, with major rating agencies and financial institutions pegging their projections in the middle. Having bounced back 8.7% last year from a COVID-triggered nadir, the moderation in economic growth was not a big deal even as the ripple effects of the war in Europe had begun and inflation had been high since January. By early September, the range of most forecasts shifted to 6.7%-7.7%. The RBI, Asian Development Bank, and Fitch Ratings have lowered their estimate to 7%. S&P Global Ratings retained its forecast at 7.3% and Moody's Investors Service pared it to 7.6%, but both believe the emerging global slowdown will not derail the post-COVID recovery. The outlook is not so benign anymore, the World Bank has suggested, based on inputs as recent as the last week of September. From its initial expectation of 8% growth this year, which it cut to 7.5% in June, the Bank has laid out a gloomier outlook with growth of just 6.5%, citing the worsening external environment.

After the 13.5% expansion in the April-June quarter, high-frequency economic indicators point to a healthy uptick through August. But growth appears to have stumbled a bit in September with goods exports contracting for the first time since February 2021 and imports growth also slowing sharply, signalling lower domestic demand. The Bank's latest forecast suggests a relative slowdown starting in the October-December quarter, with tighter global liquidity, higher inflation (oil prices are surging again after the OPEC meet) and rising interest rates denting domestic demand. At the same time, the demand for exports will shrink further and private investment will likely prefer to sit out this period of heightened uncertainty. Private consumption, in particular, will be affected this year and next, the Bank has reckoned, especially as the pandemic's scars on income and employment levels persist for rural and low-income households. As many as 56 million Indians may have slipped below the poverty line in 2020, it estimated. The government has been gung-ho about "entering an era of robust growth", but its decision to extend the pandemic-driven free foodgrains programme suggests it realises that not all actors of the economy have managed to get out of the woods yet. This realism should be reflected in other policy choices it makes too, tempering optimism with caution.

## A synthetic click

The chemistry awards show that it pays to rethink the fundamentals

**T**he Nobel Prize for Chemistry has been awarded to Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and Barry Sharpless, the last of whom features in a group of only five to have won the Prize twice. The three chemists have been awarded for pioneering 'click chemistry' or getting molecules that wouldn't normally bond together to do so in an efficient and uncomplicated manner. The 'click' comes from an analogy Sharpless drew of molecules snapping together, like airline seatbelts fitting into their buckles. Historically, chemistry has sought to imitate nature. From medicine to fertilizer, the chemist has sought to make synthetic products that mimic natural molecules. The artificial synthesis of indigo, instead of extraction from plants, had disastrous consequences for colonial India's economy. On the other hand, several molecules have been synthesised in ingenious ways to create drugs and medicines to kill bacteria and relieve pain. The flip side is that these processes are likely laborious, can create unwanted by-products, many toxic. Often, the number of intermediary steps is so great and complicated that the desired result is usually too expensive to be useful.

Sharpless began the conversation, almost immediately after winning his first Nobel Prize, of creating molecular building blocks – like Lego blocks – that could snap together quickly and efficiently. The first breakthrough came when Meldal and Sharpless, independently of each other, discovered what has become the foundational stone of click chemistry, namely the copper catalysed azide-alkyne cycloaddition. Two kinds of chemicals – azides and alkynes – react very efficiently when copper ions are added, Meldal discovered in his Copenhagen laboratory, and form a very stable structure called a triazole. Previous attempts to join azides and alkynes were cumbersome, but the trick this time was copper. From then on, if chemists wanted to link two different molecules, all that was required was to introduce an azide in one molecule and an alkyne in the other. They then snapped the molecules together with the help of some copper ions. This has now become an industry standard. However, Bertozzi took click chemistry to a new dimension and showed that it could be used in living organisms. Copper is toxic to living cells, but she figured out a way to produce a copper-free click reaction, called the strain-promoted azide-alkyne cycloaddition, and showed it could be used to treat tumours. The awards demonstrate that it pays to rethink the fundamentals of a field and persevere at it for long enough to spark a revolution.

# The growth and limitations of Dravidian urbanism

**A**ccounts of Dravidian mobilisation in Tamil Nadu have focused largely on their achievement of economic growth and welfare outcomes. Less recognised is the centrality of urbanisation in distributing the benefits of growth and development relatively more inclusively. T.N.'s urban trajectory has been distinct from most other parts of India on two accounts. One, T.N. has continuously attempted the breakdown of traditional caste-based hierarchies to enable the upward mobility of ordinary people, transforming them into agents of urban transformation. Two, urbanisation in T.N. is more broad-based, being driven by multiple urban centres rather than a few metropolitan cities, as in the case of Maharashtra or Gujarat.

Over the last 70 years, Dravidian parties have capitalised on historical conditions to adopt what appears to be a multi-pronged strategy to transform ordinary people into agents of urban transformation. This includes the provision of physical and social infrastructure to speed up urbanisation; redistributive policies such as affirmative action, particularly in education; and the diffusion of a productivist ethos. These measures are at least partly responsible for the fact that 48.4% of T.N.'s population lives in urban areas compared to the all-India average of 34% (2011 Census). Seven out of eight households rely on the non-farm sector. T.N.'s urban character does not rely on a couple of big metropolitan cities as is the case in Maharashtra or Gujarat; there are multiple urban centres undergirded by a network of small towns and a strong rural-urban linkage. It is important to understand how this was enabled.

**Historical conditions, Dravidian policy**  
As an important colonial city, Madras possessed some industrial strength and physical infrastructure. Later, during K. Kamaraj's regime, T.N. benefited significantly from efforts to build infrastructure for industrial clusters and mass education. The DMK, which came to power in



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Dravidian leaders have perhaps over-emphasised urbanisation as an ideal outcome, while not yet paying sufficient attention to urban processes themselves



GOVARTHAN M.

1967, further expanded the industrial base of T.N.

Agricultural modernisation was spurred by access to irrigation and motorised electrical technology, among other things. Different parts of the State have historically specialised in particular strategic forms of irrigation such as canals and wells. This has led to diversified cropping patterns with distinct crop specialisations emerging in different regions. This made possible the emergence of 'agro-towns' linked to a crop, for processing, marketing, and selling – or entrepreneurship from below.

The interventions of Dravidian parties through physical and social infrastructure further facilitated this transition, while the absence of a dominant trading community – a Vaishya vacuum – allowed for entrepreneurship from lower castes and a 'democratisation of capital'. Investments in infrastructure enabled even artisans to enter industry. Anthropologist Yann Philippe Tastevin shows that carpenters and blacksmiths have become 'self-made engineers', setting up several makeshift repair shops of transport services which have morphed into a truck body-building industry, and further into mobile drilling rig assembly. This has changed the industrial landscapes of Namakkal and Salem districts, illustrating how urbanisation in T.N. has evolved from small towns with each region having a specific industrial cluster. The State has among the highest proportion of Dalit and Backward Caste entrepreneurs, many of them from small towns.

Dravidian discourse saw the village as the site of oppression and the urban as liberating, as opposed to M.K. Gandhi's vision of village reconstruction. Dravidian mobilisation worked on two planks. The first was the diffusion of a productivist ethos that broke down existing social hierarchies and helped imagine new social relations. The second was public investments in infrastructure which allowed the entry of diverse actors into the domain of capital accumulation.

The development of amenities – transport connectivity, access to electricity and medical and educational facilities – has been relatively impressive and widely spread across T.N. Some significant illustrations include the increase in the percentage of minor roads from 47% in 1961 to 80% in 1991. Thanks to policy interventions to build broad-based road transport infrastructure, including a network of minibuses, T.N. has linked rural and urban areas and expanded the scope for non-farm livelihood options for rural households. Similarly, connecting villages to towns helped people access employment outside, loosening caste ties to an extent.

While the postcolonial Indian state relied on planning apparatuses to spur development, it couldn't alter the pathways of outcomes. The

Congress in T.N. worked with inherited colonial and elite-controlled bureaucratic structures and procedures. After the DMK came to power, policy agendas began to be driven by what were thought to be the needs and demands of the people. Over the next few decades, there was increased recruitment from backward and Dalit castes, and from small towns and rural areas, in government services. This increased the administration's responsiveness to the needs and aspirations of the marginalised. The conservative financial management of the State was overhauled to accommodate welfare distribution by the State.

While this urban transformation was in line with the Dravidian vision of moving the subaltern out of caste-bound occupations, those unable to make the transition had to be provided with a degree of social protection. The State was indeed a pioneer in the creation of a vibrant public distribution system and welfare boards which provide informal workers a host of protections.

### The road forward

Liberalisation provided a shot in the arm to existing manufacturing industries, such as textile and leather, and also spurred service industries such as IT. All of this led to further urbanisation. The gains that had been made over decades in the growth of technical education, reservations for middle and lower castes in higher education and public health, to name a few, paved the way for more people to benefit from liberalisation in economic, social and geographical terms.

However, poverty has now been urbanised, with new, precarious jobs created largely in the informal sector. This indicates that the rate of dispossession from traditional and farm-based occupations has been higher than that of creation of decent jobs in urban areas, pointing to the urgency in the need for urban employment guarantees. While caste hierarchies have weakened to an extent, caste segregation continues, including in urban T.N. The DMK regime has come under rightful criticism for allowing eviction of the urban poor from Chennai, while simultaneously touting the successes of the Dravidian model.

Dravidian leaders have perhaps over-emphasised urbanisation as an ideal outcome, while not paying sufficient attention to urban processes themselves. The absence of adequate participatory governance, such as in the form of the implementation of the 74th Amendment, has only increased dependence on the bureaucracy and political actors, rather than empowering people. Dravidian urbanisation now has to contend with these structural problems, as well as rampant rent seeking, especially in natural resources, to repair the chinks in the face of T.N.'s relatively better development outcomes.

# The atrophy of the neo-Buddhist movement in India

**E**very year in October, thousands of people assemble at Nagpur's Deekshabhoomi to pay homage to B.R. Ambedkar and remember the historic day of October 14, 1956, when he and half a million of his followers embraced Buddhism. Ambedkar chose Buddhism after examining various religions to understand the suitability of each to liberate socially marginalised communities from the exploitative caste order. He found that Buddhism is rooted in India's civilization, supplements modern ethical values and is averse to social hierarchies and patriarchal domination. Neo-Buddhism was proposed as a mass movement that would elevate former 'Untouchables' and help them achieve self-respect. He hoped that Buddhist principles would mobilise them into a robust community to battle the ruling Brahmanical elites.

**Struggles of neo-Buddhism**  
Neo-Buddhism emerged as a maverick phenomenon that offered strong psychological solace to the struggling Dalit masses. However, Ambedkar's grand hopes remain unfulfilled. Today, the Buddhist population in India is one of the smallest minorities, its ideological challenge against the Hindu social order has not been taken seriously, and even within the Dalit community, conversion to Buddhism is not perceived as a suitable path to achieve social emancipation. Instead, it is the BJP that often fashions itself as the new torchbearer of Buddhist identity.

A large majority (close to 80%) of Indian Buddhists resides in Maharashtra. The neo-Buddhists have established social and educational institutions, initiated cultural movements, and organised popular public festivals to make Buddhism a visible force in Maharashtra's public sphere. However, it is



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Revisiting the ideals of Ambedkar's neo-Buddhist movement can be helpful in building fierce ideological challenges to Hindutva's understanding of history and culture

mainly the Mahar caste and recently, smaller sections within the Matang and the Maratha castes which have identified themselves as neo-Buddhists. Other socially marginalised groups are still defined by Hindu caste nomenclature and traditional occupations.

The Dalit sociopolitical movements in States including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have also not promoted conversion to Buddhism. In U.P., during the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)'s regime, cultural symbols related to Buddhism, such as the Rashtriya Dalit Prerna Sthal and Green Garden, were erected in public spaces, but there was still hesitation in suggesting religious conversion as an alternative to fight the battle for social justice. Even in States where the Scheduled Caste population is relatively high, such as in Punjab, West Bengal and Odisha, Dalits have shown restraint in adopting Buddhism to challenge their social location.

Importantly, India's neighbouring Buddhist countries also have not identified neo-Buddhists as significant partners in their theological engagements. Several Buddhist countries have built their own pagodas and temples in Bodh Gaya and are more concerned with adding new sites in India's Buddhist Circuit. Certain individuals and Buddhist associations from Japan, Thailand and the U.K. have established some close links with the neo-Buddhists of Maharashtra, but this is small support.

**Appropriation by the right wing**  
Interestingly, it is the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre that has often presented itself as the promoter of Buddhist cultural heritage at the national and international levels. In overseas diplomatic gatherings, Mr. Modi has frequently invoked India's ancient

Buddhist identity, especially in China, Nepal, Myanmar and Japan. Mr. Modi has made a conscious effort to emphasise shared Buddhist heritage with these countries. He also visited Deekshabhoomi in 2017, paid rich tributes to Ambedkar and announced multiple developmental projects. It is his government that proposed a Buddhist Circuit.

Theoretically, the neo-Buddhist movement is seen as an ideological and intellectual challenge to the dominant social and political ideas of the ruling elites. Interestingly, within the Hindutva discourse, Buddhism has been appropriated as an integral part of greater 'Indic Civilization' and the Buddhist conversion movement has not been seen as antithetical to the Hindu cultural pantheon. Further, Hindutva forces, using assertive cultural strategies, overtly appropriate crucial Dalit-Bahujan icons and underplay the fierce ideological antagonism that the early Dalit movement had against the Hindu social order.

When right-wing forces are asserting their Hindu identity to build a monolithic majoritarian community, a popular deliberation on Ambedkar's logic of conversion to Buddhism would have helped the Opposition, including the popular Dalit political class, to challenge such hegemonic appropriation. Independent cultural and religious strategies are crucial in building a challenge to the dominant narrative of Hindutva.

However, the current Opposition lacks effective cultural strategies to challenge right-wing assertion. Instead, it still uses the same old formal electoral strategies, as we are seeing in Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's current Bharat Jodo Yatra. In this context, revisiting the ideals of Ambedkar's neo-Buddhist movement can be helpful in building fierce ideological challenges to Hindutva's understanding of history and culture.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Xinjiang and geopolitics

Some Muslim-majority countries such as Pakistan, Qatar and the UAE voted against a debate on alleged widespread abuses in Xinjiang in China ("UN Human Rights Council rejects debate on Xinjiang," Oct. 7). Pakistan uses any and every opportunity to bring up Kashmir on various fora and even commented on the Babri Masjid ruling, to show its alleged solidarity with Muslims, but is willing to sacrifice Muslim

community interests in this instance because it cannot let down its all-weather friend China under any circumstance. The vote shows how geopolitics trumps everything else.

J.P. Reddy,  
Nalgonda

**Debating the Cholas**  
The row over Ponniyin Selvan is relevant ("Director's comments stir debate on religion, identity," Oct. 7). Cinema is an important art form which

can influence people in many ways. Redefining Hinduism by staking claim on historical figures is a trend now. And creating rifts between individuals and groups by doing this is also a trend. The Chola kings supported Buddhism, Jainism, Saivism and Vaishnavism. The Choodamani Vihara in Nagapattinam was built by King Raja Raja Chola. Rajendra Chola established Buddhist pallis. Therefore, to only emphasise that

these kings were 'Hindus' is an attempt to diminish their great legacy of tolerance and brotherhood. India today could take a leaf from the past.

Apoorva Johnson Panakkal,  
Thrissur

**A new party on the block**  
K. Chandrasekhar Rao's move to transform the Telangana Rashtra Samithi to a Bharat Rashtra Samithi is bold ("Telangana CM foray into national politics receives mixed response," Oct. 7). The AAP was born in Delhi, but it has quickly gained ground and even won the Assembly elections in Punjab. What worked for it in Punjab was the trust of the voters in its ability to replicate the 'Delhi model'. Mr. Rao is dreaming big, but there is a lot of work for him to get the BRS to succeed on such a scale. Other parties like the Trinamool Congress also have grand ambitions, but have not managed to win outside their State. But before



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Letters emailed to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

rushing to judge the fate of the BRS, we need to watch what Mr. Rao does.

S.S. Paul,  
Nadia

# GROUND ZERO



A view of the Milky Way galaxy behind the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle in Ladakh.  
MOORTHY RV

## Where the stars must not twinkle

Clean skies, high altitude and complete darkness are vital for India's cutting-edge astronomical observatory in Ladakh's Hanle village. **Jacob Koshy** reports on the challenges in having it declared an International Dark Sky Reserve, and the efforts to make residents stakeholders in the process

Srinivasa Ramanujan was 'discovered' twice in the 20th century. The first was when English mathematician G.H. Hardy 'discovered' the genius mathematician in 1914; and the second was when Indian astronomers in India, led by R. Rajamohan, discovered an asteroid that was later named 4130 Ramanujan. It was the first time in 104 years that asteroids were discovered from India. Their instrument, the 45-cm Schmidt telescope, was housed on the Javadi hills in Kavalur, Tamil Nadu.

This spot is today the Vainu Bappu Observatory and is run by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, and is among India's foremost observatories. It was chosen in the 1960s because it was an impressive 750 metres above sea level, located amid a forest and offered fairly unobstructed vistas of the night sky.

But this wasn't ideal. Kavalur's geography put it in the path of both monsoonal clouds, during June-September and the returning, or northeast, monsoon in November, forcing the observatory to often shut down for months. Rainclouds absorb starlight and radiation from cosmic objects, preventing them from being caught on the telescopes of cameras. So IIA scientists began their search in the early 1980s for a place least affected by the monsoon.

To be able to detect stars or traces of cosmic phenomena, such as supernovae or nebulae from light years away, astronomers must be able to catch the faintest slivers of their radiation that often lie outside the range of visible light. Such radiation is, however, easily absorbed by water vapour and so it helps to have a telescope high above ground where the atmosphere is drier. "A dry, high-altitude desert is in many ways the ideal location," says Annapurni Subramaniam, Director of the IIA. "Such terrain is difficult and quite inaccessible. We commissioned several expeditions and teams to different parts of the Himalayas and finally Hanle, Ladakh was chosen."

### In the high ranges of Ladakh

A largely smooth double-lane highway from Leh, the capital of Ladakh, to Hanle cuts through a valley scooped out of the mountains of the Ladakh range and the teal-coloured Indus. Army units and border check-posts punctuate the landscape that opens out into the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, where you can spot the occasional herd of the Tibetan wild ass and swarms of leaf warblers. As the road ascends, a smattering of hamlets, surrounded by pasture land, comes into view with herds of Changthangi sheep, the

source of pashmina wool.

Hanle is already in a wildlife sanctuary and developing it as such a reserve would encourage a newer kind of tourism, or astro-tourism

**PAWAN KOTWAL**  
Principal Secretary, Ladakh Administration

Situated at 14,000 ft above sea level and a little over 250 km southeast of Leh, Hanle is a village of about 320 houses and a population of about 1,500, according to Paljor Tharchin, the sarpanch of Hanle.

Against the backdrop of a blue sky flecked with cottony clouds, two huge metallic capsules – one higher than the other – incongruously rise out of the hills. Next to them, satellite dishes, like ushers, point to the sky. From here, a tarred road spirals down about 900 ft to flat land where makeshift cabins and a small building serve as ancillaries to a giant, parabolic dish that is a complex of a thousand mirrors bathed white in sunlight, resting on criss-crossing steel frames of red and blue. Men, some perched, some dangling on the beams, weave out of the meshes of this honeycomb structure.

Facing this are what look like seven concrete cannons, one in the centre and six surrounding it. Each has seven mirrors that together resemble a robot-contingent of photographers training their apertures at some uncertain blink-and-you-will-miss cosmic event.

This entire set-up, laid out on the mountain called Digpa-Ratsa Ri, aka Mt Saraswati, comprises the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO). The multicoloured dish is the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment Telescope (MACE) built by a consortium of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, the Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. and the IIA. The dish, with a diameter of 21 m, is the second largest of its kind in the world and the only one at such an elevation. Its goal is to detect Cherenkov radiation from space.

This is a special kind of light from gamma rays, or the most energetic sources of radiation, that can result from dying stars or several galactic events. The seven-telescope contingent, called HAGAR (High Altitude Gamma Ray), also looks at Cherenkov radiation, although at a lower range of energies. The metallic capsule, the highest of the observatories, is the Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT), the oldest and active since 2000. An optical-infrared telescope with a 2-metre lens is designed to detect light from the visible range of the electromagnetic spectrum as well as that just below it, or the infra-red spectrum. The second capsule, situated slightly lower than the HCT, is the GROWTH-India telescope, a 70-cm telescope made by IIA and the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai that is equipped to track cosmic events that unfurl over time, such as afterglows of a gamma ray burst or tracking the path of asteroids. Because of the wide span of frequencies covered collectively, the IAO provides multiple vantage points to observe a range of cosmic phenomena and investigate the mysteries of the universe. Telescopes with small diameters

generally can track a greater swath of sky but those with larger diameters can peer deeper when trained towards desired locations.

The flip-side of Hanle's seclusion, making it ideal for astronomy, is the weather and climate. The altitude means that atmospheric oxygen is low, making one prone to mountain sickness.

Among the recommended paraphernalia on a trip to Hanle are cans of oxygen cylinders. The desiccated air that helps the telescope catch ephemeral interstellar light translates to sub-zero winters for at least six months of the year. The summer months from April to September have cold, windy nights, and with no access to the electric grid, the eager stargazer must brave runny noses and chills.

The IAO telescopes, however, can be controlled remotely via a satellite link. Whatever the weather, astronomers at the IIA's Centre for Research and Education in Science and Technology (CREST), about 35 km from Bengaluru, can manoeuvre the HCT to face their desired spot of sky. The other instruments too are equipped to be remotely controlled. While the HCT is manned 24/7, those on site are required only for maintenance and not for using the telescopes. Researchers who want a shot at using the instruments must apply, in fact compete, for observation time made available in quarterly slots; the applications are scrutinised by scientific committees.

"The available time is over-subscribed three times. Every astronomer, even when they have their own telescopes, applies to use these because of the quality of sky and the large number of viewable nights that the telescopes offer. It is their bread and butter," says Subramaniam.

In recent years, these telescopes have helped gain a better understanding of a system of Earth-sized planets orbiting the TRAPPIST-1 star, about 40 light years away from Earth, as well as gravitational waves that resulted from the collision of neutron stars from a billion years ago, she adds.

### The play of light and dark

While these sophisticated instruments and their images are manipulated by scientists, all that novice visitors have to do to realise they are in a special place is look up at the night sky. At least 300 nights a year, the clouds would have been swept away, and the vista looks as if some invisible, giant being had kicked up a sand-storm of stars. Contrary to the thumb rule that 'the lights

We commissioned several expeditions and teams to different parts of the Himalayas and finally Hanle, Ladakh was chosen

**ANNAPOURNI SUBRAMANIAM**  
Director, IIA

that twinkle are stars, those that don't are planets', the sky is studded with unblinking lights.

Twinkling stars imply starlight is being bounced around by atmospheric gases, dust and water vapour, and therefore obscuring to us on land its origins. At Hanle, the thinner air and the elevation means starlight is relatively unimpeded until it descends into the lower, more polluted stretches below.

"You don't need your phone's flashlight to navigate here. Close your eyes, clear out the artificial light, absorb the darkness, and open them. You'll see everything," says Dorje Angchuk. As chief engineer at IIA, Angchuk, a native of Leh and the person in-charge of the HCT systems, has made countless trips to Hanle in the last quarter century and been closely involved in the installation of IAO telescopes.

In the last couple of years, he has curated an avidly-followed Twitter stream of night-sky photo-

tographs of Hanle. Over the last several months, particularly since Ladakh was marked out as a distinct Union Territory from Jammu and Kashmir, he has been in the thick of a project that will shape the future of Hanle.

### Dark Sky Reserve

"Light is the enemy," says Pawan Kotwal, Principal Secretary in the Ladakh Administration, referring to the phenomenon of light pollution in which artificial light from cities and home electrification have obscured the natural night sky. Recent studies show that clouds, the biggest reflectors of sunlight, scatter artificial light from ground-based sources, amplifying light pollution.

For astronomy, a discipline that hinges on the wisps of light, artificial sources of light are contaminants. Thubstan Rinchen, the officer in charge of MACE, said in an IIA-commissioned documentary that light from, say, the high beam of a vehicle at night would flood the sensors of the telescope. Separating this light from that collected as part of experiments is a cumbersome process and results in loss of scientific data.

Hanle, as it currently stands, is largely shrouded in darkness. Disconnected from the electric grid, solar panels and a diesel generator are the only sources of electricity. Hanle only gets electricity from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. The freezing months, says Padma Lazo, who runs a homestay here, can see temperatures dip to minus 40°C, though cookstoves and dung provide heat. "We don't need electricity all the time but better jobs and schools for our children would be welcome."

Ladakh's recent Union Territory status, a government eager to expand economic opportunities via tourism and the Indian Army expanding its infrastructure development, lighting to bolster its defence at the India-China border which is not far away – all these are challenges in keeping light from seeping into Hanle.

To strike a balance, the Ladakh government along with the IIA and India's Scientific Ministries is laying the groundwork to have Hanle declared as an International Dark Sky Reserve by the International Dark-Sky Association. Since 1988, the U.S.-based non-profit has been advocating the cause of minimising light pollution and certifies places where night skies are least polluted as International Dark Sky Reserves or sanctuaries.

"The average tourist visits for high roads, exotic landscape, and the Pangong Lake. Hanle is already in a wildlife sanctuary and developing it as such a reserve would encourage a newer kind of tourism, or astro-tourism," says Kotwal. "The most important condition, however, is that it must have the support of the local community."

In the weeks ahead, amateur and professional astronomers have been roped in by the IIA and the local government to give talks on constellations to villagers. As many as 18 telescopes will be set up in village clusters, and homestay owners trained in elementary astronomy to guide astro-tourists. Villagers will also be given dark curtains to minimise outgoing light from residences. The roads will be installed with light delineators.

Having been promised electrification in two years and funds from the government to improve their homes to homestays, residents of the village say they would be happy to comply with light restrictions. "That's not a problem for us. However, more than residential lights, it's the light from Army bases that are actually stronger. That should be managed too," says Tharchin, who is also a religious head at a nearby monastery.

Kotwal and Angchuk say Commanding Officers of the units have "readily agreed to comply".

"We have a long-standing relationship with the community and they were involved in construction of the existing facilities," says Subramaniam.



soon in November, forcing the observatory to often shut down for months. Rainclouds absorb starlight and radiation from cosmic objects, preventing them from being caught on the telescopes of cameras. So IIA scientists began their search in the early 1980s for a place least affected by the monsoon.

To be able to detect stars or traces of cosmic phenomena, such as supernovae or nebulae from light years away, astronomers must be able to catch the faintest slivers of their radiation that often lie outside the range of visible light. Such radiation is, however, easily absorbed by water vapour and so it helps to have a telescope high above ground where the atmosphere is drier. "A dry, high-altitude desert is in many ways the ideal location," says Annapurni Subramaniam, Director of the IIA. "Such terrain is difficult and quite inaccessible. We commissioned several expeditions and teams to different parts of the Himalayas and finally Hanle, Ladakh was chosen."

### In the high ranges of Ladakh

A largely smooth double-lane highway from Leh, the capital of Ladakh, to Hanle cuts through a valley scooped out of the mountains of the Ladakh range and the teal-coloured Indus. Army units and border check-posts punctuate the landscape that opens out into the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, where you can spot the occasional herd of the Tibetan wild ass and swarms of leaf warblers. As the road ascends, a smattering of hamlets, surrounded by pasture land, comes into view with herds of Changthangi sheep, the

**From Page One****Panel to study SC status of converted Dalits**

These will include examining their traditions, customs, social and other forms of discrimination and how and whether they have changed as a result of the conversion.

Noting that several representatives of existing SC communities have staunchly opposed the inclusion of converts to other religions, the government has also tasked the Justice Balakrishnan Commission with examining the impact of such a decision on these existing SC communities.

The petitions challenging the religion criterion for inclusion have cited several independent commission reports since the First Backward Classes Commission headed by Kaka Kalekar in 1955 that have documented the existence of caste and caste discrimination among Indian Christians and Indian Muslims, concluding that Dalit converts continued to face the same social disabilities even after leaving the Hindu fold. These include the Report of the Committee on Untouchability Economic and Educational Development Of The Scheduled Castes in 1969, the HPP report on SCs, STs, and Minorities in 1983, the Ranganath Mishra Commission Report, among others.

In an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court in November 2019, the Union government had refused to accept these reports as evidence of continued social disabilities due to caste identity.

The Kalekar Commission Report and the 1983 HPP Report were the basis for amending the Order to include Dalit Sikhs and Dalit Buddhists as SCs in 1956 and 1990 respectively.

**Nobel for Belarus, Russia, Ukraine rights champions**

The Nobel committee's choice marked a stinging criticism of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The committee called on Belarus to release Mr. Bialatski, 60, the founder of rights group Viasna whose work has charted the increasingly authoritarian tendencies of President Alexander Lukashenko, a Russian ally.

Memorial has been compiling information on political oppression and rights violations in Russia. Ukraine's Center for Civil Liberties has documented "Russian war crimes against the Ukrainian civilian population", the committee said.

**Video** | What led Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, to set up the Nobel Prize?  
» [bit.ly/3Cf3uHe](http://bit.ly/3Cf3uHe)

**IN BRIEF****CBI files chargesheet against Lalu Prasad, Rabri Devi**

The CBI has filed a chargesheet against former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad, his wife Rabri Devi and 14 others in connection with an alleged land-for-jobs scam during his tenure in the Railways, officials said on Friday. Mr. Prasad's daughter Misa Bharti and a former general manager of the Railways have also been named as accused in the chargesheet filed before a special CBI court recently, they said. PTI

**PM using empty slogans despite rising poverty: Cong.**

Citing the World Bank report that flagged worsening of poverty numbers in India during the COVID pandemic and downgraded the country economic growth forecast, the Congress on Friday alleged that the situation doesn't worry the Prime Minister as he is still resorting to "empty slogans". Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinivas said, "Now, given the Modi government's nature, it may be perceived as an international conspiracy against India..."

**Two Army personnel killed in tank barrel burst**

Two Army personnel were killed after the barrel of a T-90 tank burst during the annual firing exercise at Babina Field Firing Ranges. "During the annual firing at Babina Field Firing Ranges on October 06, a tank barrel burst took place. The crew was provided immediate medical aid and evacuated to Military Hospital Babina," the Army said in a statement. "The Commander and the Gunner unfortunately succumbed to burn injuries. The Driver is out of danger and under treatment." The incident is under investigation.

**Kharge rejects remark that he will be controlled by Gandhi family**

**The Hindu Bureau**

AHMEDABAD

The Congress Presidential candidate Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said he will work with other party leaders if elected to the post of president of the Indian National Congress.

He also dismissed that the Gandhi family will "remote control" him and he will be their puppet president.

He arrived in Gujarat to canvass for his candidature and met the AICC delegates who will cast their vote in the presidential polls of the party in which he is pitted against the party's parliamentarian and former Union Minister Shashi Tharoor.

"A lot of people say I am a remote control and work from behind. They say I will do what Sonia Gandhi will say. There is no such thing as remote control in Congress; people take decisions together," he said.

In fact, he suggested that the BJP was being remote controlled by the PM.

"How many times has the BJP held an internal election to elect its president?" he asked, adding nobody knows how the BJP president is appointed.

"When I will be elected as Congress president, the remote control will stay with me and everyone will work as per the party's organisational structure," he asserted.

# Ahead of Assembly poll, Congress in Gujarat faces defections, lack of focus

Congress's internal organisational election and Rahul Gandhi's *Bharat Jodo Yatra* appear to be the immediate top priority for the party; none of the prominent leaders visited during *Navratri*

**Mahesh Langa**

AHMEDABAD

**I**t is less than two months before Gujarat faces the Assembly election, but the main Opposition Congress appears grappling with defections by senior leaders and legislators and lack of direction from the top leadership in India.

Its State unit has been trying to remain in shape to take on the ruling BJP and new entrant Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal leading the campaigning for their parties.

For the Congress top brass, the party's internal organisational election and Rahul Gandhi's *Bharat Jodo Yatra* appear to be the immediate top priority and they have remained occupied with these ongoing activities.

Before kickstarting his yatra from Kanniyakumari, Mr. Gandhi addressed a rally in Ahmedabad on September 5 in which he announced a range of electoral sops such as free electricity and farm debt waiver.

He is now unlikely to come for campaigning be-



**Making rounds:** Rahul Gandhi during his Sabarmati Ashram visit in Ahmedabad on September 5. VIJAY SONEJI

cause of the yatra he is leading. So far, Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have also not joined the campaign, leaving the State leaders to manage on their own.

**Badly needed visibility**  
The State party leaders

were hoping that Ms. Gandhi would visit a few *Garba* venues during Navratri in Ahmedabad and other places which would have helped the party in getting visibility that it badly requires as at present the BJP and the AAP are hogging the limelight.

Also, Rajasthan Chief

Minister Ashok Gehlot, who has been appointed AICC senior observer for the party in Gujarat for the Assembly polls, remains occupied in his own State because of the unexpected political developments there, leaving not much time for Gujarat.

Many Congress leaders in Gujarat feel that the high command has not accorded due importance to the Assembly poll compared to the BJP and the AAP whose top leaders are criss-crossing the State.

So far, since March this year, Mr. Modi has visited the State 12 times and held rallies or roadshows and launched new projects or

inaugurated completed ones in a dozen different places while Mr. Kejriwal has been to the State almost two dozen times. Both leaders are now visiting Gujarat almost once a week.

In such situations, the State unit is witnessing defections from its rank. This week, its senior legislator Harshad Riba joined the BJP. Earlier in July, a prominent tribal leader and three-time legislator Ashwin Kotwal had resigned and joined the ruling party. In between, working president of the State and Patidar quota agitation leader Hardik Patel defected to the saffron camp. Former Rajya Sabha member Raju Parmar and former leader of Opposition in the Assembly Naresh Raval joined the BJP.

After the 2017 Assembly poll, as many as 17 sitting Congress legislators have joined the BJP, bringing down the party's strength from 78 to just 61 now.

Meanwhile, according to insiders, five to six more legislators are likely to go to the other camp in the days to come. "We are aware that a few more leaders will join the BJP," said Raghu Sharma, AICC in charge of Gujarat.

**EC seeks Uddhav's response on party symbol controversy**

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India on Friday asked former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to submit his response by 2 p.m. on Saturday in the dispute between him and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde about who controls the Shiv Sena. The two factions have claimed that they represent the real Shiv Sena and were asked by the EC to submit any documents to support their claims by Friday.

The EC said the group led by Mr. Shinde had on Tuesday sent an application asking for the party's "bow and arrow" symbol to be allotted for the ongoing by-election to Andheri East Assembly constituency. "In case no reply is received, the Commission will take appropriate action in the matter accordingly," the EC said.

Meanwhile, Uddhav Thackeray on Friday informed the EC that the faction led by Mr. Shinde cannot claim the symbol as he and legislators in the camp had voluntarily quit the party. "Their primary membership was cancelled after they voluntarily quit the party. So, technically they are no longer associated with Shiv Sena and cannot claim the symbol," Uddhav loyalist and Rajya Sabha MP Anil Desai told *The Hindu*.

## Petitioner moves court for FIR copy in PFI case

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday asked the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to respond to a plea seeking a copy of an FIR registered against alleged members of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) in a case lodged under the anti-terror law.

Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta gave the order on a petition filed by Mohammad Yusuff, who was arrested from his residence in Chennai on September 22 in a case lodged under the Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act [UAPA].

Mr. Yusuff sought a copy of the FIR lodged by the agency, a copy of the grounds of arrest of each of the accused, and a copy of the remand applications filed before the trial court.

"At the time of arrest, the respondent [NIA] did not communicate to the petitioner [Mr. Yusuff] any particulars of the offence or grounds of arrest, in clear violation of the statutory mandate under Section 50 of the Code of Criminal Procedure read with Article 22(1) of the Constitution," the plea noted.

"As per the MoP [Memorandum of Procedure] on appointment of Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court Judges, today the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice sent a letter to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India for sending his recommendations for appointment of his successor.

"The letter kick-starts the appointment process for the 50th Chief Justice of India. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud is next in line to be

## Centre seeks CJI's recommendation on appointment of his successor

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Law and Justice on October 7, 2022 sought Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit's recommendation for appointment of his successor.

"As per the MoP [Memorandum of Procedure] on appointment of Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court Judges, today the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice sent a letter to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India for sending his recommendations for appointment of his successor.

"The letter kick-starts the appointment process for the 50th Chief Justice of India. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud is next in line to be



**Chief Justice U.U. Lalit**

cordingance with the seniority norm.

The process of appointment, according to the 'Memorandum of Procedure of Appointment of Supreme Court Judges', begins with the Union Law Minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI about the next appointment.

The Minister has to seek the CJI's recommendation "at the appropriate time". The Memorandum does not elaborate or specify a timeline. Usually, the Law Minister sends his request and the outgoing CJI makes

his recommendation with a month to spare before his retirement. Chief Justice Lalit is set to retire on November 8, which leaves him hardly 15 working days.

The appointment process for the next Chief Justice of India has begun at a time when four names are under consideration of the collegium for appointment as Supreme Court judges.

The Minister has to seek the CJI's recommendation "at the appropriate time". The Memorandum does not elaborate or specify a timeline. Usually, the Law Minister sends his request and the outgoing CJI makes

**'Varna and caste system should be discarded'**

**Press Trust of India**

NAGPUR

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday said the concepts like *varna* and *jati* [caste] should be completely discarded. Speaking at a book release function here, he said the caste system has no relevance now.

In "Vajrasuchi Tunk" written by Dr. Madan Kulkarni and Dr. Renuka Bokare, the RSS chief said social equality was a part of the Indian tradition, but it was forgotten and led to damaging consequences.

Referring to the claim that the *varna* and caste system originally did not have discrimination and had its uses, Mr. Bhagwat said if today someone asked about these institutions, the answer must be that "it is past, let's forget it."

## Varanasi court defers order on petition filed by Hindu plaintiffs in Gyanvapi case

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Varanasi district court on Friday deferred the order on an application filed by some of the Hindu plaintiffs in the Gyanvapi mosque-Kashi Vishwanath temple civil dispute seeking "scientific investigation" of the disputed structure reportedly found inside the mosque premises in May.

While the Hindu plaintiffs have claimed that the structure is a *shivling*, the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee has insisted that the structure is part of four of the five plaintiffs, submitted before the court that their application for "scientific investigation" was rooted in the condition that no damage be caused to the structure in question.

District Judge A.K. Vishvesha had at the last hearing reserved his orders and was expected to deliver the order on Friday, when all

parties had shown up in court. The application sought "scientific investigation", including carbon-dating of the structure, reportedly found during a court-ordered video survey of the mosque in May.

**Only one condition**

On Friday, advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, who had sought the tests on behalf of the five plaintiffs, submitted before the court that their application for "scientific investigation" was rooted in the condition that no damage be caused to the structure in question.

The lead plaintiff in the case—Rakhi Singh—had also objected to the application, arguing that carbon-dating would destroy the structure, rendering it not worthy of worship.

## Two with terror links arrested in Mohali grenade attack case

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

On May 9, a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at the Punjab Police Special Cell headquarters in Mohali in Punjab.

During investigation, it was established that the attack was a conspiracy of Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), backed by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and local gangsters.

The attackers were identified as a juvenile and one Deepak, a resident of Surrakhpur in Haryana. "It was also established that the attack was orchestrated by gangster-turned-ISI stooge Harvinder Singh alias Rinda," the Special CP said.

Arshdeep was wanted in the IED recovery case of Shahabad in Kurukshestra and IED-recovered case at Sirhind police station in Punjab and other narcotic and arms cases.

## India objects to recent visit of U.S. Ambassador to PoK

**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

India has objected to the United States over the recent visit of the American Ambassador to Pakistan's visit to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), said the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday.

Reacting to the visit in early October, which the U.S. referred to as "AJK (Azaad or 'Free' Jammu Kashmir) of Ambassador David Blome to Muzaffarabad and other areas across the Line of Control (LoC) that India recognises as its territory, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that India had objected to both the visit and the meetings Mr. Blome held there.

In a press release about the visit from October 2-5, the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad said it aimed to "promote U.S.-Pakistan partnership and highlight the two countries' deep economic, cultural, and people-to-people ties", detailing the U.S. projects and investments in the area.

"Our objection to the visit and meetings in PoJK (Pakistan Occupied Jammu Kashmir) by the U.S. Ambassador in Pakistan has been conveyed to the U.S.

side", Mr. Bagchi said in response to a question by *The Hindu*, but did not give details of the objection or how it was conveyed.

No American Ambassador has been posted to New Delhi since January 2021, when the Trump administration nominee Kenneth Juster demitted office due to issues with the confirmation of the Biden nominee Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, and it is unclear if the issues will be resolved before the mid-term elections in the U.S. in November, which could delay the process further.

**Concern on fighter jets**  
To a query, the MEA spokesperson said that India's concerns over the U.S. package on support for F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan remained, despite the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's assertion that Pakistan used the F-16s for counter-terrorism operations. On the U.S. decision on September 29 to sanction an Indian company Mumbai-based Talibai Petrotech for the alleged import of oil from Iran, the MEA said it was a "new development" and the government was looking into it.

# Respect and guarantee human rights to Uighurs of Xinjiang, says MEA

Statement comes a day after India abstained on voting on a draft resolution at the 51st Regular Session at the United Nations Human Rights Council to hold a debate on the subject

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**

NEW DELHI

India on Friday addressed the issue of the Uighurs of Xinjiang directly for the first time saying that the community's human rights should be "respected".

Official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi said that the government of India had taken "note" of the human rights "assessment" of Xinjiang that was earlier presented by the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) in a 46-page report. "The human rights of the people of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region should be respected and guaranteed. We hope that the relevant party will address the situation objectively and properly," he said. India has generally avoided commenting on the reported crackdown on the Uighurs in Xinjiang. This policy was evident



**Demanding justice:** Members of Uighurs and other communities offering prayers at the Id Kah Mosque in Xinjiang region. FILE PHOTO

in 2016, when India issued a visa for leading Uighur activist Dolkun Isa but cancelled it at the last moment preventing him from traveling to Delhi.

The statement from the MEA came a day after India abstained on voting on a draft resolution at the 51st Regular Session at the United Nations Human Rights Council to hold a debate on the human rights situation in Xinjiang. The resolution was sponsored by the U.S., Finland, and other members of the western group

importance of the OHCHR's report on Xinjiang that had drawn China's strong opposition earlier.

"We have taken note of the OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China," said Mr. Bagchi.

The delay to release the OHCHR's report which contains details of atrocities against the Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang was criticised by Amnesty International that had sought international investigation into the findings.

"Now that the OHCHR has finally made its findings public, it is time for the UN Human Rights Council to set up an independent international mechanism to investigate these crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations in Xinjiang," Amnesty said in a statement earlier.

In a rare gesture, Mr. Bagchi also recognised the

## Six Indian prisoners died in Pakistan in last 9 months: Centre

**Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI

Six Indian prisoners, who completed their jail terms, died in Pakistan in the last nine months and India has raised the "alarming" issue with Islamabad, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said five of the six Indians were fisher-

men. "Six Indians, five of them fishermen, died in Pakistani custody in the last nine months or so," he said. "All the six had completed their sentences, but what we would say, were illegally detained by Pakistan despite completing their sentences and in spite of multiple demands by the Indian side for their release and repatriation," Mr. Bagchi added.

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**NOTIFICATION**  
59th Post-Graduate Certificate Course in Nutrition (PGCCN) will be held from 9th January to 22nd March 2023. Download application from website of NIN https://www.nin.res.in. Filled-in form should reach NIN before 1st November 2022. For any further details, please contact Tel. No. 040-27197247 & 040-27197311 (10.00 am to 5.00 pm), email: petinthyd@yahoo.com. Sd/- SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

## GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH DEPARTMENT OF MPP & POWER

### GLOBAL INVITATION OF BIDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

#### NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS

The Governor, Himachal Pradesh invites proposals from 'Eligible Bidders' for the implementation of the following Hydro-electric Projects, in Private Sector on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis:-

#### LIST OF PROJECTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION ON BOOT BASIS UNDER PVT. SECTOR

PART-I PROJECTS WHERE DPRs ARE READY					
Sr. No.	Name of Project	Tentative Capacity	River / Stream / Basin	District	Remarks
1	Sal-I	6.5 MW	Sal/Ravi Basin	Chamba	DPR Prepared
2	Malana-III	30 MW	Beas	Kullu	DPR Prepared
3	Dhancho	18 MW	Ravi	Chamba	DPR Prepared
4	Hurl-I	9.4 MW	Beas Basin	Kullu	DPR Prepared
5	Kurpan-III	14.6 MW	KurpanKhad	Kullu	DPR Prepared
<b>Sub Total (I)</b>		<b>78.5 MW</b>			

#### PART-II PROJECTS WHERE IRs/PFRs ARE READY FEASIBILITY TO BE ASCERTAINED BY IPPs

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Tentative Capacity	River / Stream / Basin	District	Remarks
6	Me	7.5MW	Chenab Basin	Chamba	IR/Salient Features available
7	Dheda	8.9MW	Chenab Basin	Chamba	IR/Salient Features available
8	Dheda-I	9.4MW	Chenab Basin	Chamba	IR/Salient Features available
9	Jankar	24.5MW	Chenab Basin	Lahaul&Spiti/Chamba	IR/Salient Features available
10	Kutoi	6.2MW	Chenab Basin	Chamba	IR/Salient Features available
11	Galwat	12.8MW	Chenab Basin	Chamba	IR/Salient Features available
12	UR-I	5.8MW	Chenab Basin	Chamba	IR/Salient Features available
13	Nogli Top	8.4MW	Nogli	Shimla	IR/Salient Features available
14	Wangar-II	36.9MW	Wangar	Kinnuar	IR/Salient Features available
15	Duling	8.4MW	Duling	Kinnuar	IR/Salient Features available
16	Tagla	63.6MW	Tagla/Nesang	Kinnuar	IR/Salient Features available
17	Ropa Stage-II & III	205.0MW	Ropa	Kinnuar	IR/Salient Features available
18	Latuni	19.5MW	Latuni	Chamba/Kangra	IR/Salient Features available
19	Kalihen	19.1MW	Kalihen	Chamba/Kangra	IR/Salient Features available
20	Manalsu	21.9MW	Manalsu	Kullu	IR/Salient Features available
21	RopaTop	12.0MW	RopaKhad/Sattuji Basin	Kinnuar	IR/Salient Features available
22	Wangar	10.0MW	WangerKhad / Sattuji	Kinnuar	IR/Salient Features available
23	Seri Rawla	7.0MW	Seri & Rawla / Beas Basin	Kullu	IR/Salient Features available
24	Gyamthong Stage-I	15.0MW	GyamthongKhad/Sattuji Basin	Kinnuar	IR/Salient Features available
25	Suili	10 MW	Ravi	Chamba	IR/Salient Features available
<b>Sub Total (II)</b>		<b>511.9 MW</b>			
<b>Grand Total (I+II)</b>		<b>590.4 MW</b>			

The "Eligible Bidder" shall mean any entity which can qualify as a generating company as defined in Electricity Act, 2003 Part II(2B) or as defined in the Bid Document. [This would imply that any company or body corporate or association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not or artificial juridical person would be eligible]

#### A. GENERAL CONDITIONS:-For detailed terms & conditions kindly visit official website of Directorate of Energy: <https://doehimachal.nic.in/>

#### B. OTHER INSTRUCTIONS:-

- The Bid Document containing details of Terms & Conditions regarding Bidding Process & Project Implementation, Bid Application Formats, questionnaire etc. would be available to the interested Bidders on payment of Rupees One Lakh (Rs. 1,00,000/-) only for Projects upto 25 MW/Rupees Two Lakh (Rs. 2,00,000/-) only for Projects above 25 MW, through a bank draft/bankers cheque, from the office of the Chief Engineer, Directorate of Energy, Shanti Bhawan, Sector-6, Phase-III, New Shimla (HP)-171009, Tel. 91-177-2673552, 91-177-2673553 Fax No. +91-177-2673553 e-mail: ceenergy9@gmail.com w.e.f. five days after publication. The bank draft/bankers cheque shall be given in the name of Chief Engineer, Directorate of Energy, Shimla and drawn on any scheduled Indian Bank at Shimla. For getting the documents through Courier service, the additional charges @ Rs.300/- for inland and Rs.500/- for foreign countries shall be payable through a bank draft/bankers cheque.
- The 'Technical-Bids' in response to the advertisement should be accompanied by a non-refundable Processing Fee @ Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) per MW subject to maximum of Rupees Twenty Five Lakh (Rs. 25,00,000/-) per Project applied for. The payment shall be made through a bank draft/bankers cheque in the name of Chief Engineer, Directorate of Energy, Shimla drawn on any Scheduled Indian Bank at Shimla. Bids not accompanied by the Processing Fee are liable to be rejected forthwith.
- For any query or clarification, the Chief Engineer, Directorate of Energy, Shanti Bhawan, Sector-6, Phase-III, New Shimla (HP)-171009, may be contacted on Tel. 91-177-2673552, 2673553, Fax No. +91-177-2673553 e-mail: ceenergy9@gmail.com & Official website of Directorate of Energy: <https://doehimachal.nic.in/>
- The last date for sale of Bid Documents to the interested bidders, the last date of submission of bids in the office of Chief Engineer, Directorate of Energy, at the above address and the date of opening of Bids are as under:-
  - Start of sale of Bid Document : 12.10.2022
  - Last date for sale of Bid Documents : 01.11.2022upto 1700 Hours
  - Tentative date of Pre-Bid Conference : 03.11.2022
  - Last date of submission of Bids : 14.11.2022upto 1300 Hours (IST)
  - Date of opening of Bids : 14.11.2022 at 1500 Hours (IST) onwards
- If the Last date for submission of bids or the date of opening of bids happens to be a holiday declared by the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh in Shimla, the bids will be submitted and opened on the next working day in the same order and at the same time.

Brief Project details can be seen on the web site <https://doehimachal.nic.in/>.

For & on behalf of the Governor of HP -sd/-

Director (Energy),

Government of Himachal Pradesh,

Tel. +91-177-2673551 Fax +91-177-2673553

E-mail: dir.doehp@nic.in

## Uttarkashi avalanche toll hits 26, search on for 3 missing persons

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

With the recovery of seven more bodies on Friday, the toll in the Uttarkashi avalanche reached 26. Three people who fell in a crevasse during the training course are still missing.

The Army, ITBP, SDRF and Air Force teams who were engaged in rescue operations recovered four bodies on Wednesday, 15 on Thursday.

"We airlifted 13 mountaineers from the spot and 17 were rescued on foot. Search will continue for rest of the three-missing people," said Devendra Patwal, Disaster Management Officer Uttarkashi, who added that search and rescue operation will continue even on Saturday, but the success will depend on the weather conditions.

## ED attaches ₹1.54 cr. in Amnesty case

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate attached ₹1.54 crore lying in the bank accounts of Indians for Amnesty International Trust in connection with the money laundering probe against the Amnesty International India Private Limited and others. The total value stands at ₹21.08 crore.

CM YK

M-NDE

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR.**  
Tender Call Notice No H.O./P&C/EST-E-1884/01/2022 25409 Dated:-30.09.2022  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement**  
Name of the work:- Phase-I Development of Dombosara, Rayagada MSME Park, Odisha  
Estimated cost:- Rs. 1787.00 lakhs (apprx).  
Period of completion:- 12 (Twelve) calendar months.  
Pre-Bid meeting is to be conducted on dtd.21.10.2022 at 12.30 P.M.  
Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Bid Id.No.PC/EST/E- 76/ 2022-23  
From 16.10.2022 To 30.10.2022  
Further details can be seen from the e- Procurement Portal [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in) and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in) and IDCO Website [www.idco.in](http://www.idco.in)  
Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C)  
IDCO, IDCO Tower,  
Bhubaneswar  
CAD-2077

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL COUNCIL FOR DISABILITY PAYMENT (ECHS) CELL, CHENNAI  
PHONE : 044-29551173, E-MAIL : [schechschen@gmail.com](mailto:schechschen@gmail.com)  
**EMPLOYMENT NOTICE**  
1. ECHS invites applications to engage

## IN BRIEF



## Vande Bharat train hits cattle for second day, damaged

In the second such incident in two days, the Gandhinagar-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express on Friday hit a cow at Anand in Gujarat while on its way to Mumbai, officials said. The incident happened at 3:44 p.m. and the train suffered a minor dent on its nose, said a railways official. On Thursday, the train had hit four buffaloes between Vatva and Maninagar stations and the nose panel had to be replaced due to damage. Meanwhile, the Railway Protection Force has registered a case against the owners of the buffaloes for Thursday's incident, officials said.

## ED conducts searches in Delhi Excise Policy case

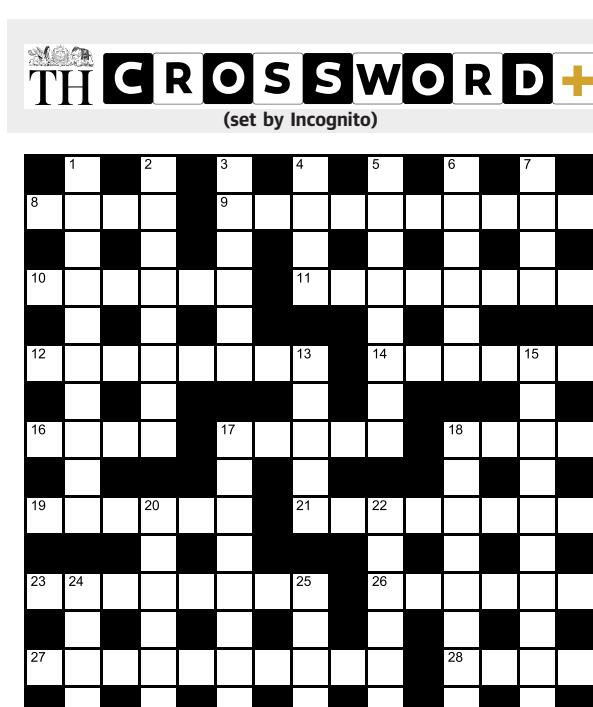
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted the third round of searches at multiple locations, including the office premises of India Ahead news channel, in the Delhi Excise Policy case, said a senior agency official. About three dozen premises in Delhi, Punjab and Hyderabad were covered during the operation. "More than 500 raids, for three months more than 300 CBI/ED officers are working 24 hours to find evidence against Manish Sisodia. (They are) Not finding anything. Because nothing was done. Time of so many officers is being wasted for their dirty politics..." Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said in a tweet.

## Tour operators' body writes to PM on restoring e-visas

The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), an apex tourism body representing more than 1,700 inbound tour operators in India, has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in restoring e-visas for visitors from United Kingdom, Canada and other countries from where maximum tourists travel to India. The organisation said it has already made numerous representations and sent letters to the ministries of Home, Tourism and External Affairs in this matter. "Having failed to evoke any response from these ministries, we have written to the PM, hoping for a quick resolution," IATO President Rajiv Mehra said on Friday.

## NCB arrests former Air India pilot, five others in drug haul

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has seized 60 kg mephedrone drug worth more than ₹120 crore from Mumbai and Gujarat, and arrested six members of an inter-State drug cartel, including a former Air India pilot, a senior official said here on Friday. The action was taken based on specific inputs received by the Naval Intelligence unit at Jamnagar in Gujarat, said Sanjay Singh, Deputy Director General of the NCB in a press briefing here. "We have cracked a drug network spread across States of the country and arrested six persons involved in the syndicate," Mr. Singh said. PTI



## Across

- 8 Part of speech announced to some extent (4)
- 9 Apt entertainment (3,7)
- 10 Love inventor returning with American capital (6)
- 11 Unnecessary sewing instruments with son (8)
- 12 Maintained inertial navigation system is not serviceable kind in the end (8)
- 13 Female animals give shelter to five birds (5)
- 14 Heart tremor shaking ground (10)
- 15 Father returns with defective pearls and clothes (8)
- 16 Fault under pass leads to crash (8)
- 17 Take note: Communist has accepted God! (6)
- 18 Animals from piece of real estate in Spain (6)
- 19 Excitedly hurry when Yankee leaves German region (4)
- 20 Protect some ailing vultures earnestly for starters (4)

# 'India can lead G20 on education, climate and debt sustainability'

World Bank President David Malpass points to India's involvement in restructuring debts in Sri Lanka and it being a major creditor to African nations, calls the country a leader in education

**Sriram Lakshman**  
WASHINGTON DC

**D**ebt sustainability, education and climate action are three areas of potential for India when it takes on the presidency of the Group of Twenty (G20) in December this year, according to World Bank President David Malpass.

"There's a potential focus on debt," Mr. Malpass told reporters on a Friday morning briefing call ahead of the World Bank IMF Annual Meetings here in Washington.

"I think the world is at a point where there can be progress made for a more effective common framework," he said, highlighting the fact that India is a creditor for Sri Lanka and also some of the "heavily indebted countries of Africa". India has provided some \$4 billion in assistance to Sri Lanka this year and is involved with restructuring its debt.

"So as G20 Chair [sic] India has an opportunity there," Mr. Malpass said.

"I've spoken with Prime Minister Modi about that and ...he... and India is aware of there being debt distress in countries near it as well, so it's very relevant to India," Mr. Malpass said.

The World Bank's president said there had been a very concerning increase in education poverty - with 70% of children in developing

countries unable to read the basic texts - and that India could play a leadership role in education. He went on to describe the backsliding in education caused by COVID-19 school closures, including children losing interest because they could not keep up with their grade/class, and decline in educational spending.

"For India's G20, this is a big opportunity. India's been a leader in education," Mr. Malpass said, adding that climate too would be a major focus, as ad-

vanced and developing countries work on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

## Climate issues

You'll see the importance of [climate change] adaptation for many of the countries in terms of saving lives on the ground. That'll be a focus of [the November 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference in] Sharm el Sheikh and it's also incredibly important for India and for the G 20 as a whole," Mr. Malpass said.

In terms of his assessment of the Indian economy Mr. Malpass said India had suffered from rising interest rates and inflation, globally, as well as climate events. However, expansion of the social safety net during the COVID pandemic was a mitigating factor as was digitization (which increases the effectiveness of the net), Mr. Malpass said.

The World Bank, on Thursday, had downgraded India's growth estimate for FY22-23 by 1 percentage point to 6.5%.

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## SAN ANTONIO

U.S. and Philippines reinforce their alliance with joint military drills



U.S. and Philippine marines held joint military drills involving more than 3,500 troops in the South China Sea on Friday. It is the first time the exercises were held under Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, who has expressed strong support for the alliance, after rocky relations under his predecessor Rodrigo Duterte. AFP

## YANGON

More than 1 million displaced since Myanmar coup, says UN



The UNICEF said 10,17,000 people have been internally displaced in Myanmar since last year's coup. More than half of those forced to flee are in the country's northwest Sagaing region, which has seen some of the fiercest fighting. There were "significant challenges" to delivering humanitarian assistance in the region, UNICEF said. AFP

## PARIS

World food prices fall for sixth straight month, says UN



World food prices have fallen for a sixth month in a row in September, UN data showed on Friday, as they continued to decline since a record reached following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Food and Agriculture Organization said its price index averaged 136.3 points in September, a 1.1% drop from August. AP

## TEHRAN

Iran says Mahsa Amini died of illness rather than 'blows'



Iran said an investigation into the death of Mahsa Amini found that she lost her life to illness rather than reported beatings that sparked three weeks of bloody protests. The death of Amini, whose Kurdish first name is Jihna, was related to "surgery for a brain tumour at the age of eight," Iran's forensic body said. AP

## Ukraine predicts more gains as Putin's Generals face flak

Zelensky says his forces recaptured more than 500 sq. km of territory and dozens of settlements in the Kherson region; Pro-Russian forces claim gains in Donetsk

Reuters

KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Kyiv's forces were swiftly recapturing more territory, especially in the south while Moscow's military leadership faced rare public backlash from within Russia over its handling of the war.

Mr. Zelensky said in a video address on Thursday that Kyiv's forces recaptured more than 500 sq. km of territory and dozens of settlements in the southern Kherson region alone in October.

"There are successes in the east as well. The day will surely come when we will report on successes in the Zaporizhzhia region (in southeastern Ukraine) as well, in those areas that the occupiers still control," Mr. Zelensky said.

Thousands of Russian



**Broken prospects:** A disabled woman being helped by neighbours to return to her home in the Donetsk region on Friday. AFP

troops have retreated after the front line crumbled, first in the northeast, and, since the beginning of this week, also in the south.

In rare, but growing, public criticism of Russia's top military officials, Kirill Stremousov, the deputy head of the Russian-backed administration in the Kherson region, slammed "Generals and

try Peskov denounced the comments as "an appeal to start yet another world war with unpredictable, monstrous consequences," according to RIA news agency.

Meanwhile, separatist forces in the Donetsk region said they had reclaimed a series of villages near the Ukraine-controlled industrial town of Bakhmut, which has been under Russian shelling for weeks. The announcement came as Russia's Orthodox Church said President Vladimir Putin's rule had been divined by God, congratulating him on his 70th birthday.

"On the territory of the Donetsk People's Republic, a grouping of troops of the Donetsk and Lugansk republics, with fire support from Russian forces, liberated Otradovka, Veselyaya Dolina and Zaitsevo," the separatists said.

### Preventive strike

In remarks to Australia's Lowy Institute, Mr. Zelensky said NATO should launch preventive strikes on Russia to preclude its use of nuclear weapons. Kremlin spokesman Dimitri Peskov denounced the comments as "an appeal to start yet another world war with unpredictable, monstrous consequences," according to RIA news agency.

## Ahead of midterm elections, Biden pardons Americans for possession of cannabis

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON



Joe Biden

U.S. President Joe Biden on Thursday pardoned thousands of Americans convicted of marijuana possession in a major new step towards destigmatizing the drug – and fulfilling a promise to his supporters a month before midterm elections.

"I am announcing a pardon of all prior federal offenses of simple possession of marijuana," Mr. Biden said.

He did not call for fully decriminalizing cannabis, saying that "limitations on trafficking, marketing and under-age sales should stay in place."

In addition to the pardons, Mr. Biden instructed the departments of justice and health to determine whether cannabis should be reclassified as a less

dangerous substance.

Officials told reporters that about 6,500 people are directly affected by convictions under federal marijuana statutes. Clemency will extend to thousands more convicted under laws in the federal capital, Washington. However, Mr. Biden's gesture aims to take the shift much further, putting pressure on State authorities everywhere to follow suit.

Ahead of the November 8 midterms, where his Democrats are struggling to hold onto even partial control of Congress, Mr. Biden has now satisfied a key demand from racial justice activists angered at the way enforcement of cannabis laws often targets ethnic minorities.

Russian court orders seizure of Memorial's Moscow office

Agence France-Presse  
MOSCOW

A Moscow court on Friday ordered the seizure of Memorial's Moscow headquarters, in a ruling delivered hours after the rights group was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, agencies reported.

The Tverskoy court ordered the group's central Moscow headquarters to "become state property", the Interfax agency reported.

Memorial, Russia's most renowned rights group, was officially disbanded by authorities in December last year.

It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize earlier on Friday, along with jailed Belarusian activist Ales Bialiatski and Ukraine's Center for Civil Liberties.

## Ukraine changes mind on UNHRC vote on Xinjiang

Agence France-Presse  
GENEVA

Ukraine indicated on Friday it had changed its mind on a historic vote a day earlier that saw the UN Human Rights Council refuse to debate violations in China's Xinjiang region.

Western nations suffered a heavy defeat at the UN's top rights body on Thursday when they failed to get enough votes to pass a first-ever attempted resolution targeting China.

The draft text, presented by the United States and a number of other Western countries, had merely asked the council to debate a UN report, citing possible crimes against humanity against Uighurs and other Muslim minorities in the far-western Xinjiang region.

But in a moment of

### Countries on the 47-member council voted 19-17 against holding a debate on rights in Xinjiang

knife-edge drama, countries on the 47-member council in Geneva voted 19-17 against holding a debate on human rights in Xinjiang, with 11 nations abstaining.

### China's lobbying

Following an intense lobbying campaign by Beijing, many of the votes against and abstentions did not come as a huge surprise.

However, the decision by conflict-torn Ukraine, which relies heavily on Western backing as it battles Russia's invasion, to abstain in the vote caught some off guard.

## No Chinese troops in Solomon Islands: PM

Agence France-Presse  
SYDNEY

Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare said on Friday he has assured Australia that his nation will not allow a Chinese military presence in its territory. The island nation has been at the centre of a diplomatic tussle in the southern Pacific Ocean between the United States, Australia and their allies on one side and China on the other.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met Mr. Sogavare in Canberra to smooth ties that have been frayed since the Solomons signed a pact with Beijing this year – a move that sparked fears of Chinese military presence in the region.

## U.S. imposes new sanctions on Chinese chips

Reuters

The Biden administration on Friday published a sweeping set of export controls, including a measure to cut China off from certain semiconductor chips made anywhere in the world with U.S. tools, vastly expanding its reach in its bid to slow Beijing's technological and military advances.

The rules, some of which go into effect immediately, build on restrictions sent in letters earlier

this year to toolmakers KLA Corp, Lam Research Corp and Applied Materials Inc, effectively requiring them to halt shipments of equipment to wholly Chinese-owned factories producing advanced logic chips.

The raft of measures could amount to the biggest shift in U.S. policy toward shipping technology to China since the 1990s.

In a briefing with reporters on Thursday, government officials said many of the measures sought to

prevent foreign firms from selling advanced chips to China or supplying Chinese firms with tools to make their own advanced chips. They conceded, however, that they have not yet secured any promises that allied nations will implement similar measures.

The expansion of U.S. powers to control exports to China of chips made with U.S. tools is based on a broadening of the so-called foreign direct product rule. It was previously expanded to give the U.S.

government authority to control exports of chips made overseas to Chinese telecoms giant Huawei Technologies Co Ltd and later to stop the flow of semiconductors to Russia.

On Friday, the Biden administration applied the expanded restrictions to China's IFLYTEK, Dahua Technology, and Megvii Technology, companies added to the entity list in 2019 over allegations they aided Beijing in the suppression of its Uighur minority group.

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For any enquiries call: 1800 102 1878

## IN BRIEF



## India slaps \$244-mn notice on French spirits maker Pernod

Indian authorities have demanded \$244 million from the local unit of French spirits giant Pernod Ricard for undervaluing concentrate imports for more than a decade to avoid full payment of duties, a government notice seen by Reuters shows.

The demand is the latest setback for Pernod in India, a key growth market where it has long been lobbying Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his tax officials to settle disputes related to valuation of liquor imports. REUTERS

## M&amp;M unveils XUV300 Turbosport at ₹10.35 lakh

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) has announced the unveiling of its XUV300 Turbosport series - the first Mahindra sport utility vehicle (SUV) to be powered by an all-new 1.2 L mStallion TGDi engine - at ₹10.35 lakh (ex-showroom). With this offering, the XUV300 will be now available with three powertrains - the existing diesel and petrol Turbo series and the new TurboSport series.

## Government notifies credit guarantee plan for start-ups

The government has notified the credit guarantee scheme for start-ups to provide them collateral-free loans up to a specified limit.

In a notification, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said that loan/debt facilities sanctioned to an eligible borrower on or after October 6, would be eligible for coverage under the scheme.

"Maximum guarantee cover per borrower shall not exceed ₹10 crore," the DPIIT said. PTI

**Adani Group likely to invest ₹65,000-crore in Rajasthan**

## Press Trust of India

JAIPUR

Richest Asian Gautam Adani on Friday announced a ₹65,000-crore investment in Rajasthan over the next 5 to 7 years in setting up a mega 10,000 MW solar power capacity, expanding cement plant and upgrading Jaipur airport.

The investment by ports-to-energy conglomerate that Mr. Adani heads, also spans city gas infrastructure for retailing CNG to automobiles and piped gas to households and industries as well as laying transmission lines to carry renewable power.

Speaking at the Invest Rajasthan 2022 Summit here, he said the Group is investing ₹50,000 crore to add 10,000 megawatts of renewable power capacity.

## Hero MotoCorp unveils e-scooter VIDA V1 at ₹1.45 lakh

## Press Trust of India

JAIPUR

The country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp on Friday forayed into the electric vehicle segment with the introduction of its first electric scooter VIDA V1 priced at ₹1.45 lakh (ex-showroom).

The company has introduced two trims of the scooter - VIDA V1 Plus and VIDA V1 Pro - tagged at ₹1.45 lakh and ₹1.59 lakh, respectively.

The VIDA V1 Plus comes with a range of 143 kilometres, while the VIDA V1 Pro comes with an enhanced range of 165 kms on a single charge.

The company would commence sales of the electric scooter in Bengaluru, Delhi and Jaipur before

## Government kicks off IDBI Bank disinvestment process

Centre will sell 30.48% holding in the lender, while current promoter LIC will offload 30.24% stake; interested investors will have to submit expressions of interest by December 16 this year

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday kicked off the process for the strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank along with the transfer of management control, by issuing a preliminary information memorandum to invite expressions of interest from prospective buyers.

The Government of India will sell 30.48% of its stake in the bank, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) shall sell 30.24%, aggregating to 60.72% of IDBI Bank's



**Base floor:** A minimum net worth of ₹22,500 crore has been set for firms looking to bid individually or via a consortium. G. RAMAKRISHNA

share capital, along with transfer of management control in the lender. LIC, the bank's current promo-

ter, holds 49.24% stake, while the government's stake comes to 45.48%. Public shareholders hold 5.28%. Strategic investors interested in taking over the bank have been given time till October 28 to submit any queries they have on the memorandum and submit expressions of interest by December 16.

Only qualified bidders will be given the RFP (Request for Proposal) document in the second stage of the transaction. A minimum net worth of ₹22,500 crore has been set for firms looking to bid individually or via a consortium, which can include a maximum of four entities with a lead member holding at least 40% stake.

## Car firms propose tax cut on imports under U.K. trade deal

**Reuters**  
NEW DELHI

India's foreign exchange reserves fell to ₹532.66 billion in the week through September 30, their lowest level since July 2020, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly statistical supplement showed on Friday.

The country's reserves declined for the ninth consecutive week. They were ₹537.52 billion at the end of the previous week ended September 23.

plans because of the high tariffs.

Lobby group the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers has written to the government, backing phased cuts to 30% over five years, following a grace period of five years with none, three sources said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

It was not immediately clear if India had presented the offer to Britain in trade talks due to end soon, with the signing of a final deal expected by the end of the month.

Indian carmakers have proposed cutting to 30% the tax rate on imported cars as part of a trade deal with Britain, sources told Reuters, an unprecedented move that could ease access to one of the world's most protected automobile markets.

It is the first time Indian carmakers have backed such cuts, caving in to pressure from a government that wants them to give up their protectionist

position and lower entry barriers, sources said.

Import taxes from 60%

to 100% in the world's fourth-largest car market rank among the highest globally, drawing criticism from firms such as Tesla Inc., which shelved entry

plans because of the high tariffs.

Lobby group the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers has written to the government, backing phased cuts to 30% over five years, following a grace period of five years with none, three sources said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

It was not immediately clear if India had presented the offer to Britain in trade talks due to end soon, with the signing of a final deal expected by the end of the month.

## RBI to start e-rupee pilot for specific use cases

**Press Trust of India**

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said it will soon commence the pilot introduction of e-rupee for specific use cases with a view to bolstering India's digital economy, making payment systems more efficient, and checking money laundering.

In a concept note on Central Bank Digital Currency, the RBI said CBDC is aimed to complement, rather than replace, current forms of money and is envisaged to provide an additional payment avenue to users, not to replace the existing payment systems.

"Supported by state-of-the-art payment systems, the Digital Rupee system will further bolster digital economy," the RBI said.

scaling up to the new locations. Bookings would start on October 10 while deliveries would commence from the second week of December.

Speaking to reporters, Chairman and CEO Pawan Munjal said the firm would add new locations gradually while utilising its existing strength in terms of strong sales infrastructure.

The company would commence sales of the electric scooter in Bengaluru, Delhi and Jaipur before

users will not need to switch devices to experience 5G services once the network goes live, analysts said they expected only premium phone users to switch to 5G initially.

**Affordable devices**  
India's 5G years "will be marked with the introduction of mass volumes in ₹10,000-20,000," according to a report by Techarc. However, for now, buyers will have to spend more as the average selling prices have already gone up by 15-25% after the introduction of 5G devices," he noted.

in the country in 2020. Since then, 5G smartphone penetration has reached only about 50 million shipments of the total smartphone base of 550 million units.

While these 5G-enabled

For the smartphone industry that has seen its user base plateau over the past three years 5G may come as a 'saviour', but users may need to wait 2-3 years for convincing use cases.

Prachir Singh, senior research analyst at Counterpoint Research, said Indian consumers want a 5G device but whether they will shift to 5G plans will depend on tariffs.

"In China also, a lot of people have 5G devices but only a fraction of those users are availing of 5G services," he noted.

Rupee sinks to new low of 82.32 as dollar rules strong versus peers, stocks slide

## MARKETS

## MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	CHANGE
Sensex	58,191	-0.05
US Dollar	82.32	-0.18
Gold	52,300	0.15
Brent oil	97.22	3.23

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	3277.60	-7.40
Adani Ports	816.90	-7.20
Apollo Hosp	4394.10	3.60
Asian Paints	3343.70	14.75
Axis Bank	755.70	0.60
Bajaj Auto	3603.55	8.90
Bajaj Finserv	1699.00	-11.55
Bajaj Finance	7345.15	-59.00
Bharti Airtel	793.10	4.50
BPCL	307.40	-4.75
Britannia Ind	3785.65	18.10
Cipla	1130.50	-3.95
Coal India	229.70	-3.80
Dixi Lab	3735.75	2.75
Dr Reddys Lab	4376.65	-20.90
Eicher Motors	3498.55	-32.80
Grasim Ind	1697.90	14.80
HCL Tech	957.70	-6.65
HFDC	2326.90	10.80
HFDC Life	526.85	-2.80
Hero MotoCorp	2624.95	-21.15
Hindalco	411.10	-1.55
Hind Unilever	2599.70	-14.30
ICICI Bank	882.55	-2.90
IndusInd Bank	1213.40	12.50
Infosys	1451.20	-3.95
ITC	334.10	-2.55
JSW Steel	666.05	-8.40
Kotak Bank	1825.40	6.50
L&T	1924.55	11.60
M&M	1238.85	-18.05
Maruti Suzuki	8779.10	-76.10
NestleIndia	1932.00	20.85
NTPC	164.30	1.40
ONGC	134.05	1.40
PowerGrid Corp	209.40	3.10
Reliance Ind	2423.35	10.25
SBI	1243.20	-1.95
State Bank	530.20	-7.10
Sun Pharma	955.15	1.25
TataConsumerProduct	780.90	-13.40
Tata Motors	412.15	-1.95
Tata Steel	103.30	-0.25
TCS	3064.90	-37.05
Tech Mahindra	1023.85	-7.45
Titan	2730.50	-137.65
UltraTech Cement	6203.50	-83.75
UPL	690.45	4.45
Wipro	408.10	-2.05

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 07

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.12	82.44
Euro	80.51	80.82
British Pound	92.03	92.40
Japanese Yen (100)	56.68	56.90
Chinese Yuan	11.54	11.59
Swiss Franc	82.91	83.24
Singapore Dollar	57.49	57.72
Canadian Dollar	59.91	60.15
Malaysian Ringgit	17.65	17.73
Australian Dollar	52.76	52.97

Source: Indian Bank

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons (1) Sanjeev Malhotra and (2) Sumit Malhotra both S/o Subhash Malhotra both R/o 482-A, near Shyam Bakery, Jheel Khurana, Krishna Nagar, Delhi have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide FIR No. 395/2020 Dt. 19.09.2020, U/s 420/468/471/120B/34 IPC registered at P.S. Farsh Bazar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said (1) Sanjeev Malhotra and (2) Sumit Malhotra could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused (1) Sanjeev Malhotra and (

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I would say she is one of the top five bowlers of all time in women's cricket... the Indian team will miss her not just as a player but as a person as well. She has an aura about her

**ANJU JAIN**  
Former India cricketer



**Truly elite:** No woman has taken more international wickets than Jhulan's 355. Her world-leading 255 ODI wickets, with a best of six for 31, came at an average of 22.04 and strike-rate of 39.2.

a cricketer," she had said in Goa. "I felt I too should one day play in a World Cup final."

She actually played in two, but ended up on the losing side on both occasions. She spoke, on the eve of her farewell game, about how she would have loved to win one of those finals.

For someone of her generation – when international female cricketers in India travelled in unreserved compartments on trains and slept in dormitories – featuring in a World Cup final was an achievement in itself. She had started playing cricket at a time when there was little to play for.

But she had fallen in love with the game. She would hop on to the train at the Chakdaha station at 5 in the morning, and then board a bus from Sealdah to reach Vivekananda Park in Kolkata by 7.30 to attend the coaching camp. After training for a couple of hours, she would travel back home in time to go to school.

Her pace and skills soon caught the eye of the women who mattered in Indian cricket. She was given the India cap in 2002, for the first ODI against England at Chennai.

"All I wanted was to take one wicket for India," she said. "And I just wanted to keep that Indian jersey with me."

Jhulan actually took two in that match and went on to take many more for India. She claimed 355 international wickets, in fact – more than anybody else in women's cricket. She also has more wickets in Women's ODIs than anyone else – 255.

"I would say she is one of the top five bowlers of all time in women's cricket," says Anju. "She matured as a bowler over the years – earlier if she was hit, you could be certain that her next ball would be faster or a bouncer – and evolved into a complete package."

Jhulan was remarkably accurate, could swing the ball and was marvellously consistent. She sharpened India's attack considerably and helped the team win in a variety of conditions. One of her own favourite performances came in England. She took 10 wickets to help the Indian women win their first Test in England, at Taunton in 2006.

"Before Jhulan, our bowling was predominantly spin," says Shubhangi, whose leg-spin had given India its first-ever Test win, over West Indies, back in 1976. "And she has been a huge inspiration for all our young pace bowlers."

She remembers Jhulan as an enthusiastic student of the game. "When I first saw her, she already had a good action but she wanted to learn more about cricket," says Shubhangi. "She would pick anybody's brain."

The latter part of her career has seen Jhulan guiding the younger pacers in the Indian team as well as in her State team. Renuka Singh, Meghna Singh and Pooja Vastrakar must have benefited from sharing the Indian dressing room with her.

But India will struggle

+



## Celebrating Jhulan Goswami – gentle giant, fierce warrior, trailblazing world-beater

Over the course of an illustrious career, the Indian pacer took the most wickets in women's cricket and won matches in all conditions. Her astonishing rise from small-town hopeful to all-time great has inspired a generation. Indian cricket will benefit if she remains involved in the game

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**

**A**nju Jain was first struck by the teenager's height. She was easily the tallest of all the players assembled at Panchkula, Haryana, for the Indian team's preparatory camp ahead of the 2000 Women's World Cup in New Zealand.

Anju also found out that she was probably the quickest female bowler she had ever kept wicket to. There was another thing she soon noticed about the girl from a small town near Kolkata: her dedication. She felt the youngster had great potential (even if she didn't make it to the World Cup squad).

It was around the same time that then national selector Shubhangi Kulkarni first watched her, at an under-19 tournament in Gurgaon, also in Haryana. She was impressed and thought she was good enough to play for India.

What neither Anju nor Shubhangi could have imagined at the time was that the tall girl, named Jhulan Goswami, would become the most successful bowler of all time in international women's cricket.



**Before Jhulan, our bowling was predominantly spin. And she has been a huge inspiration for all our young pace bowlers**

**SHUBHANGI KULKARNI**  
Former India captain

Anju last met Jhulan a couple of months ago at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru, where she was undergoing rehabilitation, ahead of the England tour. "She was still the girl I met at Panchkula," Anju tells *The Hindu* over phone. "She had the same dedication and the willingness to work hard. She had the same enthusiasm, too."

The enthusiasm Jhulan spoke with on a lovely November morning at the quiet Goan town of Porvorim nine years ago is fresh in memory. Women's cricket was not as popular those days, but players like Mithali Raj and Jhulan demanded attention for their superlative performances on the global stage. So you didn't want to miss her, even though you had travelled to Goa to cover the Ranji Trophy. Jhulan was leading Bengal in the Senior Women's ODI league.

She was the No. 1 bowler in the ICC ranking at the time. When she came on to bowl her last spell in international cricket at Lord's last month, she was still among the finest pacers in the women's game. She may have been nearing 40, but she proved a handful for the England batters, as she took two wickets as well as an

excellent low catch at slip in her farewell game.

The Women in Blue won that final ODI in the three-match series to complete their first ever clean sweep in England. But the way they finished the match invited controversy, as Deepti Sharma ran out Charlie Dean, who had raised hopes of a most unlikely win, for backing up too far. That took some of the attention away from Jhulan. Opinions on the incident differed.

There cannot be any difference of opinion about Jhulan's legacy, though. She ended her career as one of the greatest bowlers of all time. She was counted among the fastest bowlers in the women's game and inspired several young girls in India to take up pace bowling.

Jhulan's inspiration was an Australian. She watched in awe Cathryn Fitzpatrick bowling against New Zealand in the final of the 1997 Women's World Cup at Kolkata's Eden Gardens. She was a ball girl.

Until then, she had been following various sports, not just cricket. "I had already started playing a bit of tennis-ball cricket, but watching that World Cup final at such close quarters made me want to be

## STACKING UP



### ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	19	6,740	17
2	Rafael Nadal	36	5,810	10
3	Casper Ruud	23	5,645	23
4	Daniil Medvedev	26	5,065	20
5	Alexander Zverev	25	5,040	19
6	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	4,810	22
7	Novak Djokovic	35	3,820	12
8	Cameron Norrie	27	3,445	24
9	Andrey Rublev	24	3,345	23
10	Hubert Hurkacz	25	3,175	21
11	Taylor Fritz	24	3,055	22
12	Jannik Sinner	21	3,040	21
13	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	2,950	24
14	Marin Cilic	34	2,495	20
15	Pablo Carreno Busta	31	2,360	23



### F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing	341	11
2	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	237	3
3	Sergio Perez	Red Bull Racing	235	2
4	George Russell	Mercedes	203	0
5	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	202	1
6	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	170	0
7	Lando Norris	McLaren	100	0
8	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	66	0
9	Fernando Alonso	Alpine	59	0
10	Valterri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	46	0
11	Daniel Ricciardo	McLaren	29	0
12	Sebastian Vettel	Aston Martin	24	0
13	Pierre Gasly	AlphaTauri	23	0
14	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	22	0
15	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	13	0
16	Mick Schumacher	Haas	12	0
17	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri	11	0
18	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo	6	0
19	Alex Albon	Williams	4	0
20	Nyck de Vries	Williams	2	0
21	Nicholas Latifi	Williams	0	0



### Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Viktor Axelsen	122,606	31
2	Anders Antonsen	92,700	26
3	Lee Zii Jia	91,578	31
4	Chou Tien Chen	89,576	28
5	Loh Kean Yew	81,594	26
6	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	80,379	25
7	Kento Momota	78,304	19
8	Jonatan Christie	76,912	26
9	Lakshya Sen	75,574	28
10	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	70,849	27
11	K. Srikanth	66,811	34
12	Ng Ka Long Angus	66,287	24
13	Rasmus Gemke	65,791	26
14	H.S. Prannoy	64,330	30
15	Kenta Nishimoto	63,069	24



### Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	887	923
2	Marnus Labuschagne	885	936
3	Babar Azam	879	879
4	Steve Smith	848	947
5	Rishabh Pant	801	801
6	Ken Williamson	786	919
7	Usman Khawaja	766	779
8	Dimuth Karunaratne	748	782
9	Rohit Sharma	746	813
10	Jonny Bairstow	719	772

### Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Pat Cummins	891	914
2	R. Ashwin	842	904
3	Shameen Afridi	828	836
4	Jasprit Bumrah	828	835
5	James Anderson	825	903
6	Kagiso Rabada	799	902
7	Kyle Jamieson	788	836
8	Kemar Roach	756	780
9	Nell Wagner	747	859
10	Mitchell Starc	739	806



GETTY IMAGES

## How to make a difference off the track: demystifying the art of race strategy

**Strategists in F1 have a lot to do – work with tyre engineers, race engineers and drivers, crunch data, run simulations, have a plan for success and a plan for when that plan fails. As we have seen this season, title fights are shaped by high-stakes calls, informed gambles and puzzling blunders**

**S. Dipak Ragav**

**A**fter the first three races this year, Charles Leclerc held a significant lead over title rival Max Verstappen. The Ferrari driver had won two races and finished second in the other whereas Verstappen had retired from two.

Leclerc's campaign, however, faltered after that because of a combination of factors. Verstappen, on the other hand, is on the verge of sealing his second drivers' championship.

While reliability issues and his own errors have contributed to Leclerc's challenge fizzling out, Ferrari's strategic blunders cost him near certain wins in Monaco, Silverstone and even in Hungary to an extent.

Although Ferrari's calls in those races baffled fans and experts, it must be stressed that strategic decisions in a Formula One setting are far more complex than just what happens in those 90 minutes on a Sunday.

During the Singapore Grand Prix weekend, *The Hindu* caught up with two experts in the field of race strategy to demystify the art and learn how teams prepare for various scenarios.

"In its simplest form, strategy is very simple, when you say to yourself, how long is the race and what is the fastest way from A to B, [taking into account] tyre life, degradation, pace between the compounds and pit loss. Theoretically, it is very simple," says Tom McCullough, performance director at Aston Martin F1 team.

"What a strategist needs to do is work very



**QQ** In its simplest form, strategy is very simple, when you say to yourself, how long is the race and what is the fastest way from A to B, [taking into account] tyre life, degradation, pace between the compounds and pit loss

**TOM MCCULLOUGH**  
Performance director, Aston Martin F1 team

closely with the tyre engineers, race engineers, very close with the drivers and anyone with some input at a senior level, to have role-played as many scenarios as possible that could happen. They need to be good with data and tools and processing stuff, but the hardest bit to teach strategy engineers is what to do when it goes off plan, how to react," he adds.

To be in a good position to react, a strategy team starts its work well ahead of the race. Tyres figure prominently in the analysis.

"Strategy nowadays starts a good couple of weeks before the start of the race," says Ruth Buscombe, head of strategy at Alfa Romeo Sauber F1 team. "Our first decision is to decide which compounds they want to use in which sessions. Do we want to get rid of some of the race tyres because it's more of a qualifying track or do we need to keep those tyres because it's important to have them on Sunday for the race? So all that work goes on in the background."

About 20 years ago, strategy was decided by the race engineers; but now it has become a specialised department comprising

members with a strong core in mathematics, physics or engineering and an aptitude for coding and running simulations. The focus is on the team but the strategy department also analyses competitors, chiefly to gain an understanding of the tyres.

Back when refuelling was in place, strategy was dependent on how long a car could run before pitting because it was quicker when it was at its lightest, carrying the least fuel. The tyres back then were hard and a lot more durable, and not as big a factor.

Currently, pit stops are the quickest they have ever been because only the tyres are changed. Buscombe says this has made strategy more interesting, despite there being one less variable in the equation; the different tyre compounds with higher degradation than before make for an eclectic mix of strategies.

While the impact of strategy calls during a regular dry weekend is marginal, affecting only a few positions, a strategist can make a huge difference when another variable, such as rain, enters the picture.

"When you're making a strategic decision, you're normally gambling for one or two positions maximum," Buscombe explains. "Now in rain, if you get it wrong, you can lose a million minutes. We are talking about hundredths of a second per lap degradation on a medium compound [in dry weather]. So one lap later, I'm going five hundredths slower than the previous lap. Whereas [when it rains], if you are the first chap on intermediate tyres you can go six seconds faster. That's a thousand

times more. It is where you can make more of a difference as a team on the operational side."

Even in a dynamic setting where it starts raining, preparation plays a key role in executing a flawless strategy.

"It is like NASA or the air force, where you have procedures in place and you know how you deal with a crisis," Buscombe says. "So you follow a process and most teams have flow charts of 'what happens if it starts raining, who do we then speak to? We get feedback from the driver and then we do this'. We practise these routines, so even if we're not in these exact situations, we are ready."

A modern F1 team uses a lot of software tools, some built in-house, some purchased, to model situations and run simulations. And yet, teams do get things wrong, especially when certain decisions have to be made on the fly.

Asked why this happens, McCullough says, "Well, all of these tools are only as good as the information you're feeding them. So you still rely a lot on people with good situational awareness to look at the tools, step back and look at what's happening and listen to your drivers. Having that dialogue between the key stakeholders who understand the tyres, strategy, set-up and driver, is key. You have to be able to react... because if you just stick to a plan, it invariably will go wrong."

An element that plays a significant role is the feedback from the driver and the trust that flows both ways. "Safety comes first. So in wet conditions, the driver gets a say on whether it is too wet for slicks. It doesn't matter if I say it is faster," says Buscombe.

"During the set-up briefing, we say our baseline for Sunday is this strategy for the weekend but that will depend on how the tyres work and the important thing to do in practice is to evaluate the tyres," explains McCullough. "Then after qualifying, once we have gone through the data, we sit down again and see if we need to change things from what was discussed on Thursday. If you can get a driver engaged in understanding what the plan is, he can help you so much more. So a lot of it is building the picture beforehand.

"We then rely on the feedback from the driver and they are useful tools to see if we are on plan for this or not. What the driver can't see is the pitstop windows if he wants to stop and that is the information we need to give feedback on."

Where Red Bull and Verstappen have got a lot of this right, Ferrari and Leclerc haven't. They will need to repair the trust that has been lost because of some strategic decisions which have left the driver looking baffled and the team seeming reactive and panicky. While there is no doubt that Verstappen has been exceptional on the track, the title race has also been shaped by what has happened off it, illustrating just how important race strategy is in F1.



**QQ** When you're making a strategic decision, you're normally gambling for one or two positions maximum. Now in rain, if you get it wrong, you can lose a million minutes. It is where you can make more of a difference as a team on the operational side

**RUTH BUSCOMBE**  
Head of strategy, Alfa Romeo Sauber F1 team

## GAME THEORY

### The 400m hurdles golden age

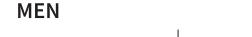
October 2019 seems to have heralded a golden age in the 400m hurdles, with the ten fastest times for women and nine of the top ten for men coming in this three-year period. While Sydney McLaughlin, who has the three quickest times ever, has dominated the women's event, world record holder Karsten Warholm, Rai Benjamin and Alison Dos Santos have three entries each among the men

#### WOMEN



Mark (seconds)	Athlete	Venue	Date
50.68	Sydney McLaughlin	Eugene (USA)	22 Jul 2022
51.41	Sydney McLaughlin	Eugene (USA)	25 Jun 2022
51.46	Sydney McLaughlin	Tokyo	04 Aug 2021
51.58	Dalilah Muhammad	Tokyo	04 Aug 2021
51.61	Sydney McLaughlin	Nashville (USA)	05 Jun 2022
51.68	Sydney McLaughlin	Szekesfehervar (Hungary)	08 Aug 2022
51.90	Sydney McLaughlin	Eugene (USA)	27 Jun 2021
52.03	Femke Bol	Tokyo	04 Aug 2021
52.16	Dalilah Muhammad	Doha	04 Oct 2019
52.17	Sydney McLaughlin	Eugene (USA)	20 Jul 2022

#### MEN



Mark (seconds)	Athlete	Venue	Date
45.94	Karsten Warholm	Tokyo	03 Aug 2021
46.17	Rai Benjamin	Tokyo	03 Aug 2021
46.29	Alison Dos Santos	Eugene (USA)	19 Jul 2022
46.70	Karsten Warholm	Oslo	01 Jul 2021
46.72	Alison Dos Santos	Tokyo	03 Aug 2021
46.78	Kevin Young	Barcelona	06 Aug 1992
46.80	Alison Dos Santos	Stockholm	30 Jun 2022
46.83	Rai Benjamin	Eugene (USA)	26 Jun 2021
46.87	Karsten Warholm	Stockholm	23 Aug 2020
46.89	Rai Benjamin	Eugene (USA)	19 Jul 2022



Rai Benjamin

## PICTURE THIS



### Not a war dance

Sam Whitelock leads the haka ahead of The Rugby Championship match between the New Zealand All Blacks and the Australia Wallabies in Auckland recently.

The haka are a variety of ceremonial performances in Maori culture. The version performed by

the All Blacks derives from the 'Ka Mate' haka, whose composition is attributed to Te Rauparaha, a leader of the Ngati Toa tribe.

Although it is often called a 'war dance', Maori scholars say this is an erroneous, uninformed description. In Maori mythology, it reportedly is a dance about the celebration of life.

There have been concerns that the haka popularised by the All Blacks has been culturally appropriated and commercially exploited — it has featured, for instance, in television advertisements.

This led to legal challenges. The New Zealand government agreed in a settlement in 2009 that the 'Ka

Mate' haka belongs to the Ngati Toa.

The 1888-89 New Zealand Native football team, a privately assembled rugby union outfit, was the first to perform the haka during its tour of the British Isles. The tradition has reportedly been continued by the All Blacks since 1905.

**FOOTBALL**

Lionel Messi says Qatar World Cup will be his last



Lionel Messi has confirmed that the World Cup in Qatar next month will be the last of his career. The 35-year-old Argentina star will play in his fifth World Cup but is still seeking his first title at the showpiece tournament. "There's some anxiety and nerves at the same time ... it is the last one," Messi told Star Plus.

**KABADDI**

Naveen powers Dabang Delhi past U Mumba; Bulls beat Titans



Dabang Delhi captain Naveen Kumar (13 points) powered his team to a 41-27 win over U Mumba in the opening match of the Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 in Bengaluru on Friday. In the second contest, Bengaluru Bulls overcame Telugu Titans' challenge 34-29 in the second contest, giving the home fans a reason to rejoice.

**CRICKET**

Pakistan beats Bangladesh in tri-series opener



Mohammad Rizwan (78 n.o., 50b, 7x4, 2x6) set up Pakistan's 21-run win over Bangladesh in a tri-series match in Christchurch on Friday. **The scores:** Pakistan 167/5 in 20 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 78 n.o.) bt Bangladesh 146/8 in 20 overs (Yasir Ali 42 n.o., Liton Das 35, Mohammad Wasim 3/24).

**FORMULA ONE**

Russell and Hamilton make it a Mercedes 1-2 in second practice



George Russell and Lewis Hamilton made it a Mercedes one-two ahead of title-chasing Max Verstappen in a soggy second practice on Friday for the Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka. Red Bull's Verstappen can clinch his second straight World title on Sunday if he wins the race with the fastest lap, no matter what his rivals do.

# Nida's all-round performance fashions Pakistan's remarkable win over India

First loss in six years to archrivals a result of Indian batters throwing away their wickets; Richa Ghosh's valiant pinch-hitting at the fag end to no avail as target remains tantalising out of reach; skipper Bismah Maroof also chips in to script Pakistan's turnaround after shock loss to Thailand

**ASIA CUP**

**Press Trust of India**  
SYLHET

**T**he Indian batters bungled badly in a straightforward chase as Pakistan recorded its first win over India in six years with a 13-run victory in the Women's Asia Cup here on Friday.

India, the most formidable team in Asia by some distance, batted poorly to be all out for 124 in 19.4 overs after Pakistan posted a modest 137 for six.

Pakistan scripted a remarkable turnaround less than 24 hours after a shock loss to Thailand.



**Tale of woe:** The Indian batters contributed to their own downfall, giving the Pakistanis reason to celebrate. PTI

**All sorts of trouble**  
At 65 for five, India was in all sorts of trouble with most of the batters, including star player Smriti Mandhana (17, 19b), throwing their wickets away.

Going into the game, India had a 10-2 record over Pakistan, whose previous

win had come way back in the 2016 T20 World Cup in New Delhi.

With India needing 61 off the last six overs, Pakistan was favourite to pull off victory.

But, Richa Ghosh (26, 13b), who had been taken off

the field during Pakistan's innings after suffering a heat stroke, brought India back into the game with three sixes against the spinners before being caught in the deep in the 19th over.

Her dismissal effectively

ended India's hopes.

Earlier, Pakistan, shocked by Thailand on Thursday, put up an improved batting performance, but it still seemed below par.

Nida Dar (56 not out, 37b) and skipper Bismah

**SCOREBOARD****PAKISTAN**

Muneeba Ali st. Richa b Deepthi 17 (1b, 1x4), Sidra Ameen c Richa b Pooja 11 (1b, 1x4), Bismah Maroof c Rajeshwari b Renuka 32 (35b, 2x4), Omaima Sohal lbw b Deepthi 0 (2b), Nida Dar (not out) 56 (37b, 5x4, 1x6), Aliya Riaz c Meghana b Pooja 7 (7b, 1x4), Ayesha Naseem c Jemimah b Deepthi 9 (7b, 1x4), Tuba Hassan (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (w-4): 4; Total (for six wkts, in 20 overs): 137.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-23 (Meghana, 3.2), 2-29 (Jemimah, 5.2), 3-50 (Smriti, 9.4), 4-63 (Pooja, 11.4), 5-65 (Hemalatha, 12.1), 6-91 (Deepthi, 15.2), 7-91 (Harmanpreet, 16.2), 8-110 (Radha, 17.6), 9-120 (Richa, 18.3).

**INDIA BOWLING**

Renuka 4-0-24-1, Deepthi 4-0-27-3, Pooja 4-0-23-2, Hemalatha 2-0-21-0, Rajeshwari 4-0-25-0, Radha 2-0-17-0.

**INDIA**

S. Meghana c Sidra b Nashra 15 (14b, 1x4, 1x6), Smriti Mandhana 13.

Maroof (32, 35b) shared a crucial 76-run stand off 58 balls to give the innings impetus.

Nida was the pick of the Pakistan batters as she

c Aiman b Nashra 17 (1b, 2x4), Jemimah Rodrigues c Tuba b Nida 2 (8b), D. Hemalatha b Tuba 20 (22b, 3x4), Pooja Vastrakar run out 5 (8b), Deepthi Sharma c Bismah b Sadia 16 (1b, 3x4), Harmanpreet Kaur c Aliya b Nida 12 (12b, 1x4), Richa Ghosh c Aliya b Sadia 26 (13b, 1x4, 3x6), Radha Yadav c Aliya b Nashra 3 (4b), Renuka Singh (not out) 2 (2b), Rajeshwari Gayakwad b Aiman 1 (5b); Extras (lb-1, w-4): 5; Total (in 19.4 overs): 124.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-23 (Meghana, 3.2), 2-29 (Jemimah, 5.2), 3-50 (Smriti, 9.4), 4-63 (Pooja, 11.4), 5-65 (Hemalatha, 12.1), 6-91 (Deepthi, 15.2), 7-91 (Harmanpreet, 16.2), 8-110 (Radha, 17.6), 9-120 (Richa, 18.3).

**PAKISTAN BOWLING**

Sadia 4-0-24-2, Nida 4-0-23-2, Nashra 4-0-30-3, Aiman 3-4-0-14-1, Tuba 4-0-32-1.

**Toss:** Pakistan.

**Player-of-the-Match:** Nida Dar. Pakistan won by 13 runs.

used her feet well, especially against the spinners, to get the big hits.

Off-spinner Deepthi Sharma (3/27) stood out among the Indian bowlers.

**Lesson to learn:** Samson admits he may have missed a trick in conducting the chase. R.V. MOORTHY

**We fell short of finding two big hits'**

**SA IN INDIA**

**Rakesh Rao**  
LUCKNOW

"In the end, we fell short of finding two big hits – a six and a four." That's how Sanju Samson summed up India's nine-run loss to South Africa in the first ODI on Thursday.

"We knew (Tabraiz) Shamsi was left with an over and he could be targeted. He had proved expensive and I was confident of hitting four sixes if we needed even 24 in the final over," said Samson.

"I like to spend time at the crease, it becomes even more special when you don the India colours."

# Hashika claims her sixth gold; Sajan takes his yellow metal tally to five

**NG SWIMMING**

**M.R. Praveen Chandran**  
RAJKOT

Hashika Ramachandra, the 14-year-old budding star of Indian swimming, underlined her class by winning her sixth gold of the 36th National Games at the Sardar Patel Aquatic Complex here on Friday.

The Karnataka girl won back-to-back gold medals on the penultimate day and set a new meet record in 400m freestyle after warding off a tough challenge from Delhi's Bhavya Sachdeva.

Hashika timed 4:32.17s to better Aakansha Vora's old mark (4:32.50) set in 2015. Hashika also won the 200m individual medley in 2:26.23s for her sixth gold medal of the games.

Veteran Sajan Prakash picked up two gold medals to take his yellow metal tally to five.

Sajan, in a storming final 50 metres, beat back the challenge from Karnataka's S. Siva and MP's Advait Page to set a new mark in 200m IM.

**Breaking away**  
At the homestretch Sajan broke away from Siva and Advait – despite a terrific sprint couldn't catch up with the Kerala swimmer – who clocked 2:05.81s to



**Blazing away:** Sajan picked up two gold medals on Friday, winning the men's 400m freestyle and 200m IM. Right: Hashika continued her golden spree. RITU RAJ KONWAR

**Medals Table**

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Services	42	31	27	100
Haryana	29	23	23	75
Maharashtra	26	26	48	100
Karnataka	21	21	33	75
Tamil Nadu	19	19	21	59
Uttar Pradesh	19	14	12	45
Kerala	15	15	11	41
Punjab	14	24	19	57
Manipur	14	5	12	31
Delhi	12	13	29	54

break P.S. Madhu's 2015 mark (2:08.98).

Sajan also won the 400m freestyle in 3:58.11s after nosing ahead of his rivals in the final 25 metres. Advait came up with his customary fast finish to pip Aneesh for the silver.

The 50m backstroke event didn't produce any surprises with Srihari Nataraj (Karnataka) and Maana

Patel (Gujarat) winning the gold in the men's and women's sections with meet records.

**Leading from the start**  
Srihari led from the start to clock 25.65s and improved his own record (25.88s) set in the heats in the morning.

Maana blitzed the field to win in 29.77s and also bettered her own record



Vivaan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Technical tweak does the trick for Vivaan**

**Y.B. Sarangi**

AHMEDABAD

Vivaan Kapoor overcame a technical issue to claim the men's trap gold medal at the National Games here on Friday.

The 20-year-old Vivaan, representing Rajasthan, defeated Punjab's Zoravar Singh Sandhu 31-26 to win the title. Services' Balabhadr Tarasiya bagged the bronze. "It's a big boost to my confidence. I missed a few targets, so I just needed a few tweaks. My coach (Khaled Al Mudaf) provided me with a technical input and helped me," revealed Vivaan.

In women's trap, MP's Neeru edged out UP's Sabreena Haris 26-24 to clinch the gold. Sabreena, who beat Manisha Keer 4-3 in a shootout in the semifinal, took the silver and Services' Seema Tomar the bronze.

# Ivan's night out as Kerala Blasters have a party

**ISL-9**

**Stan Rayan**  
KOCHI

There was a nice and dramatic Ukrainian touch to the Kerala Blasters' party as it won its Hero Indian Super League opener against East Bengal FC 3-1 at a packed Nehru Stadium here on Friday.

Coming in as a 79th-minute substitute, replacing forward Apostolos Giannou, Ukrainian Ivan Kaluzhnyi was quick to make his mark and make a dream debut.

**Quick run**  
Minutes after arriving, the 24-year-old, who had come on loan from FK Oleksandriya two months ago, made a quick run from the centre, dodged past a couple of defenders and coolly sent the ball in. Everything was over in a jiffy and Ivan made it look all so easy.

Just as the Blasters coach Vukomanovic had predicted, the new faces look capable of producing a few wonderful surprises this season.

Bengal Blasters' midfielder Adrian Luna, who had been one of the standout performers for runner-up Blasters last year, scored the ISL ninth edition's opening goal earlier, his attempt kissing the crossbar and going in, in the 72nd minute.



**Flying start:** Debutant Ivan, coming in as a 79th-minute substitute, pumped in two goals for Blasters. THULASI KAKAT

The first half was rather quiet, but nobody expected the second half to be so dramatic.

East Bengal goalkeeper Kamaljit Singh was kept very busy early in the second session by Luna and Apostolos. He stayed steady early, but things changed in a big way later.

**The result:** Kerala Blasters 3 (Adrian Luna 72, Ivan Kaluzhnyi 82 & 89) bt East Bengal 1 (Alexandre Lima 88).

**Saturday's match:** Bengaluru FC vs. NEUFC, Bengaluru.





Micro, small and medium enterprises are an important part of our economy and the State Government is committed to supporting them.

We have taken a number of big and far-reaching initiatives towards ease of doing business for our MSMEs so that more employment opportunities can be created for our youth.

The MSME Conclave being organised as a part of Invest Rajasthan Summit will give our entrepreneurs the opportunity to interact with and get inspired by stalwarts of the industry.

ASHOK GEHLOT  
Chief Minister, Rajasthan

”

# THINK BIG THINK SMART



## Invest Rajasthan MSME Conclave

JECC, Sitapura, Jaipur ➤ 8 October 2022, 10 am onwards

Chief Guest  
**SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan



Special Guest  
**SMT. SHAKUNTLA RAWAT**  
Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Commerce,  
Rajasthan



### Major Initiatives of State Government for MSMEs

- Rajasthan MSME Policy 2022 targeting 20,000 new MSME units and employment for 1 lakh persons
- Self registration facility for MSME units and exemption from approvals & inspections for first 3 years
- Up to 8% interest subsidy under Mukhyamantri Laghu Udyog
- Protsahan Yojana 2019; approx Rs100 crore of subsidy given so far
- Attractive investment incentives to MSMEs under RIPS 2022 as a thrust sector
- Over Rs900 crore worth of subsidies given to MSMEs under various State investment promotion schemes

Rajasthan Samvad

Department of Industries  
& Commerce,  
Government of Rajasthan

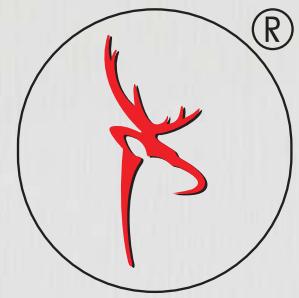
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