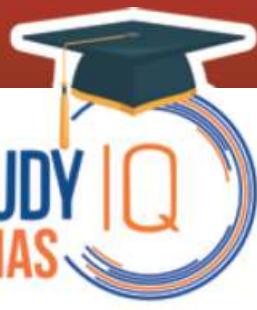


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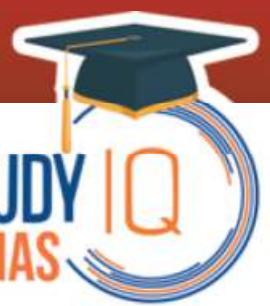


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**UN RESOLUTION**  
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ISRO robot gearing up for flights  
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**TRAGEDY IN THAILAND**  
Ex-policeman kills 22 children, 16 others  
WORLD » PAGE 17



**PARLEY**  
*Is India in a bind over its relations with Russia?*  
Geopolitical changes are not in India's favour  
OPINION » PAGE 11



**SOUTH AFRICA GOES 1-0 UP**  
Klaasen, Miller set up a win in opening ODI  
SPORT » PAGE 19

## World Bank pares India FY23 growth projection to 6.5%

Indian economy's expansion is expected to speed up to 7% in the next fiscal year, before settling back down to 6.1% in FY24-25

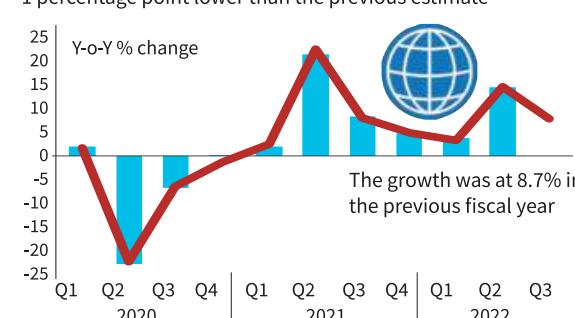
**Sriram Lakshman**  
WASHINGTON DC

The World Bank has trimmed its estimate for India's growth in the current fiscal year (FY22-23) to 6.5%, one percentage point lower than its previous projection in June and compared with the last fiscal year's 8.7% pace.

The estimate for the current year was revised due to 'persistent pressures'. The Indian economy is expected to speed up to 7% in the next fiscal year, before settling back down to 6.1% in FY24-25. The estimates were released as part of the Bank's twice yearly South Asia Economic Focus, titled "Coping with shocks:

### A slowdown in growth

The chart shows the World Bank's nowcast for quarterly GDP growth. It estimates that India's GDP will grow 6.5% in FY22-23, 1 percentage point lower than the previous estimate



Migration and the road to resilience", ahead of the World Bank IMF annual meetings.

With Sri Lanka's economic crisis, the devastating floods in Pakistan, and

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 14

recovery from the pandemic impacted by the war in Ukraine, recovery in the region will be uneven.

## Annie Ernaux wins Literature Nobel

**Agence France-Presse**  
STOCKHOLM

French author Annie Ernaux, known for her deceptively simple novels drawing on personal experience of class and gender, was on Thursday awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Ms. Ernaux, 82, was honored "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the

roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory", the jury said.

Interviewed on Swedish television immediately after the announcement, Ms. Ernaux called it a "very great honour" and "a great responsibility".

Part of school syllabi  
Her more than 20 books, many of which have been school texts in France for



Annie Ernaux

are the source for all of Ms. Ernaux's work and she is the pioneer of France's "autofiction" genre, which gives narrative form to real-life experience.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 14

**Also read** | A short history of the Nobel Prize in Literature  
[trib.al/0EmJMB8](http://trib.al/0EmJMB8)

## Nine killed in bus accident in Kerala

**The Hindu Bureau**  
PALAKKAD

Nine people were killed, five of them students on a school trip, when a tourist bus hit a Kerala RTC bus in Palakkad district around Wednesday midnight.

Nearly 50 passengers were injured in the accident at Anjumoorthy Mangalam,

near Vadakkanchery. Three KSRTC passengers and a teacher who accompanied the students were among the victims. The accident was due to speeding by the driver of the tourist bus, transport authorities said. The driver was arrested later.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 14

## UN Council rejects debate on Xinjiang

**Agence France-Presse**  
GENEVA

The UN Human Rights Council on Thursday voted against holding a debate on alleged abuses in China's Xinjiang region after Michelle Bachelet gave her Xinjiang report, alleging torture, detention of Uighurs and other Muslim minorities.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 14

The U.S. and allies presented the first draft decision to the UNHRC targeting China after former UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet gave her Xinjiang report, alleging torture, detention of Uighurs and other Muslim minorities.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 14

## Red alert



Red robes discarded by devotees lie scattered on the Durgh ghat on the Krishna river in Vijayawada on Thursday. Devotees of Goddess Kanaka Durga wear red during their 41-day deeksha or austerity period. On culmination of the deeksha, they circumambulate Indrakeladri, abode of the goddess, take a dip in the Krishna and leave their robes there though it is not prescribed by the priests. K.V. Giri

## Director's comments stir debate on Hindu religion, Tamil identity

**B. Aravind Kumar**  
CHENNAI

National Award-winning film-maker Vetrimaaran's accusation in a recent speech that Hindutva forces were continuously trying to appropriate Tamil symbols has stirred a debate that raged on Thursday as well, with actor-politician Kamal Haasan the latest to wade in.

Endorsing Mr. Vetrimaaran's view at a felicitation function for the crew of *Ponniyin Selvan I*, a Maniratnam film based on the life of Raja Raja Chola, Mr. Haasan said "Hindu religion" was not there during the legendary Chola ruler's time, there was Vainavam, Saivism and Samanam. "It [Hindu religion] was the name given by the British. There were different reli-



gions. In the 8th century, Adi Sankara merged them. It is history," he said.

However, Telangana Governor and former Tamil Nadu BJP president Tamilsai Soundararajan said there was an attempt to hide the cultural identity and this needed to be opposed. "Worship, Saivism and Vainavam are the cultural identity of Tamils and any attempt to hide these identities would be inap-

propriate," she told reporters at Coimbatore on Thursday.

**Saturday speech**  
The entire saga began on Saturday when Mr. Vetrimaaran, speaking at the 60th birthday celebrations of MP and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) leader Thol. Thirumavalavan, cautioned against continued attempts by Hindutva forces to appropriate Tamil identity. The acclaimed film-maker was referencing posts on social media by certain sections portraying Raja Raja Chola as a "Hindu king" even as Tamils worldwide reacted favourably to P.S.I.

"Art is political. Initially it was art for art's sake. Aesthetic beauty is important but art is not complete without people. Art is a re-

flection of life. Cinema is a mass medium. Tamil Nadu remains a secular State, resisting the external forces with maturity, because the Dravidian movement took control of cinema from their hands," Mr. Vetrimaaran had remarked.

Stating that it was very important to keep art political, he said, "We [Tamils] have to handle it correctly. If we don't do it properly, soon our symbols will be appropriated by them," he said pointing to instances like (Tamil saint-poet) Tiruvalluvar draped in saffron and avatars like Raja Raja Chola as Hindu king. "It has been happening continuously. They will use cinema as a tool. We need to be politically aware," he said.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 14

## Dasara rallies: Uddhav and Shinde allies join the duel

**Shoumojit Banerjee**  
PUNE

A day after the massive "show of strength" at Dasara rallies by rival Shiv Sena factions in Maharashtra, their respective allies took potshots at each other.

While the Congress slammed Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for "reading BJP's script" in his address, the BJP claimed the "unprecedented" crowds at Mr. Shinde's Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) rally conclusively proved that the "real" Sena was the one led by the Chief Minister and not his predecessor, Uddhav Thackeray.

Speaking in Pune, BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said despite the BKC grounds being twice the size of Dadar's Shivaji Park (where Mr. Thackeray held his rally), it was packed with supporters. "The Shiv Sena cadre have shown that the 'real' Sena is the one led by CM Shinde. I congratulate him... It is pointless to comment on Uddhav Thackeray's speech as his address contained nothing but noise. He really ought to change his scriptwriter," Mr. Fadnavis said.

In a riposte, the Maha Vikas Aghadi allies mocked Mr. Shinde for the number of times he had to look at his speech and read it out. The Thackeray camp claimed that their rally at Shivaji Park "was the biggest in the history" of the Shiv Sena.

Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole alleged that the Shinde faction had arranged for a paid crowd at the BKC venue but they "left without hearing" the Chief Minister's speech.

## Gujarat police to probe flogging incident

**The Hindu Bureau**  
AHMEDABAD

Following a massive outrage over the public flogging of those who were accused of disturbing a garba

event in Gujarat's Kheda district, an inquiry has been ordered into the incident, Gujarat DGP Ashish Bhatia said.

The Ahmedabad Range IG has been asked to con-

duct an inquiry into the incident.

The police will also take action against those who filmed the thrashing and circulated video clips on social media.

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2. Interested candidates may apply online on or before. 04.11.2022 upto 11:59 PM
3. Last date of receipt of final printout of online application form with filled in relevant appended Score Card, attached to this advertisement by the candidate, with all supporting documents thereof including the proof of educational qualifications, date of birth and experience, if any, in the Registrar Office, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu), Chatha through Speed Post. 14.11.2022 upto 5.00 PM
4. Last date for receiving Application form of in-service-candidates 'Through Proper Channel' in Registrar Office, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu), Chatha through Speed Post. 14.11.2022 upto 5.00 PM

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The details & other terms & conditions for providing manpower for security, gardening and housekeeping services are available on the school website (<https://paschimvihar.kvs.ac.in/school-announcement>)

The last date to submit the filled Tender form for bids is 22.10.2022 up to 02.00 PM by registered post and tender will be opened on the next working day i.e. 27.10.2022 at 02.00 PM

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The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

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## Delimitation committee sends feedback on draft to Centre

1,720 suggestions and objections received by the committee have been sent to the MHA

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The delimitation committee has sent 1,720 suggestions and objections it received in response to its draft report to the Ministry of Home Affairs, according

to officials familiar with the development. The officials said while the public feedback had been examined, it could not be disposed of without prior approval from the Centre. "Plenty of suggestions and objections were repetitive while many held no relevance. These

were on issues such as the unequal distribution of population per ward. However, the final report is likely to reflect minor changes in connection to ward boundaries and other geographical changes," an official said. The official added that regardless of

the nature of the changes, implementing the draft delimitation order will be a tedious task which will require redrawing of the wards' maps. "We aim to send the final proposal to the Centre by October 18. The process is on fast-track mode," the official added.

DDA to pay ₹10 lakh each as compensation for sewer deaths

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The High Court on Thursday ordered the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to pay ₹10 lakh each as compensation to the families of two persons who died after inhaling toxic gases inside a sewer here last month.

It also told the DDA to consider granting compassionate appointment to the kin of the victims and posted the case for hearing on November 14.

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CMYK



# Seven years after Akhlaq's gruesome murder, his family still waits for justice

Despite the climate of fear, says Akhlaq's brother Jaan Mohammed, he will continue to pursue the legal battle against the accused — the trial has so far been marred by delays and only recently picked up pace — as it's a 'matter of justice for my late brother'. Meanwhile, there is a 'total breakdown' of relations between Muslims and Hindus in the village where Akhlaq once lived, reports **Ziya Us Salam**



(Left) The lane leading to Akhlaq's house (blue door) in Dadri's Bisada village. His brother Jaan Mohammed says eight to ten Muslim families have fled the village since the incident.

(Below) File photo of Akhlaq. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR



**H**awa kharaab hai (circumstances are adverse)", says Pravesh Kumar, an autorickshaw driver, as he ferries this correspondent to Bisada village in western Uttar Pradesh's Dadri town, where seven years ago, on the night of September 28, 2015, a mob lynched 52-year-old Mohammad Akhlaq on the suspicion of slaughtering a calf.

"Aapka wahan jaana theek nahi hai (You shouldn't go there)," Mr. Kumar, whose family hails from Bisada, adds.

A few hours ago, Akhlaq's brother, Jaan Mohammed, had issued a similar warning. "I'll advise that you go only during the day."

Even before one reaches Bisada, the total breakdown of relations between the village's Muslims and Hindus is palpable.

"There is no social interaction between Hindus and Muslims in Bisada unless one comes face to face on the road. Of the 30 Muslim families that used to reside in the village before Akhlaq's murder, eight to ten have moved out," Mr. Mohammed says.

The first to move out was Akhlaq's family, which fled their house under the shadow of fear on October 17, 2015.

This year, as has happened over the past six, no family member came to the village to host a prayer meeting on Akhlaq's death anniversary. There is a danger to their life and limb. The attackers, as Mr. Mohammed points out, "roam freely".

Of the 17 accused, one — Ravin Sisodia — died in judicial custody in June 2017, while the rest got bail by September 2017. The chargesheet in the case was filed on December 25, 2015, but the case gained momentum only this year.

"Nobody keeps in touch with us anymore," Mr. Mohammed says, adding, "The uncle of one of the attackers was known to me. He too does not call up to find out about us. It has been years. We have never been able to return to our house."

## Desolate home

The house, located in a remote part of the village, wears a forsaken look. There is tall, wild grass in the courtyard; the yellow paint on the walls is peeling off; plaster has fallen off the walls due to unattended seepage over the years.

A narrow staircase leads to Akhlaq's bedroom on the first floor. It had then been freshly whitewashed, probably for Id-ul-Azha. Akhlaq had just retired to bed after celebrating Id with family and friends when he was dragged out of the bedroom by a mob around 9 p.m., as allegations of cow slaughter flew thick and fast.

The village had not reported any communal incident until then. Akhlaq's family had often shared the Id *sewaiyan* with the neighbours in a perfect picture of communal bonhomie.

"Five generations of our family lived there. You could ask any villager if we had ever even

## INFOCUS

No lynching incident since has arguably been covered in as much detail. In many ways, Akhlaq's lynching set the template for future attacks on unarmed Muslim men by self-proclaimed 'gau rakshaks' who claimed their victims either killed a cow, as in the case of Akhlaq, or were transporting cows for slaughter, as in the case of Pehlu Khan and Rakbar Khan in Rajasthan's Alwar district.

squabbled with any neighbour. Never," says Mr. Mohammed, as Akhlaq's daughter nods in agreement.

It all changed that evening. Passions ran high and reason took leave. Men, young and old, pounced upon Akhlaq, as his wife, daughter and son screamed for help. "I was away. An acquaintance was in my room. He could not help either. The attackers hit my *bhabhi* (Akhlaq's wife Ikraman) and Shaista (Akhlaq's daughter) as they tried to save him," says Mr. Mohammed.

The men kicked and slapped Akhlaq, pulled at his hair, and hit him with bricks and batons. The police arrived half an hour later. By then Akhlaq was no more.

Later, as his body was readied for burial with a ceremonial bath, the family discovered, as Mohammed Qumar, a family friend, recalls, "He was bruised and bleeding all over. His skull, neck and knees were fractured; his left arm hung loosely. It was difficult to wrap the body in a shroud."

"Akhlaq *bhai* was mauled. It was like the attackers had gone wild. They recorded a video of the attack and uploaded it on social media. Some of the locals might still have the video," Mr. Qumar says.

The police arrested the priest of the temple, from where the announcement about the missing calf had allegedly been made, and his assistant for questioning.

An FIR was filed naming 10 of the attackers based on the testimony of the family members. It contained charges under Sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting with deadly weapons), 149 (unlawful assembly), 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder) and 458 (house-breaking) of the Indian Penal Code.

## Prime time news

The case hit the headlines across India. Every newspaper and TV news channel gave it prime space. No lynching incident since has been covered in as much detail.

In many ways, Akhlaq's lynching set the template for future attacks on unarmed Muslim men by self-proclaimed 'gau rakshaks' who claimed their victims either killed a cow, as in the case of Akhlaq, or were transporting cows for slaughter, as in the case of Pehlu Khan and Rakbar Khan in Rajasthan's Alwar district.

The then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav, promised justice to the family. He even flew Akhlaq's wife and daughter to Lucknow for a meeting.

Mr. Yadav announced financial aid to the family — Akhlaq's wife was given ₹30 lakh and his

brothers ₹5 lakh each. Later, the Greater Noida Development Authority awarded four flats to Akhlaq's kin. No compensation was announced by the Centre.

Meanwhile, the Indian Air Force helped by posting Akhlaq's son Mohammed Sartaj, who was till then serving in Chennai, to Delhi.

"After the incident, the Indian Air Force gave two options of transfer to Sartaj — to the Hindon airbase or to the air force station in Delhi. We opted for Delhi. Sartaj's mother and sister shifted with him in October 2015," recalls Mr. Mohammed, who himself lives in another house in Dadri, a few kilometres away from his ancestral house, which he once shared with his brothers Akhlaq, Jameel and other family members.

Amid heightened public interest, the trial started in Surajpur sessions court soon after the incident. It was, however, not until 2020 that the hearings began.

"It is difficult to put a number on the exact hearings. They have sometimes been scheduled fortnightly and at other times monthly. I would say around 60 hearings have taken place so far," says Mohammed Yusuf Saifi, the advocate representing the victims.

The statements of all the family members of Akhlaq are yet to be recorded. There have been many delays and plenty of bureaucratic hurdles.

For instance, Ms. Shaista, who now lives with her husband in Sangam Vihar in Delhi, could not record her statement before the court on two occasions earlier this year, as no security was provided to her.

It was only when U.P. Police provided her protection on the third occasion that she could record her statement in court. The police said no security could be provided to her due to lack of manpower.

She is one of the three eyewitnesses in the case, the other two being Ms. Ikraman and Akhlaq's younger son, Danish. Ms. Shaista repeated the names of those mentioned in the FIR in the last hearing. She recognised them all.

Noted legal activist Asad Hayat, who is part of the team representing the victims, says, "Ikraman's statement will be recorded on October 12. Then we will record Danish's statement. There has been an inordinate delay from the defence lawyers since the chargesheet was filed in 2015. Two years were lost to the pandemic. But this year the case has gained momentum."

Mr. Saifi chips in, "Whether it takes one year or two, we are confident of getting convictions in the case. The hearings have so far been good for us. We are moving in the right direction." Mr.

Danish is yet to be called for recording his account.

He suffered grievous injuries in the attack and was treated at Noida's Kailash Hospital where he underwent two brain surgeries. His medical bills were footed by the Akhilesh government. He had been promised a government job too, but that has not materialised with the change of government in the State. He is unemployed today.

"The family did not get any help from the State government or the police. We cannot even ask for a job for Danish with this government," says Mr. Mohammed.

## Climate of fear

Mr. Mohammed says a BJP MP visited their house soon after the incident. "The MP described Akhlaq's killing as an 'accident', to which someone in the crowd raised an objection asserting that it was a 'planned murder'. The MP did speak to the family after that and left. Soon after, a BJP MLA visited our village but did not come to our house. Later the same MLA met me at a function and advised me to 'sort out' this matter of Akhlaq's killing".

Meanwhile, Mr. Mohammed says there have been attempts by the accused to settle the matter out of court.

"Gaurav, son of Dhiraj, and Sachin, son of Om Kumar, approached me. They came along with a man called Kalicharan and requested that we reach some sort of settlement," says Mr. Mohammed, adding, "My name was added to the FIR to build pressure on me. But I did not succumb. It is a matter of justice for my late brother. That's why no family member lives there now. There is a climate of fear there."

The FIR he refers to stems from the police investigations in the case.

"The police came to take the meat from Akhlaq's house around 1 a.m. on the night of September 28-29. They found no meat there. Yet in the chargesheet, they did not say so. Instead, they showed meat in a utensil which was too big to be put inside the fridge," says Mr. Mohammed.

He adds, "They then put the meat in plastic bags and sent it to the Dadri animal hospital. On investigation there, it was found to be mutton. The meat was red in colour, the fat was white. The vet also checked the feet of the animal. And concluded it was mutton. Later, we heard of a forensic report from Mathura which said it was beef." Following this, an FIR was filed against Mr. Mohammed and a daughter-in-law of Akhlaq, Sonu.

Mr. Saifi claimed then that the findings of the Mathura laboratory will have no bearing on the case. "It has been the unanimous view of the prosecution and also of the investigating agencies that the ongoing criminal case is about murder. The fresh forensic report will have no bearing on that case," he had said.

Meanwhile, the autorickshaw driver says, "Justice should be done. Whosoever is the culprit should be punished. After the incident, the communal bonhomie in the village is gone. People from different faiths don't visit each other's homes now."



Whether it takes one year or two, we are confident of getting convictions in the case. The hearings have so far been good for us. We are moving in the right direction

YUSUF SAIFI  
Prosecution lawyer



He was bruised and bleeding all over. His skull, neck and knees were fractured; his left arm hung loosely. It was difficult to wrap the body in a shroud

MOHAMMED QUMAR  
Family friend



There have been attempts by the accused to settle the matter out of court  
**JAAN MOHAMMED**  
AKHLAQ'S BROTHER

# Ticket to ride

Francesca D'Alonzo from Italy is now in India after traversing half the globe on her bike. She talks about the ups and downs of her adventures

**Vijay Lokapally**

**F**rancesca D'Alonzo is on a daring adventure on her Yamaha Ténéré 700. As a biker, she always attracted attention – she knew it was tough out there but then her ambition was always to explore extraordinary places and hence, this exciting exercise – from Italy to India through Balkans, Turkey, Iran and Pakistan.

"I am finally in India. Can't be happier than this," she smiles. Francesca has been in India for two weeks now, crossing over into the country via the Wagah border. Ladakh was her first stop before arriving at Amritsar. "The Golden Temple was just stunning. A magical location indeed."

Biking was not a welcome hobby. Her family had their apprehensions. "It was not a girl thing," she was warned. "I was initially scared. I thought I was not capable of riding a motorbike." Her boyfriend, Amedeo Lovisoni, initiated the idea and she lost little time in embracing biking to become a brand ambassador for Yamaha. Amedeo is her travelling partner on this tour, covering 200 to 500 kilometres a day, depending on the traffic. "We both hail from Udine, a city in north-eastern region Italy."

She presented a proposal to Yamaha Motors in Italy to ride the Yamaha Ténéré 700 in order to showcase women empowerment and was

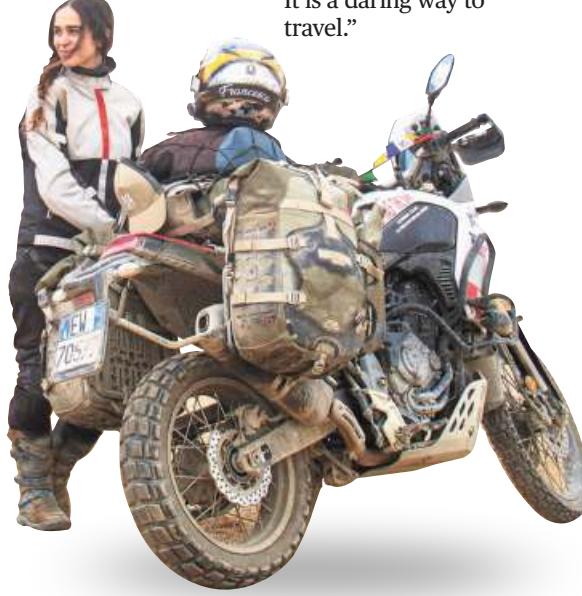


**Trail mix** Francesca D'Alonzo.  
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

pleasantly surprised when it was accepted. She had driven 50,000 km in a year's time since, travelling from Italy to Turkey. "Getting to India on a bike was my dream and I am super happy to have done this," says the 34-year-old.

"I worked one year in London as a financial analyst, and I grew up studying ballet and modern dance, performing in European theatres. I backpacked in south-east Asia alone and hitchhiked across Europe. I'm a serial experimenter: skydiving, canyoning, surfing, paragliding, downhill skiing," she says. Francesca is currently in the process of pursuing a second degree in Psychology, having secured one in Law in Bologna, Italy.

She wanted to do something by herself and that is why she took up the challenge. "I am stubborn when I want something. I wanted to set an example to the world. A story to inspire girls. It is not about the bike. It is a way to develop discipline, commitment and sacrifice. It is a daring way to travel."



**Soma Basu**  
soma.basu@thehindu.co.in

**S**he is trained in Odissi and Manipuri dance, but movies are her passion and profession. Over the past 30 years Rituparna Sengupta has acted in 185 Bengali movies, as well as Odia, English, Malayalam and Kannada films. It is her Mumbai stint – with 33 Hindi films between 1994 and 2015 – that disappoints her. However, the fighter in her kept going, and now she has half-a-dozen plus Hindi films on hand. She is positive about breaking her Bollywood jinx.

Excerpts from an interview during Rituparna's recent visit to the Capital for the promotion of her new film.

*Tell us little about your post-Diwali release Mahisusur Mardini?*

The director, Ranjan Ghosh, was inspired by the Nirbhaya incident and has sought to present the movie as an apology to all women, who continue to be abused every day. The film makes you wonder about the conflicting powers and perils of women; how people worship forms of Shakti and yet subject women to heinous crimes. Ma Durga and her children are used as a metaphor in the film, in which I play a real-world Durga dealing with challenges in today's society.

# Mumbai calling

After three decades in the film industry, Bengali actor Rituparna Sengupta talks about how she broke her Bollywood jinx



**Question:** Any particular reason for promoting the film at theatre festivals in Delhi?

**Answer:** The story of *Mahisusur Mardini* happens over one night in a house getting ready for Durga puja and the film is inspired by theatre in terms of lighting, props, the single entry and exit set of characters. Also, it is great to get a nod from an intellectual crowd in theatre circuits, such as India Habitat Centre. The interaction with theatre association

members at Jamia Millia Islamia University was invigorating as students spoke their minds on how we can make a difference with our films and promote communal harmony.

**Q:** You say your Bollywood stint is jinxed; yet you have a slew of Hindi films either nearing completion or ready for release...

**A:** Yes, I am focusing on Mumbai now as there is tremendous scope for

actors like me in content-rich films. The kind of roles I have played in Tollywood and the appreciation I have received – I want to showcase my talent pan India. The Bollywood buzz will always remain and I feel people in other parts of the country should know more about me. I am eagerly awaiting *Bansuri* with Anurag Kashyap in the lead, *Good Morning Sunshine* with Revathy, *Jihad* with Rohit Roy, *Kal Tighori* with Arbaz Khan and Mahesh Manjrekar, *Ittar*

**Looking within** Rituparna Sengupta says simplicity and integrity are her strengths.

SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

with Deepak Tijori, *Tere Aane Se* by Purab Kohli and *Salt* with Chandan Roy Sanyal. All these films got delayed due to the pandemic.

**Q:** Do you see a strong shift in film content now, particularly in Bollywood? **A:** Yes, people are drawn to stories drawn from their lives rather than the feel-good magical moments. Look at the successes on OTT platforms. Concepts and ideas have changed and merged into a different level and audiences are accepting it.

**Q:** How do you react to the public boycott of films in recent times?

**A:** What is happening is unfortunate. Actors are performers, who are given a script and do what is wanted of them. We love and respect our audiences and create entertainment for them. When every small thing gets judged on social media, there will be frustration. We put in so much hard work, effort and sacrifice in every project; you can't let it go to waste.

**Q:** How have you kept yourself relevant for 30 years in Tollywood?

**A:** It is a process in continuum, of constantly reinventing and emoting. I walked into acting from a middle class family without any training. My

simplicity and integrity are my strength. I was lucky to make my debut with the National Award-winning *Shvet Patharer Thala*, in 1992. I have worked hard ever since. People have loved my films and everyday when I wake up I want to do something new for them because I have the confidence that nothing I do will ever go waste. I have built my audience with both commercial and serious films. Every movie I do, is and will be seen before it is judged; rejection will not come blindly because my association with a film does not end with my acting in it. I engage myself with every department of film making as money rides on my name.

**Q:** How do you choose your scripts and strike a balance between art films and commercial entertainers?

**A:** I choose scripts carefully and see what difference I am going to make with the role. I dislike repetition because it kills innovation. Each movie I act in is like a fresh lease of life for me because it chisels me as an actor. I want to be remembered by the characters I have played, say for instance, Romita in *Dahan* that won me the National Award in 1997. Paromita in Aparna Sen's *Paramitar Ek Din*, Mili in *Bela Seshi* as Soumitra Chatterjee's daughter, Begum Jaan in *Rajkahini*. I identify with each of these strong women who helped me grow as an actor.



# Look up

**As Hanle in Ladakh is poised to have India's first Dark Sky Reserve, prospects for stargazing and astro tourism shine bright**

**Sangeetha Devi Dundoo**

sangeethadevi.k@thehindu.co.in

**F**or tourists visiting Ladakh, the itinerary is most likely to include the Pangong Lake in the State's capital Leh, and for the more adventurous lot, an expedition to the Khardung La pass. What many don't know is that the region's arid landscape, sparse population and therefore minimal artificial light also makes it a destination for stargazing. And soon, India will have its first Dark Sky Reserve in Hanle, located about 250 kilometres from Leh. The initiative mooted by the Department of Science and Technology, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, is expected to give astro tourism in India a boost.

Globally, designated dark sky regions developed by tourism boards of different countries, in collaboration with astronomers and local communities, are equipped with facilities to aid astro tourism. Since stargazing requires driving to remote locations at night, tourists look for accommodation facilities and this, in turn, can spell revenue for local tourism.

Some of the visitors to Leh

might be aware of observatories and homestays that facilitate stargazing experiences. Astro tourism is courted by a niche section of tourists, propelled by astronomy clubs in different cities. A few groups venture into remote locations in Ladakh, Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh, and the deserts of Gujarat and Rajasthan to gaze at the clear night skies and spot the stars, nebulae, the Milky Way and other far off galaxies, guided by astronomers.

#### Dark sky zones

A designated dark sky region has the potential to bring in domestic and international tourists. The International Dark Sky Association (IDA), in the U.S., has so far certified 200 dark sky destinations as part of its International Dark Sky Places (IDSP) programme. Following a rigorous application procedure, places are certified as International Dark Sky Sanctuaries, Reserves, Communities or Parks.

Ashley Wilson, IDA's director of conservation and lead for IDSP, says on an average, IDA certifies around 20 nominations a year. 2021 was an exception with the certification of 37 new places. The 200th place to be certified, in September 2022,

was Merritt Reservoir State Recreation Area in Nebraska, USA.

In an email interview, Ashley states that "the IDSP certification brings attention to light pollution and the need to preserve the night sky as a natural resource. Applying for the certification supports management agencies in achieving long-term conservation targets and connecting people to nature. Additionally, it serves as an economic driver by fostering increased tourism and local economic activity."



**The International Dark Sky Places certification brings attention to light pollution and the need to preserve the night sky as a natural resource.**

ASHLEY WILSON,  
International Dark Sky Association

He cites examples, as reported by the Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative: In 2019, a study by Missouri State University examined the economic impact of dark sky tourism on the Colorado Plateau economy. According to the study, astro tourism could lead to \$5.8 billion in visitor spending and support the creation of over 11,000 new jobs annually, over the next decade.

#### Certification woes

There are dark sky regions across North and South America, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, developed in coordination with local tourism and government bodies, with an understanding of astronomy and the need to have lighting conditions that do not hinder the views of the night skies.

Not all of these regions are certified by international bodies such as the IDA or the Starlight Foundation in Spain.



Reports suggest that among the 63 national parks in North America, only 12 have been certified by the IDA.

The dark sky reserve coming up at Hanle is not yet certified by the IDA. Ashley says the IDA has contacted local officials and is working with this team to prepare their IDSP application.

#### Tourism boosters

Regions closer to the Himalayas offer unhindered views of the night skies for avid astro tourists and a nomenclature such as a dark sky reserve or a sanctuary can further help boost tourism, says Sonal Agotra, founder of Astrostays, which works closely with the local community in Maan village in Ladakh, on the banks of Pangong Tso in Leh.

While tourists have explored astro tourism activities in Leh, she says driving further away to Hanle and Zanskar can offer unhindered views of the night sky. "For people travelling all the way, developing accommodation facilities in the hamlets will be key," adds Sonal.

During the pandemic, with international travel out of bounds, Ashley points out to reports that suggest a surge in visits to parks and other close-to-nature destinations. "Naturally dark and quiet environments can boost this sense of tranquility, which makes IDSPs more appealing."

**Starry skies** (Above) Stargazing in Hanle; (left) dark skies near the Himalayan Chandra Telescope in Hanle. COSMO HUB AND OBULI CHANDRAN



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**Timings****DEHLI**

FRIDAY, OCT. 07
RISE 06:17 SET 18:01
RISE 16:47 SET 03:24
SATURDAY, OCT. 08
RISE 06:18 SET 18:00
RISE 17:21 SET 04:28
SUNDAY, OCT. 09
RISE 06:18 SET 17:59
RISE 17:53 SET 05:30

<b>Delhi Weather</b>	max	min
Delhi City	31	22
Safdarjung	31	22
Palam	30	22

**Delhi Palam Today**  
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
28°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night remains pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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## Anil Deshmukh files for bail in graft case

### The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

After the Bombay High Court granted bail to former Home Minister of Maharashtra Anil Deshmukh in the money-laundering case investigated by the Enforcement Directorate, he filed for bail in the corruption case looked into by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday.

The bail plea was filed before the special CBI court on Thursday through advocate Aniket Nikam appearing for the Nationalist Congress Party leader still lodged at Arthur Road Jail in Mumbai.

The court directed the Central agency to file its reply on October 14.

On October 4, a single Bench of Justice N.J. Jamadar granted bail to the 73-year-old and said, "the amount received by Deshmukh's family-run trust Sai Seva Sanstha cannot be treated as proceeds of crime."

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Advocate Aniket Nikam appearing for the Nationalist Congress Party leader still lodged at Arthur Road Jail in Mumbai.

# For Uttarakhand, doing away with revenue police is easier said than done

These officials reinforce policing in the State, which has an average of one police station for as many as 65,000 people. They are the first layer of investigation whenever a crime takes place

### Ishita Mishra

PAURI GARHWAL

**T**he brutal killing of 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari allegedly by her employer Pulkit Arya, the son of a former BJP Minister, has put the lens on Uttarakhand's unique policing system. It is the only State where revenue department officials such as patwari and kanungo constitute the first layer of crime investigation, a colonial relic that persists to this day.

These officials reinforce policing in the State, which has an average of one police station for as many as 65,000 people. Revenue police cover over half the area in 11 of Uttarakhand's 13 districts.

Whenever a crime takes



Smoke billows from a factory in Pauri Garhwal owned by Pulkit Arya, accused of murdering a female employee. FILE PHOTO

place, the revenue police of the area file an FIR, investigate the case, arrest the accused and file a charge sheet in the local court.

In case of heinous crimes, the case is transferred to the regular police, a process that takes 7-10 days.

In Ankita's case, her parents alleged that the case had weakened as the patwari they contacted initially

ly didn't act promptly, enabling the accused to destroy evidence and then flee.

The State government subsequently suspended the patwari and initiated an inquiry against him.

The State Revenue Department currently has around 740 revenue police officials against an overall sanctioned strength of

1,216, including patwari (revenue sub-inspector), kanungo (revenue inspector) and naib tehsildar (Deputy Superintendent of Police).

The police team arrested Rakesh Kumar Mishra from his village in Darbhanga on Wednesday midnight and is bringing him to Mumbai, police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Zone 2 Neelotpal told *The Hindu*, "A threat call has been received on the landline of Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and we are in the process of registering an FIR (First Information Report). The man arrested from Darbhanga is in transit to Mumbai." His mobile phone has been seized, police said.

"The caller threatened to blow up Antilia and gave multiple threats to members of the Ambani family," a spokesperson of Reliance Industries Limited said.

## Delhi High Court upholds eviction order against Baroda royals

### The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday ruled that neither the late Maharaja Ranjit Singh Gaekwad nor his legal heirs are entitled to continue indefinitely in a government accommodation in Safdarjung Lane here, which was provided to him by virtue of him becoming a Member of Parliament.

A Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad said it did not find any reason to interfere with the order of eviction which was passed in November 2001.

"Neither Maharaja Ranjit Singh nor the legal heirs are entitled to continue indefinitely in a government accommodation," the High Court observed while dismissing an appeal filed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh against the eviction order.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh Gaekwad was allotted the government accommodation at 7, Safdarjung Lane in 1980 in his capacity as Member of the Parliament.

He remained Member of the Parliament till November 27, 1989 and the allotment was cancelled on December 27, 1989.

**'Offer not taken'** It highlighted that the offer made to the Maharaja in 1976 for a plot of land in Jor Bagh was not responded.

"There was only a proposal made on behalf of the Government of India subject to certain terms and conditions, and the then Maharaja was required to give his acceptance to the proposal within 15 days. The Maharaja has certainly not given any acceptance," the High Court observed.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh Gaekwad was the second son of late Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh Gaekwad, the erstwhile ruler of Baroda State. Sir Pratap had signed the Instrument of Merger with the Union of India on March 21, 1949.

As per the terms of the Covenant, the private properties belonging to Maharaja Sir Pratap were to be retained by the Maharaja of Baroda and, other properties, which were not his personal properties, became the exclusive properties of the Government of India.

Man from Bihar held for threatening Ambani family

### The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

Mumbai Police with the help of Bihar Police detained a man from Darbhanga for making two calls and allegedly threatening to kill members of industrialist Mukesh Ambani's family on October 5.

The police team arrested Rakesh Kumar Mishra from his village in Darbhanga on Wednesday midnight and is bringing him to Mumbai, police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Zone 2 Neelotpal told *The Hindu*, "A threat call has been received on the landline of Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and we are in the process of registering an FIR (First Information Report). The man arrested from Darbhanga is in transit to Mumbai." His mobile phone has been seized, police said.

"The caller threatened to blow up Antilia and gave multiple threats to members of the Ambani family," a spokesperson of Reliance Industries Limited said.

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THE HINDU

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# Sonia joins Bharat Jodo Yatra in Mandya for 2 hours

Police and other security personnel in Karnataka had a tough time controlling the surging crowds that jostled to catch a glimpse of the Congress president who joined the yatra for the first time

## The Hindu Bureau

MANDYA

**C**ongress president Sonia Gandhi joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which resumed its journey in Pandavapura in Karnataka's Mandya district on Thursday after a two-day Dasara break.

She joined the yatra, led by her son Rahul Gandhi, MP, for the first time since it began on September 7 and wound its way through parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala before entering Karnataka on September 30. She was participating in a public event after a long gap, said party sources.

On Thursday, several



**Lending support:** AICC president Sonia Gandhi with her son Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

other party leaders, including the former Chief Minister Siddaramiah and Karnataka Pradesh Con-

gress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar, walked alongside her amid cheers and sloganising by the

party supporters. Police and other security personnel had a tough time controlling the surging crowds that jostled to catch a glimpse of the Congress president.

While Mr. Shivakumar said Ms. Gandhi's participation in the "historic" yatra had given strength to a large number of women, youth, and farmers in the country, All India Congress Committee general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala said the Congress president, accompanied by Mr. Gandhi, walking shoulder to shoulder with others, had "energised" thousands of workers.

On Thursday, several

## Telangana CM foray into national politics receives mixed response

## The Hindu Bureau

VIJAYAWADA

While welcoming the Telangana Rashtra Samithi's (TRS) transformation into Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), Adviser (Public Affairs), Government of Andhra Pradesh, Sajala Ramakrishna Reddy, has said the emergence of new parties augurs well for democracy.

"The YSRCP has its own ideology, and it is only bothered about the development of Andhra Pradesh. We are not concerned about what he intends to do at the national level as it is his choice," he said.

BJP State general secretary S. Vishnuvardhan Reddy said KCR had become the Chief Minister by using the Telangana sentiment. "Now, he has ditched the Telugu people in pursuit of

the welfare of its people.

Stating that he would not comment on the new entrants, Mr. Ramakrishna Reddy, however, said their coming onto the national political stage was good for democracy in general.

"The YSRCP has its own ideology, and it is only bothered about the development of Andhra Pradesh. We are not concerned about what he intends to do at the national level as it is his choice," he said.

He further said the TRS leaders should desist from criticising the Andhra Pradesh government, and confine themselves to what needed to be done in

Telangana.

Industries Minister Gudivada Amarnath, in a statement, termed it as a "wasteful exercise."

"Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) or BRS will have no role in Andhra Pradesh. We are not concerned about what he intends to do at the national level as it is his choice," he said.

In his reaction, B.R.J.P. Ra-



Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao

his ambition to become the Prime Minister," the BJP leader said in a message on the Twitter.

"KCR has blamed Andhra Pradesh for issues faced by his government in the irrigation and power

## Nine booked for performing puja at Bidar madrasa

### The Hindu Bureau

KALABURAGI

The Bidar police have booked nine persons for trespassing into Mahmud Gawan madrasa, a heritage site in the city in north Karnataka, and performing puja during Dasara festivities early on Thursday. A strong police force was also deployed around the site in the old city area to prevent any untoward incident.

As per eyewitness accounts, nine persons who were part of a larger group performed the puja in the presence of the police during the Bhavani Devi procession. After the video of the puja went viral, a few people from the local Muslim community protested

in front of the Town Police station demanding action. The protesters dispersed after the police convinced them that appropriate action would be taken.

Following a complaint by one Syed Mubashir Ali later in the day, the Market police booked a first information report (FIR) against Naresh Gauli, Prakash, Vinu, Manna, Sagar Banti, Jagadish Gauli, Arun Gauli, Gorakh Gauli and another person.

Asaduddin Owaisi, chief of All-India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, took to Twitter and hit out at the ruling BJP over the incident, sharing the video of the puja being performed, and tagging Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and the Bidar police.

## Payments pending, ASHAs losing hope of a happy Deepavali

### Nikhil M Babu

NEW DELHI

Sunita\*, 42, a widow and a mother of two, has been an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for close to a decade. The breadwinner of her family, Sunita has been forced to cut down on milk and fruits for her children. The reason: she has not received her monthly payment/incentive from the government for three months.

"I'm buying less milk, fruits, and vegetables now. What else can I do? Inflation is very high and I have to make arrangements with the limited money I have. This is our *mazboori* (compulsion)," she said, sitting at her house in north-east Delhi's Soni Vihar. Sunita is not the only ASHA facing this crisis.

Payments of hundreds of ASHAs working across the city have been irregular for five to six months now, officials and workers told *The Hindu*. The activists – who are appointed on a contractual basis and paid incentives depending upon the service they provide – are now worried that if this crisis continues it would ruin their Deepavali festivities.

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**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

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**Key Dates:**

1. Date of Online Publication	10-10-2022 1100 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	10-10-2022 1100 HRS upto 19-10-2022 1730 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	10-10-2022 1130 HRS upto 19-10-2022 1800 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	20-10-2022 upto 1030 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening,	20-10-2022 1100 HRS
6. Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	Date to be announced.

Executive Engineer,  
(B&R) Division HPWD, Kotkhai,  
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HP /4818/22-23

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an Unidentified dead body of male Age : Around 30 years, Height : 5'9", Face : Oval, Build : Thin, Complexion : Dark, wearing blue colour shirt and grey colour lower, was found dead on 28.09.2022 near Gate No. 1, Madipur Metro Station, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 114-A dated 28.09.2022 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at PS Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification in the mortuary of Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, Mangolpuri, Delhi.

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

SHO : PS. Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi  
Ph. : 08750871124, 08287641531,  
09968237523

DP/1567/WD/22

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Pooja Kumari** D/o **Brahmdev Chaupal** R/o **Village: Khajuri, Post: Daldal, PS: Bheja, Distt. Madhubani, Bihar** has been missing/kidnapped from L-2/84, New Mahavir Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Delhi since **30.09.2022 at 11:35 AM**. In this regard a FIR/DD No. 645/2022 dt. **03.10.2022** has been lodged at PS **Tilak Nagar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-

**Sex:** Female, **Age:** 17 years, **Height:** 5' 2" ft., **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Sky blue Kurta, White Payjama, Pink Slipper. Any person having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-

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Website:<http://cbni.nic.in>  
E-mail: [cic@cbni.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbni.gov.in)  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641  
Mobile: 8750871130  
Fax No.: 011-24368639

PS Tilak Nagar, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-25409290  
Mobile: 8750871130  
DP/1504/WD/22

Last date of submission of tender: 11-10-2022 upto 11.00 AM

Last date of sale of tender from divisional office 10-10-2022 upto 5.00 PM

The tender forms and other detailed condition ns can be downloaded from the website [www.hppi.org](http://www.hppi.org).

Executive Engineer,  
HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPAK Jal Shakti Division Katrain

HP /4819/22-23

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4 Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 0.00/-
5 Date & Time of Submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	28.10.2022 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

- The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

Notice No. 128-W/280/E Tender Notice/NIT/68/2022-23/W-3

Dated: 06.10.2022 2644/22

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE****NORTHERN RAILWAY****Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**

S.N	N.I.T. No.	20(A,B)-22-23-W-2 Dated: 06.10.2022
1	Name of work with its location	A) Creating dust free environment, repair to roof of heavy repair shed, toilet facilities in EMU Carshed/GZB in the section of SSE/W/E/GZB under ADEN/GZB. B) De-jamming of plate screws of points and xing SEJ and Guard rail of bridges, De-jamming of ERC, deployment of JCB machine Crane pneumatic drill etc and other allied works in the section of SSE/P/Way-I/GZB & SSE/P/Way-II/GZB under ADEN/GZB for the year 2022-23
2	Approx. Cost of work	As per IREPS Notice
3	Earnest Money	As per IREPS Notice
4	Completion period of Work	As per IREPS Notice
5	Cost of tender on Cash/by post	As per IREPS Notice
6	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	18.10.2022 to 01.11.2022 upto 15:00 hrs Opening of tender 01.11.2022 at 15:00 hrs on
7	Similar Nature of Work	As per IREPS Notice
8	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

NIT-20(A,B)-22-23-W-2 Dated : 06.10.2022 2635/2022

**Serving Customers With A Smile****Delhi-Bhagalpur-Delhi Festival Special Trains**

To clear extra rush of passengers during festival season, the following Festival Special Trains viz. 04058/04057, 04034/04033 and 04064/04063 Delhi-Bhagalpur-Delhi Superfast Special Express Trains will be run as per following abstract timings, stoppages, dates of run and composition:

04058, 04034 & 04064	Stations		04057, 04033 & 04063
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
—	09.00 ↓	Delhi	06.45 —
21.35	21.45	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn.	18.30 18.40
01.00	01.10	Patna Jn.	14.30 14.40
05.27	05.29	Jamalpur Jn.	11.00 11.02
07.00	—	Bhagalpur ↑	— 09.45

The above special trains will also stop at Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Buxar, Agra, Danapur, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Mokameh Jn., Kiul Jn., Abhipur and Sultanpur stations enroute. **Dates of run:** (i) 04058 on 23.10.2022 (Sunday) & 26.10.2022 (Wednesday) = 02 trips and 04057 on 24.10.2022 (Monday) & 27.10.2022 (Thursday) = 02 trips (ii) 04034 on 21.10.2022 (Friday) & 25.10.2022 (Tuesday) = 02 trips and 04033 on 22.10.2022 (Saturday) & 26.10.2022 (Wednesday) = 02 trips (iii) 04064 on 22.10.2022 (Saturday) = 01 trip and 04063 on 23.10.2022 (Sunday) = 01 trip. **Composition:** (i) 04058/04057: AC 1st class - 1, AC 2-tier-1, AC 3-tier - 5, Sleeper Class-11, SLR - 3 (ii) 04034/04033: AC 2-tier-2, AC 3-tier - 4, Sleeper Class-13, 2nd Class (WGS) - 3, SLR - 2 (iii) 04064/04063: AC 3-tier - 1, Sleeper Class-1, 2nd Class (WGS) - 20, SLR - 2 . **Category :** Mail/Express Superfast (All above trains)

Booking of 04057, 04033 and 04063 (Bhagalpur-Delhi Festival Special Trains) will be available through PRS counters and Internet on & from 09.10.2022 • Special charge in addition to normal fare will be realized for these Festival Special Trains • No Concessional booking is allowed • Tatkal quota will not be available

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**NORTHERN RAILWAY****TENDER NOTICE****Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**

N.I.T. No.	S.N.	20-B, C, D, E, F & G-2022-23-W-V
1	Name of work with its location	B Construction of RCC boundary wall at scattered locations in the section of ADEN/HNZM. C Similar nature of work:- Precast RCC/PSC work Renewal of channel by H beam sleeper on Bridge No. 33, 34 on (HNZM/Bridge GAL section) Br. NO. 17, 20 on (HNZM/TKD GAL section), Br. No. 17 on EMU line and Br. No. 5, 7, 8 & 8 on (HNZM/DS DAL section) in the section of SSE/P/Way/HNZM under ADEN/HNZM Similar nature of work:- Fabrication and laying of channel sleepers in running track.
2	Approx. Cost of work	D Improvements of staff Quarters and service buildings by repairing boundary wall roads, leaky roof doors & windows, water suppliers etc under ADEN/TKD E Improvements of staff Quarters and service buildings by repairing boundary wall roads, leaky roof doors & windows, water suppliers etc under ADEN/DEE. F Improvements of staff Quarters and service buildings by repairing boundary wall roads, leaky roof doors & windows, water suppliers etc, under ADEN/TKD. G Replacement of RCC over Head tank of capacity 2.25lites and providing one bore well/tube well at Delhi Sarai Rohilla station in the section of SSE/W/DE under ADEN/DEE. Similar nature of work:- Construction/repairs of reinforced cement concrete over head tank/RCC framed structure.
3	Earnest Money Deposit	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 201025/CE/II/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) B Rs. 8948898.99 C Rs. 24488215.01 D Rs. 4519343.32 E Rs. 453762.53 F Rs. 8496942.16 G Rs. 11299052.87
4	Completion period of Work	B 6 Months C 6 Months D 6 Months E 6 Months F 6 Months G 8 Months
5	Date and time for submission of tender & opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 28.10.2022 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 28.10.2022.
6	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

No. 128-W/280/OET/2022-23/W-V-NIT-20-B, C, D, E, F & G-2022-23-W-V D



I invite you to experience and benefit from the bouquet of exciting opportunities Rajasthan has to offer, and to join us in building a promising future for all of us.

ASHOK GEHLOT  
Chief Minister, Rajasthan

“ ”

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

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Inauguration of 25 New RIICO Industrial Areas

Launch of Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme 2022

Conferring of 'Rajasthan Ratna Samman'

7 October



Tourism Conclave



Future Ready Conclave



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NRR Conclave



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Department of Industries  
& Commerce,  
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Confederation of Indian Industry





## Don't lure, persuade

Fiscal rationale for poll promises will impart depth to electoral campaigns

The Election Commission of India's proposal to require political parties to disclose the financial implications of the promises they make in their manifestos will add meaning and depth to electoral campaigns. The idea that parties should communicate to electors the fiscal rationale for promising delivery of goods or services that would involve a significant outgo from the exchequer is already part of the Model Code of Conduct from 2015. The ECI is now proposing a proforma for such disclosures. If parties agree and the idea is included in the Model Code, they will have to spell out the section of society that a particular promise is targeted at, the extent of coverage and the number of likely beneficiaries, and the cost of implementing it. They must also spell out how the required resources will be raised. To give the parties an idea of the fiscal challenge that their promised schemes may pose, the Centre and the States have been asked to disclose details of the budget revenue receipts and expenditure as well as the outstanding liabilities. The information, it is believed, will provide a framework under which a manifesto can be assessed by the voter from the perspective of its financial viability. It may also make parties treat manifesto preparation as a responsible exercise meant to persuade rather than lure the voter.

There is bound to be some resentment among sections of the political class. It may be argued that the ECI should not get into the nitty-gritty of manifesto formulation, especially the manner of its implementation, as that will be the political and administrative responsibility of the party that comes to power on the basis of its promises. The guideline itself arose from a Supreme Court judgment in 2013, upholding the right of parties to make electoral promises even if they involved distribution of consumer goods. It was held that such a promise would not amount to a corrupt practice, and as long as these were financed by budgetary allocations cleared by the legislature, they could not be invalidated. The Court also suggested that to prevent extravagant promises from upsetting the electoral level playing field, the ECI could lay down some guidelines. In practice, however, the ECI's guidelines did not elicit enough information, as parties made only routine and ambiguous disclosures. If implemented, detailed financial disclosures may help in informed voter choice, as rival parties are likely to subject manifesto promises to intense scrutiny. It may also have a more meaningful impact, be it positive or negative, on the prospect of a party winning over the electorate with a single flagship promise.

## No longer bizarre

Nobel prize given for establishing what was once seen as metaphysical

The quantum revolution ushered in a new phase of science and technology, with transistors changing electronics forever and lasers providing the foundational cornerstones in fields from communication to medicine. This year's Nobel prize for physics awards yet another milestone in quantum physics. This has been dubbed a revolution in the making, with many possibilities for applications in quantum computation, quantum cryptography and quantum networks. Alain Aspect (France), John F. Clauser (the U.S.) and Anton Zeilinger (Austria) have been awarded for experimental work 'on entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science'. The common concept in their work is quantum entanglement. This is a quirk of quantum mechanics which allows two or more particles to exist in an 'entangled state' such that what happens to one particle affects the others immediately, irrespective of how far they may be. This is what Einstein called 'spooky action at a distance' and prompted him, along with Boris Podolsky and Nathan Rosen to come up with the thought experiment (1935) – the case of Schrödinger's cat which can be alive and dead at the same instant. The idea that challenged the very foundations of quantum mechanics was that there could be 'hidden variables' that decide the state of the particles that were separated in space, and there was no real quirk in quantum mechanics that caused them to be entangled.

John Stewart Bell, in 1964, came up with a mathematical way of testing whether quantum mechanics was compatible with the local hidden variable theory. After further improvisations, these inequalities were named Bell's inequalities. John Clauser and Alain Aspect have been awarded for showing experimentally the violation of Bell's inequalities. This implies that entanglement is indeed intrinsic to quantum mechanics, and there are no local hidden variables dictating the correlation between the properties of the entangled particles. This led to further development of the field. Anton Zeilinger and his team took up the challenge of establishing 'quantum teleportation'. Though this phrase sounds magical, physical particles are not teleported; however, information about their quantum states is moved through a distance – helping in new forms of communication and cryptography. Today, entangled quantum states between photons have been demonstrated when the photons have traversed tens of kilometres of optical fibres. Also, entangled states have been demonstrated between photons on earth and those on a satellite. It is likely that researchers will find ways of using this property which is both exotic and promising.

**N**ational statements made by the world's political leaders during the general debate at every fresh session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) are directed primarily to the international community but take into account domestic political and social constituencies. Naturally, the latter consideration should not outweigh or undercut the primary objective and direction of any statement. This time – it was the 77th UNGA session – the Indian statement was delivered by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on September 24. Mr. Jaishankar deserves to be applauded for the professionalism and precision with which he covered India's positions on international issues. However, his articulation of some areas of the Modi government's domestic agenda raises several deeply troubling questions.

**Decoding the Minister's 'formulation'**  
Praising the "determination, innovation and enterprise of millions of ordinary Indians", Mr. Jaishankar asserted that "They are rejuvenating a society pillaged by centuries of foreign attacks and colonialism". Clearly, his formulation distinguished between "centuries of foreign attacks" and "colonialism". Many in the Assembly chamber, who are unaware of the fierce ideological contestations under way in contemporary India, may have been left wondering at the distinction Mr. Jaishankar was drawing between the two. However, those who follow the ideological divisions in present-day India would have caught on to the distinction he was making.

There is little doubt that Mr. Jaishankar's words "centuries of foreign invasions" could not be a reference to the Kushan and Hun invasions of India in the remote past. So, this formulation were code words for the invasions which began with the Arab attack in Sindh in the eighth century, but more specifically to the incursions



Vivek Katju  
is a former diplomat

India's articulation of some areas of the current domestic agenda in the United Nations General Assembly raises several deeply troubling questions



into India beginning with those of Mahmud of Ghazni and later of Mohammad Ghori. The latter's invasion led to the beginning of the establishment of centuries of Muslim rule in India.

**Domestic controversies are best avoided**  
As far as this writer can recall there has never been a disparaging reference made to pre-colonial India in an Indian statement during the general debate, or indeed in any UN forum. The connotation of the word "pillage" is obvious in this context. Therefore, this is perhaps the first time that the basic interpretation of Indian history of the current ruling dispensation has been projected in the UNGA, although in coded language. This is a dangerous path to undertake for domestic controversies are best avoided when national positions which have to be, necessarily rooted in the Constitution, are authoritatively articulated abroad. As a former diplomat, Mr. Jaishankar would be well aware of the Indian diplomatic tradition which has always presented nationally unified positions abroad, particularly at the UN and in multilateral forums.

Mr. Jaishankar went on to say that India's rejuvenation is taking place in a democratic framework and is "reflected in more authentic voices and grounded leadership". This too is a sad, if not insulting, reflection on the choices made by the Indian people in election after election since the first in 1951-52. He obviously overlooked the fact that the Indian Republic introduced adult franchise and that power was exercised only through the representatives chosen by the people. Is it Mr. Jaishankar's position, which he placed before the UNGA, that the people, through many decades, chose representatives who were less "authentic" or "grounded" when all of them came from among the people themselves?

While recalling the five pledges that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set before the people for the next 25 years, Mr. Jaishankar sought to show how each of them were relevant not only to India but also to the world. As a general proposition it can be logically and validly argued that on some issues, as the Indian population is one-sixth of that of the world, what is good for India is good for the world too. This would be obviously true for the environment; hence, it was appropriate for Mr. Jaishankar to emphasise "the care and concern" for the environment "ingrained in our traditional ethos". But the general proposition cannot be stretched so far as

to deny India's great achievements in the United Nations itself. Recalling Mr. Modi's second pledge, Mr. Jaishankar said "we will liberate ourselves from a colonial mindset". To make this pledge relevant internationally, he added, "Externally, this means reformed multilateralism and more contemporary global governance". It is a strange proposition to put before the UNGA that the Indian "mindset" remains "colonial" and needs to be liberated. It is noteworthy that Mr. Jaishankar did not put any qualifications in the sentence to distinguish between those Indians, for him, who have a "colonial" mindset and those who do not. He would obviously not accept that the ruling Indian dispensation has a "colonial mindset" so perhaps this sentence, as it stands, was a drafting slip but nevertheless it is now unfortunately part of the UN record.

### Damaging India's record

What is more disturbing is the proposition that the "liberation from a colonial mindset" damages India's record as a pioneer and leader in the global decolonisation process in the 1950s and the 1960s. Whatever may be the view of the detractors of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi – and there is much in their political and governance records which is worthy of criticism, if not condemnation – it cannot be denied that they were heroes to the anti-colonial leadership in many countries in Africa and elsewhere. India's role in the entire decolonisation process after the Second World War is one which this country can be justifiably proud of. An entire generation of human rights workers in the United States and South Africa were also inspired by Gandhiji and his non-violent anti-colonial struggle.

Is not all this proud record and noble endeavour compromised by Mr. Jaishankar's implication that Indians have a colonial mindset? Worse, does it not give an opportunity to India's detractors to ask India to first get rid of its "colonial mindset" before seeking "reformed multilateralism"? The saying 'Physician, heal thyself' comes to mind. Words, phrases, arguments, exhortations are the tools of diplomacy. They cannot and should not be abandoned to promote domestic ideologies in external settings. Strong statements of a nationalistic flavour may win brownie points and popularity at home – and sometimes they are undoubtedly needed for diplomatic purposes too; however, facts, reason and logic as guides should never be overlooked.

## Strengthening the CSR framework is a profitable idea

**E**ver since the establishment of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) regime in India under Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013, CSR spending in India has risen from ₹10,065 crore in 2014-15 to ₹24,865 crore in 2020-21. But there is no data to verify whether this increase is commensurate with the increase in profits of Indian and foreign (having a registered arm in India) companies. Besides, there were 2,926 companies in 2020-21 with zero spend on CSR while companies spending less than the prescribed limit of 2% rose from 3,078 in 2015-16 to 3,290 in 2020-21. There was also a decline in the number of companies participating in CSR – 25,103 in FY2019 to 17,007 in FY2021.

If a company spends an amount in excess of the minimum 2%, as stipulated, the excess amount is liable to be set off against spending in the succeeding three financial years. The latter proviso in the Act weakens the former provision since the requirement of 2% is only a minimum requirement. Ideally, companies should be encouraged to spend more than this. Besides, many private companies have registered their own foundations/trusts to which they transfer the statutory CSR budgets for utilisation. It is unclear if this is allowed under the Companies Act/CSR rules.

**Geographical bias**  
The first proviso to Section 135(5) of the Act is that the company should give preference to local areas/areas around it where it operates. This is logical. However, a report by Ashoka University's Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy says that 54% of CSR companies are concentrated in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Gujarat (receiving the largest CSR spends) while populous Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh receive little. A high-level committee observed in 2018 that the emphasis on 'local area' in the Act is only directional and that a balance has to be maintained. Unfortunately, this ambiguity has left



Amar Patnaik  
is a Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha from Odisha and a former Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) bureaucrat. He is also an advocate

Having a national-level platform where all States could list their potential CSR-admissible projects would help companies assess where their CSR funds would be most impactful across the country

much to the discretion of the boards of these companies in the absence of clear percentages for local spends vis-à-vis other area spends.

Item (iv) of Schedule VII of the Act deals with broader environmental issues to create a countervailing effect. However, an analysis of CSR spending (2014-18) reveals that while most CSR spending is in education (37%) and health and sanitation (29%), only 9% was spent on the environment even as extractive industries such as mining function in an environmentally detrimental manner in several States.

Under the existing regulation, monitoring is by a board-led, disclosure-based regime, with companies reporting their CSR spends annually to the Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) through filing of an annual report. It is not known if there is a review of these reports and companies taken to task. A major issue with this design is that it focuses on output rather than quality of the expenditure and its impact. The Standing Committee on Finance had also observed that the information regarding CSR spending by companies is insufficient and difficult to access.

As per the 'Technical Guide on Accounting' issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, a company is only required to mention its CSR spends, non-spend, underspend, and overspend in the 'Notes to Accounts'. Additionally, an auditor can investigate only the details of spending and at most can question the board about its authenticity. However, the auditor is not mandated to qualify the accounts for non-compliance or inadequate CSR performance in the audit report, a feature which can be instrumental in ensuring its compliance.

**A pathway to follow**  
There is a need to curate a national-level platform centralised by the MCA where all States could list their potential CSR-admissible projects so that companies can assess where their CSR funds would be most impactful across India with, of

course, preferential treatment to areas where they operate. Invest India's 'Corporate Social Responsibility Projects Repository' on the India Investment Grid (IIG) can serve as a guide for such efforts. This model would be very useful for supporting deserving projects in the 112 aspirational districts and projects identified by MPs under the Government's Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.

Companies need to prioritise environment restoration in the area where they operate, earmarking at least 25% for environment regeneration.

All CSR projects should be selected and implemented with the active involvement of communities, district administration and public representatives.

Recommendations by the high-level committee in 2018 should be incorporated in the current CSR framework to improve the existing monitoring and evaluation regime. These include strengthening the reporting mechanisms with enhanced disclosures concerning selection of projects, locations, implementing agencies, etc.; bringing CSR within the purview of statutory financial audit with details of CSR expenditure included in the financial statement of a company, and mandatory independent third-party impact assessment audits. Since the Government itself has begun separate schemes for sanitation, water supply and education (listed in Schedule VII), steps to stop duplication and fraud are essential.

CSR non-spend, underspend, and overspend should be qualified by the auditor in the audit report as a qualification to accounts, and not just as a note to accounts.

The MCA and the line departments need to exercise greater direct monitoring and supervision over CSR spend by companies through the line ministries (for public sector undertakings) and other industry associations (for non-public units) instead of merely hosting all information on the Ministry's website.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### New party and unity

At a time when efforts are being made by most Opposition party leaders to forge a united front in order to take on the ruling BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the launching of a new national party by the Telangana Chief Minister is an unfortunate development. It will hamper the unity bid (Inside pages, October 6). If every regional party leader wants to be in the limelight because of his or her egoism and disregards unity efforts, it will benefit only the ruling

party. When is the Opposition going to follow the lesson about unity?

**D. Sethuraman,**  
Chennai

The renaming of the TRS as the Bharat Rashtra Samithi with the intention of making it a national party may not pay off. It is very doubtful whether the BRS will have any impact in Telangana. People may perhaps prefer a regional party that can meet the State's aspirations rather than a national party formed mainly to fulfil the

personal aspirations of an individual.

**K.R. Jayaprakash Rao,**  
Mysuru

**NGT penalty**  
A report on the Telangana government finding fault with the National Green Tribunal for levying a ₹3,800 crore penalty for its failure

**Corrections & Clarifications**

A report titled "EPF members can't see interest due to software upgrade, says Ministry" (some editions, Oct. 6, 2022) erroneously described Mr. Mohandas Pai as Infosys co-founder. The correct description is former Infosys Technologies' director.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28182729/28156300; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

to manage or treat solid and liquid waste is odd. The NGT is a judicial tribunal.

The aggrieved party has the option to challenge the move before the appellate court, the High Court for the State of Telangana.

Criticism does not work.

**A. Venkiah,**

Hyderabad

#### Quality control worries

A report about the World Health Organization medical alert over four cough/cold syrups made by a firm in India ought to be probed thoroughly by the Drugs Controller General of India. Another area of concern is the quality of medicines available at Jan Aushadhi kendras. Though much cheaper when compared to medications in other medical shops, their manufacture by not so familiar pharma companies is a worry. The Central Drug Standards Control



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Organization (under the Directorate General of Health Services, Health Ministry) should clear the air.

**D. V. Purushothaman,**  
Chennai

# Is India in a bind over its relations with Russia?

**PARLEY**

*On October 1, when India abstained from voting at the United Nations Security Council on a draft resolution against Russia for conducting referendums and annexing four regions of Ukraine, it was a reminder of New Delhi's precarious tightrope walk on ties with Moscow. In the backdrop of the war in Ukraine and in the face of Western sanctions against Russia, India has continued to carry on oil and defence trade with Russia, even as it remains committed to deepening its relations with the West, including the U.S. In a discussion moderated by Kallo Bhattacherjee, Anuradha Chenoy and Ashok Kantha discuss India's choices and actions in a changing geopolitical landscape, especially with regard to China. Edited excerpts:*

**The war in Ukraine has brought Russia and China closer than before. In this context, how can India safeguard its interests?**

**Anuradha Chenoy:** It's not that the Ukraine war has suddenly brought them together. The proximity has been going on since the end of the Cold War and it has gradually reached a peak now. It is linked to a combination of factors, such as Russia's export of defence equipment, of energy, the two countries' understanding of a multi-polar world, etc. – and also, from the rise of American paranoia about, and phobia towards, China. So, this closeness is not new, but it has increased. I think it is pretty irreversible.

**Ashok Kantha:** I witnessed linkages between China and Russia being upgraded following Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, when the Russians came under great pressure from the West. I was India's Ambassador to China then, and saw first-hand how Russia's attitude in working with China in certain sensitive sectors changed – for instance, in the supply of sophisticated defence systems such as S-400 or Sukhoi Su-35 aircraft, or in accommodating the Belt and Road Initiative, or in accepting a greater role for China in Central Asia. All these developments took place at least partly because Russia needed China more then.

This trend has continued. The joint statement of February 4, 2022 between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin predicated Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It talked about a partnership "without limits". There is no doubt that after Russia's "special military operation" against Ukraine, strategic collaboration between Russia and China has increased. If Russia is more dependent on China today, that is because it has been subjected to



A destroyed Russian tank in Kyiv. AFP

intense sanctions and other measures by the West. And China, while it has not quite endorsed Russia's invasion of Ukraine and has professed to take a position of neutrality, has been supportive of Russian action in many ways, including by accepting the Russian narrative on the U.S. and the West being the primary cause for what's happening in Europe today, through various actions like the eastward expansion of NATO. I think that narrative is being promoted by China, both externally and internally. So, on the whole, the Chinese have been supportive of Russia. And this has led to greater Russian dependence on China, which, of course, has implications for us.

**Both Russia and China have opposed the Quad. So, did the Quad also play a role in bringing Russia and China closer?**

**AC:** India has invested in the Quad, but the Quad is not a military alliance. It focuses on technology, trade, maritime security. But India has been careful to make sure that it's not part of any military alliance with Russia, China or the U.S. And I think Russia has understood that India will engage with other countries of the West. In fact, China also tried to have close relations with the West, but the West did not respond favourably to this. So, both Russia and China are looking to the Global South, of which India is important. I think the small but significant bilateral withdrawal from one point in Galwan recently might have something to do with this. China seems to be recognising that India is capable of being neutral. Of course, it has a very long way to go. But I don't think China can afford to alienate India any longer, given the kind of polarisation in world politics.

**AK:** On Ukraine, we have taken a balanced and nuanced position. I don't see any fundamental shift in China's position. It would like to utilise



The fact remains that as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, there have been changes in the geopolitical situation which are not very favourable for us, such as the closer alignment between China and Russia.

**ASHOK KANTHA**

the Ukraine issue. It would like to drive a wedge between India and the U.S. But it's not willing to accommodate in any substantive manner fundamental concerns such as the situation along the India-China border. So, I don't really see any fundamental shift in China's position in the wake of the Ukraine crisis.

**India is going ahead with all the multilateral arrangements that it has with China and Russia, such as BRICS and the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation), while also going ahead with the G20, Quad, etc. Does it help India to maintain such a mixed position?**

**AK:** We have differentiated between our bilateral and multilateral engagements with China. We have made it clear that unless there is restoration of peace and tranquility in broad areas, we cannot return to a normal track in our dealings with China. We don't see China showing any desire to return to the status quo ante. But we have maintained our engagement with China and Russia in settings like the SCO.

**To what extent has India benefited from multilateral engagements with Russia and China in BRICS and the SCO in comparison to broader multilateral groupings like the G20?**

**AC:** It's a function of a sophisticated foreign policy to be able to distinguish between bilateral and multilateral engagements. India is a good model for this. The SCO and BRICS, especially the SCO, are regional organisations focusing on energy trade, linkages, etc. These are opportunities for leaders to discuss multiple non-traditional security issues. BRICS came up because major multilateral organisations like the WTO (World Trade Organization) and the IMF (International Monetary Fund) have not given the space that they should to emerging countries or to the Global South. And India has tried consistently to not make any platform either for or anti-West. It is able to operate and even become a bridge between these formations.

**Is India hinting at a growing impatience with Russia's war?**

**AK:** There is a discomfort with both Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the fallout of Russian actions, which have hurt our interests in many ways. For instance, the economic fallout, high fuel prices, difficulties in accessing fertilizers and disruptions of global supply chains. There are practical aspects like the procurement of arms and spare parts from Russia for the Indian armed forces that indicate at a legacy aspect to our relationship with Russia. So, this is not something we are going to jettison in a hurry. But at the same time, the fact remains that as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, there have been changes in the geopolitical situation which are not very favourable for us, such as the closer alignment between China and Russia.

**AC:** I agreed broadly that there is clearly discomfort and there has been fairly astute balancing and also small gains, with Russia providing larger amounts of energy at discounted rates. India would be happy to help if there could be a negotiated solution. But (Ukrainian President Volodymyr) Zelensky has said he is not willing to talk to Mr. Putin. India also understands the quagmire, what NATO is doing, and because we have direct contacts with the Russian leadership, we have to watch (how the situation unfolds). But so far, the stance has been fairly good.

**What lies ahead for Russia, China and India?**

**AC:** I think there will be no Russia-India-China kind of trilateral. Russia can still put pressure regarding the border issue on behalf of India, as it has done earlier. In short, I don't see anything negative as far as Russia and India are concerned with China. We have to keep putting pressure to resolve the border issues.

**AK:** The assessment in the West, that Russia has become a client state or a vassal state of China, is a little exaggerated. Russia has a sense of history and destiny, so it will continue to insist on its agency in international affairs. At the same time, the fact remains that because of several circumstances coming together, including pressure from the West, Russia's role in Europe is no longer acceptable to the U.S. and Europe. I think Russia will become increasingly dependent on China in practical ways – for instance, as Europe continues to reduce its dependency on oil and gas supplies from Russia.



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**NOTEBOOK**

## In China, fire without smoke

The recent rumour fest showed lack of context and the unwillingness of most Indian media houses to take foreign news coverage seriously

**Ananth Krishnan**  
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For Indian correspondents in China, the past fortnight has been surreal. In the last week of September, many Indian television news channels began reporting on rumours of a "coup" in Beijing and military convoys entering, even blockading, the Chinese capital. The posts spread like wildfire, so much so that it seemed that every Indian in China was getting flooded with worried calls from people back home asking about "the situation". One diplomat was asked if there were tanks on the streets. For the record, Beijing seemed as normal as ever.

Despite absolutely no evidence for the claims, the consensus, even of seasoned foreign affairs experts, on these news shows was that "there is no smoke without fire". But was that the case?

The "smoke", in this instance, was flight data showing mass cancellations of flights and the fact that Chinese President Xi Jinping hadn't appeared in public for a week since his return to China on September 17 from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Samarkand. Yet both "warning signs" appeared far less suspicious to those on the ground in China, who are familiar with the context of the country's current pandemic policies.

Indeed, mass flight cancellations had been a bane of my travel plans since I arrived in the mainland in June. As I finished the mandatory quarantine, I found that because of only a couple of cases in Shenzhen, most outgoing flights from the city were cancelled overnight. This was because of China's 'zero COVID' policy, under which cities that are medium or high risk are promptly isolated from the rest of the country, making mass cancellations hardly unusual.

As for Mr. Xi's "disappearance", those following his now-rare travels outside the mainland knew he had similarly not appeared in public for 10 days after a July trip to Hong Kong. Under 'zero COVID', all foreign arrivals are required to isolate for 10 days, and the Chinese leadership was likely aware of the bad optics should the same leader who has forced the stringent 'zero COVID' regime on the country

flout those rules.

Moreover, for people following Chinese politics, the original source of the rumours, which appeared in Falun Gong-linked overseas websites, was all-too-familiar. As Zeyi Yang noted in the *MIT Technology Review*, "it's not rare to see such salacious political rumours if you follow a lot of Chinese-language Twitter accounts", which are part of "a whole world of commentators and anonymous accounts openly speculating about every faint signal coming out of China's state media, magnifying every word and gesture, and interpreting it as something groundbreaking." This is truer in the political season in China and on the eve of a twice-a-decade Communist Party Congress.

To me, the latest rumour fest signalled, above all, the importance of context in journalism. For those unfamiliar with both the 'zero COVID' regime and the ecosystem of overseas political speculation, it is understandably difficult to separate fact from fiction. This is especially true in an authoritarian country like China where politics remains the blackest of black boxes. In the Xi era, the opacity has only increased, so much so that it has become near impossible to confirm or deny a political development that hasn't been confirmed on State media. And opacity is fertile ground for rumour-mongering.

However, that shouldn't become an excuse for media outlets to abandon basic standards of fact-checking. It is worth reflecting why the rumours that made it to Indian media outlets weren't covered by most organisations in the West or in Asia.

A larger problem is the unwillingness of most Indian media outlets to take foreign news coverage seriously enough to post their own correspondents on the ground. Journalists on the ground aren't infallible, but have a better chance at getting the context right to separate rumour from news. There are only four Indian correspondents reporting from China (from *The Hindu*, Press Trust of India, *Hindustan Times*, and *Prasar Bharati*), all of them in Beijing. If there were, say, 40, the rumours that captivated attention over the last two weeks might have had a much shorter shelf life.

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

A symbol of evil goes up in fire and smoke as the capital celebrates Dussehra



An effigy of Kumbakarna, brother of the demon king Ravana in the Ramayana, is burnt on Dussehra, at the Red Fort grounds in Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

**The Hindu**

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 7, 1972

Dumping of acid waste in sea: Controversy in U.S.

Washington, Oct. 6: A request for a permit that would allow a company to dump a solution of sulphuric acid, laced with toxic metals, into the Gulf Stream at the rate of one million gallons every four days is now pending before the United States Army Corps of Engineers. If the permit is granted, it will establish the first major dumping ground for industrial wastes in the vicinity of the Gulf Stream, the warm biologically rich current which flows offshore along the Atlantic seacoast. The proposal, made by American Cyanamid Co., has already provoked an uproar from conservation groups and some ocean scientists believe it may be the first step in the pollution of another environmental asset. Other scientists, however, disagree, arguing that, so far, there is little evidence that acid dumping has harmed ocean life. Cyanamid, a diversified corporation which operates in 30 States, has filed a statement with the Army stating that the effluent to be dumped will contain an 18 per cent solution of sulphuric acid containing substantial quantities of "metalliferous impurities." It cites evidence that the massive flow of the Gulf Stream will "neutralise" the acid. The National Wildlife Federation, which is leading the conservationist attack on the dumping proposal, has argued that studies made of a German acid dumping site in the Baltic Sea show that sulphuric acid, even when mixed with 32,000 parts of seawater, is harmful to fish. In a letter to the Engineer Corps, the Federation also argued that several other companies have been able to recycle acid wastes into marketable products, thereby avoiding the dumping problem.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 7, 1922

Palestine mandate

Geneva, Oct. 6: At the extraordinary session of the Council of the League of Nations, Earl Balfour announced that Britain would withdraw the memorandum with regard to the establishment of a Committee of investigation into the titles of various religious committees in Palestine respecting Holy Places. He declared the decision had been taken in view of the diversity of political and religious interests and rival claims of various communities which rendered an immediate solution of difficulties impossible. Nevertheless Earl Balfour requested his colleague on the Council to exert their efforts to overcome the difficulties.

# Text & Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

**Finance Ministry releases revenue deficit grants**

**7,183** In ₹ crore, the amount released by the Finance Ministry as monthly instalment of revenue deficit grant to 14 States. With the release of the seventh instalment for the month of October, 2022, the total amount of revenue deficit grants released to the States in the current fiscal has gone up to ₹50,282.92 crore, an official statement said. PTI

**Receiving dividends from Central Public Sector Enterprises**

**1,203** In ₹ crore, the amount received by the government as dividend tranches from five CPSEs, including SAIL and IRCTC, according to Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). With this, the total dividend receipts of the government from public sector enterprises stood at ₹14,778 crore in the current fiscal. PTI

**Kolkata metro ferries passengers travelling for Durga Puja**

**39.2** In lakh, the number of passengers who availed the Kolkata metro in six days during Durga Puja — till 'Vijayadashami', according to an official. Night-long services were made available for enthusiasts during the festival, he added. The metro has earned ₹6.6 crore by selling tokens, smart cards and recharging smart cards on these days, he said. PTI

**CBI's operation to dismantle cyber criminal gangs**

**26** The number of cyber criminals arrested so far under 'Operation Chakra' of the CBI, according to officials. The operation was launched in coordination with State police, Interpol and agencies of other countries to dismantle cyber crime gangs operating in India. Out of the 26 arrested, 16 were arrested by Karnataka Police and seven by Delhi Police. PTI

**Thai mass shooting by ex-policeman leave many dead**

**37** The number of people killed in a mass shooting that took place in Northeastern Thailand, according to officials. The fatalities include 22 children, a local police official informed. The official confirmed that the gunman, a former policeman, killed his wife and child at their home before turning his weapon on himself. At least 12 people have been injured. Reuters

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## Is it time for the gig economy?

What is moonlighting and how is it affecting the companies in India? Is it a punishable offence under the law? How has the work-from-home culture affected the gig economy of our country?

### EXPLAINER

**K. Bharat Kumar**

#### The story so far:

Moonlighting — or employees working for remuneration with entities other than their employers — has been a hot topic in recent months. During the pandemic, those with desk jobs had more time on their hands and thus it was easier to take on a few projects outside of work. In July, Kotak Securities said in a study that at least 60% of 400 employees surveyed said they themselves had, or knew someone who had engaged in moonlighting.

#### How are companies reacting to moonlighting?

In August, Wipro chairman Rishad Premji tweeted: "There is a lot of chatter about people moonlighting in the tech industry. This is cheating — plain and simple." The company sacked 300 employees following the discovery that they were working for rival firms on the side, leading to conflict of interest. Infosys has warned staff against moonlighting, saying it could lead to termination.

Another software firm DXC Technologies said that moonlighting by employees was a challenge for employers but that wouldn't affect its WFH (work from home) policy that has worked well for both the firm and its staff. Swiggy announced a 'moonlighting policy' that allows employees "to pursue their passion for economic interests alongside their full-time employment."

#### What does the law say?

Moonlighting is not defined in any of the statutes in India, says S. Ravindran, Senior Advocate who specialises in labour laws. "To my knowledge so far, no Constitutional Court has rendered a decision on the subject," he says. However, there are enactments that deal with double employment. Section 60 of the Factories Act deals with restriction on double employment



ISTOCKPHOTO

stating that "No adult worker shall be required or allowed to work in any factory on any day on which he has already been working in any other factory, save in such circumstances as may be prescribed". However, this enactment is applicable only to employees working in factories, Mr. Ravindran points out.

There are State enactments which deal with employment of persons working in offices, banks, shops, etc. In Tamil Nadu, it is termed as "The Tamil Nadu Shops & Establishments Act, 1947". However, there is no provision wherein dealing with dual employment.

However, moonlighting is subject to law of the land. Mr. Ravindran refers to the Supreme Court's observation in the case of *Glaxo Laboratories (I) Limited vs Labour Court, Meerut and others*. The apex court held that "The employer has hardly any extra territorial jurisdiction. He is not the custodian of general law and order situation nor the Guru or mentor of his workmen for their well-regulated cultural advancement. If the power to regulate the behaviour of the workmen outside the du-

ty hours and at any place wherever they may be was conferred upon the employer, contract of service may be reduced to contract of slavery." This case was not specifically about moonlighting but the court's observation gives us an idea as to how the law may view such cases.

Moonlighting is subject to law of the land. The sphere of employment cannot be extended by the employer beyond working hours and outside his place of employment, which is the principle laid down in the above judgment. In other words, the employee can choose to arrange his affairs as he pleases beyond the working hours of the employer.

#### Does the law lay out punitive action against moonlighting?

Mr. Ravindran avers that unless an employer is able to prove that an employee acted against the interest of the company, Courts may not uphold severe punishment of termination of employment. "We have to wait for precedents in this regard," he says.

The Courts of law in India dealing with

employment are Writ Courts and Labour Courts. These Courts exercise jurisdiction based on equity or fairness. Therefore, the Courts may lean in favour of the employee unless the contravention of the employee has led to serious prejudice and loss to the employer, he adds.

The Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that employers should not suppress employees who want to monetise, develop and demonstrate but also urged employees not to violate their agreements with employers.

In today's world, every company ought to have a gig economy strategy. Paul Estes, author of the book *Gig Mindset*, said, "Not having one is like missing the Internet revolution of 1990 or the mobile revolution in 2010."

In the last century, work from home was never thought of. But in the current times, it has become a common norm.

Likewise, maybe we are indeed on the cusp of change when it comes to the gig economy.

### THE GIST

▼ Moonlighting is a state where employees work for remuneration with entities other than their employers. It is not defined in any of the statutes in India. However, there are enactments that deal with double employment.

▼ Moonlighting is subject to law of the land. The sphere of employment cannot be extended by the employer beyond working hours and outside his place of employment.

▼ The Courts of law in India dealing with employment are Writ Courts and Labour Courts, which exercise jurisdiction based on equity or fairness. Therefore, the Courts may lean in favour of the employee unless the contravention of the employee has led to serious prejudice and loss to the employer.

## The Indian-made LCH 'Prachand' and its significance

What is the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) project and why was it necessary for the Indian armed forces? What are the key features of the LCH and how will it strengthen the air defence?

**Sumeda**

#### The story so far:

The indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), meaning fierce, was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force at the Jodhpur airbase on Monday. The multi-role attack helicopter has been customised as per the requirements of the Indian armed forces to operate both in desert terrains and high-altitude sectors. The LCH is the only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 metres (16,400 ft). It is also capable of firing a range of air-to-ground and air-to-air missiles.

#### What is the LCH project?

The LCH project can be traced to the 1999 Kargil war when the armed forces felt the need for a dedicated platform capable of

operating at high altitudes and delivering precision strikes as the existing attack choppers couldn't effectively hit targets.

In October 2006, the government sanctioned the design and development of the LCH. The Indian Army joined the programme in December 2013. The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) built four LCH prototypes flight-tested them with over 1,600 total flights logging 1,239 flight hours.

The ground run was first carried out in February 2010 and the first prototype 'TD-1' took its maiden flight on March 29, 2010, as the crew carried out low-speed, low-altitude checks on the systems. After extensive flight testing in diverse terrains and weather conditions, the LCH received initial operation clearance on August 26, 2017. It was declared ready for production in February 2020. A year later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the

LCH to the Indian Air Force.

Earlier this year, the Cabinet Committee on Security, headed by PM Modi approved the procurement of 15 limited series production (LSP) variants at a cost of ₹3,887 crore — 10 for the IAF and five for the Indian Army.

The Indian Army formally inducted its first Light Combat Helicopter on September 29.

**What are the main features of LCH?** Powered by twin Shakti engines, a collaborative effort of the HAL and France's Safran company, the LCH is a 5.8-tonne class combat helicopter with potent ground attack and aerial combat capability. The helicopter can fly at a maximum speed of 288 kmph and has a combat radius of 500 km, which can go up to a service ceiling of 21,000 feet, making it ideal to operate in Siachen. It

incorporates several stealth features such as reduced radar and infra-red signatures, crashworthy features for improved survivability, armoured-protection systems and night attack capability.

#### How will the LCH give an edge to the armed forces?

The induction of the LCH into the Air Force has been termed as a "big boost" to the combat prowess of the armed forces and a "potent platform to meet the operational requirements of the IAF and the Army".

The LCH helicopters can be deployed to assume air defence, anti-tank roles in high-altitude, counter-insurgency, and search and rescue operations, and are equipped with advanced technology which can be used to destroy the enemy's air defence, as per HAL. It can be deployed to perform Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), bunker busting operations, counter-insurgency

operations in the jungle and urban areas and support the ground forces, Defence Ministry officials said.

As per HAL, the Indian armed forces have an overall requirement of 160 LCH — 95 for Army and 65 for Air Force. The fleet of first four helicopters was inducted into the 143 Helicopter Unit 'Dhamush'. The helicopters are likely to be deployed along the Line of Actual Control along with Apache choppers.

### THE GIST

▼ The Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) is the only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 metres (16,400 ft).

▼ The helicopter can fly at a maximum speed of 288 kmph and has a combat radius of 500 km, which can go up to a service ceiling of 21,000 feet, making it ideal to operate in Siachen. It incorporates several stealth features such as reduced radar and infra-red signatures.

▼ It can be deployed to perform Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), bunker busting operations, counter-insurgency operations in the jungle and urban areas and support the ground forces.

A still from the film *I Know What You Did Last Summer*. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**IN THE LIMELIGHT**

# Serial killers in films: a bloody slash at entertainment

From the sacred to the profane, a look at the history and different factors that contribute to the endless fascination for these compulsive murderers in novels as well as films; with all serial killers having catchy names

**Mini Anthikad Chhibber**

**W**atching the morally ambiguous *Dahmer – Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story* brings back the question of our fascination with serial killers. Jack the Ripper, the killer supposedly responsible for a series of brutal murders in the East End of London in 1888, hit the nail on the head (apart from the unfortunates he ripped apart) with his apocryphal quote of giving "birth to the 20th century" in his 'From Hell' letter.

The murders coincided with the mass production of newspapers and there is a theory that the letter signed "Jack the Ripper" was coined by a journalist to boost circulation – some things never change. And thus the tradition of a catchy name for a serial killer was born. The fact that the murders were not solved has kept the legend alive spawning a whole industry of books, television shows, movies and walking tours.

**Foggy beginnings**

One of Alfred Hitchcock's first films, *The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog* (1927) is based on Marie Belloc Lowndes's 1913 novel, *The Lodger*, inspired by Jack the Ripper. A critical and commercial success, *The Lodger* set the template for the Master of Suspense's future works.

Hitchcock returned to the serial killer cinema with the celebrated *Psycho* (1960) and his penultimate film, the under-regarded *Frenzy* (1972). *Psycho* is

based on Robert Bloch's eponymous 1959 novel, in turn inspired by the heinous crimes of the 'Plainfield Ghoul', a serial killer Ed Gein.

**Inspired casting**

Though in the novel, Norman Bates, the murderous proprietor of the Bates Motel, is not very attractive, by casting Anthony Perkins as Bates, Hitchcock indulged in an inspired bit of counter-casting. The audience's sympathy is all for the young man, who is being nagged by his scary mum. And that made the final fruit cellar revelation much more shocking apart from the fact that the star, Janet Leigh, dies early on in the film in the celebrated shower scene.

Bernard Herrmann's soundtrack with the jangling shriek of string instruments (appropriately called 'Murder'), the close-ups and extreme close-ups, the razor sharp cuts and the final drain-to-eye dissolve, made the scene one of the most iconic three minutes in the film.

**Scream queen**

*Psycho* is also considered as laying the template for all slasher films to follow. Incidentally Leigh's daughter, Jamie Lee Curtis, made her debut fighting yet another iconic serial killer, Michael Myers, in John Carpenter's *Halloween* (1978). Curtis played the babysitter Laurie Strode, targeted by Myers in his expressionless mask. Curtis is still playing Strode, in the 13th instalment of the franchise, *Halloween Ends*, which is releasing soon.

While slasher films are mainly about sex, sadism and savagery, there are also the puzzle-kind of movie, where law enforcement officers have to solve the elaborate clues laid out by the killer to save the last victim. This is a variation of the Final Girl theme, where the good, virtuous girl screams and is saved while the naughty girls are all sliced and diced in a variety of interesting ways.

The puzzle-kind of serial killer movie offered double the thrill as the hunter was also being hunted.

**Famous five**

*The Silence of the Lambs* (1991) changed things around once again for the slasher flick. By winning all the five major Oscars: Best Picture, Best Director (Jonathan Demme), Best Actor (Anthony Hopkins), Best Actress (Jodie Foster), and Best Adapted Screenplay (Ted Tally), the film added a patina of respectability to the hunt for serial killers.

An adaptation of Thomas Harris's 1988 novel, *The Silence of the Lambs*, features not one, but two serial killers. There is Buffalo Bill (catchy name alert), who skins his female victims in order to make himself a new skin and Dr. Hannibal Lecter (Hopkins), a psychiatrist and incarcerated cannibalistic serial killer.

Hannibal the Cannibal offers to help the rookie Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent, Clarice Starling (Jodie Foster) track down Buffalo Bill who has kidnapped a senator's daughter (the Final Girl). Incidentally, *The Silence of the Lambs* was released on February 14, 1991,

i.e. Valentine's Day – must have been a fun date movie.

**Subversion galore**

Even as *The Silence of the Lambs* unleashed a flood of serious serial killer movies, invariably featuring a tortured, traumatised and driven detective, and increasingly complicated clues, there was Wes Craven's *Scream* (1996), featuring killers subverting the rules of the genre. There was *I Know What You Did Last Summer* (1997) with young people being killed off by yet another masked serial killer.

The *Scream* franchise is going strong with the fifth instalment coming out early this year and a sixth in the works. *I Know What You Did Last Summer* has been turned into a rather uninvolving streaming series.

Hindi cinema has had its share of serial killers from Vidhu Vinod Chopra's *Khamosh* (1985) with a killer loose on a film set and Anurag Kashyap's beyond disturbing *Raman Raghav 2.0* (2016) to R. Balki's vaguely pretentious *Chup: Revenge of the Artist* about a serial killer targeting film critics running in a theatre near you.

There are good, bad and ugly (all horrid torture films come in this category) serial killer films and now even streaming shows project the serial killer genre. Presenting as they do a heady cocktail of danger and a path forged by rebels and outliers, they perhaps offer a chance for us to metaphorically walk on the wild side before returning quickly to the quiet comforts of home.

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

## Know your English

"What are you reading, sir?"

"This is a letter from a reader, Mr. A.E. Subramanyam of Madras, who refers to what was published in this column on May 14, 1985 and asks why I didn't correct the expression 'last evening'. He says it should have been 'yesterday evening'. He is absolutely correct. I must have dozed off. You can say 'last night, last month, last Saturday, last Monday, last year'. But you don't say 'last morning, last evening, last afternoon'. It is a matter of usage. You must say 'yesterday evening, yesterday morning, yesterday afternoon'."

"What's the difference between 'freedom' and 'liberty' sir?"

"Freedom" is both a quality and a condition. "Liberty" is only a condition. When you can act as you wish without any restraint, you are said to enjoy freedom. Freedom is a state where you are free; liberty is absence of any restraint.

*When someone is set at liberty, he is free from restrictions.*

In several contexts, 'freedom' and 'liberty' are interchangeable; freedom of speech or liberty of speech, freedom of the press or liberty of the press and so on. Freedom has more positive connotations than liberty.

*The Prime Minister was given the freedom of the city.*

'Liberty' is not used in this context. You speak of the 'freedom of the countryside', not the 'liberty of the countryside'.

'I was given the freedom of his house' means I was allowed to use his house as if it were my own. Here again you can't use 'liberty'. 'To take liberties' means to be a little too free or familiar in action or speech.

*He gives freedom to others but you can't take liberties with him.*

You can talk about 'freedom from want' but not 'liberty from want'. Also we talk about 'freedom fighters' and not 'liberty fighters'.

"What is the meaning of 'throw out the baby with the bath water', sir?"

"When you give a bath to the baby, you finally throw out the dirty bath water. It would be awful if you threw out the baby along with the water. When you reject something very important along with the unimportant, you are said to *throw out the baby with the bath water*. Industrial pollution is bad. But if you say that industries should be eliminated to get rid of industrial pollution, it would be like throwing the baby out along with the bath water."

Well, let's stop here. Goodbye.  
"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

**THE DAILY QUIZ**

A quiz on master filmmaker Hrishikesh Mukherjee whose birth centenary was celebrated on September 30.

**QUESTION 1**

Hrishikesh Mukherjee, popularly known as Hrishida, made 42 films in a career spanning four decades after debuting with 'Musafir'. The film is notable for one of the actors turning a singer for the only time in his career. Name the actor and song.

**QUESTION 2**

What was Hrishida's contribution to the Bimal Roy classics 'Do Bigha Zameen', 'Madhumati', 'Devdas', and Ramu Kariat's masterpiece 'Chemmen'?

**QUESTION 3**

When one of his best friends suddenly fell seriously ill, Hrishida wrote a story based on him and wanted the friend to play the lead role saying he was old for the role. But his friend turned down the offer. Hrishida, however,

dedicated the much-loved classic to his pal. Name the friend and the film.

**QUESTION 4**

In which evergreen flicks do we meet Pyaare Mohan Allahabadi, Subir Kumar, Isabhai Suratwala, and "Lucky" Dashrathprasad Sharma?

**QUESTION 5**

Amitabh Bachchan, who did no less than 10 films with the legend, 'spoke' the credits for which film that starred his wife and a leading actor of that time in the main roles?

**QUESTION 6**

In 'Guddi', Jaya Bhaduri, who has a crush on Dharmendra, takes his autograph on the film booklet of a 1966 film starring the latter and made by Hrishida. Name the film that both Dharmendra and Hrishida considered one of their best.

**Visual question:**

This Hrishida creation marked the final film appearance of Guru Dutt, who died later in the year of the film's release. Name the flick.

**Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. Name the youngest recipient to date to have received the prize. **Ans: Rudyard Kipling**

2. He is one of the two people who declined the Prize. Name the winner. **Ans: Jean-Paul Sartre**

3. This book chronicles the decline of a wealthy German merchant family. Name the book and the author. **Ans: Buddenbrooks; Thomas Mann**

4. Name the author people believed should have been awarded the first Nobel Prize in literature. **Ans: Leo Tolstoy**

5. Name the author was the oldest person ever to receive the Prize in Literature. **Ans: Doris Lessing**

6. Name the other ceiling Toni Morrison broke upon winning the Prize. **Ans: She became the first black woman of any nationality to win the Prize**

7. Name the author whose Nobel lecture was called 'The Solitude of Latin America'. **Ans: Gabriel García Márquez**

Visual: Name the author and his novel that concerns the absurdity of life. **Ans: Albert Camus; The Stranger/The Outsider**

**Early Birds:** Puneet Mishra | Suresh Kumar | Madhvi Sharma | Tarun Ravindran

**Compiled by:** V.V. Ramanan

Please send in your answers to [dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in](mailto:dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in)

**Word of the day**

**Interminable:** tiresomely long

**Synonyms:** eternity, endlessness

**Usage:**

Some articles have given rise to apparently interminable discussions on the Internet

**Pronunciation:** [bit.ly/3e7TJTd](http://bit.ly/3e7TJTd)

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

**From Page One****World Bank pares FY23 growth projection to 6.5%**

The economies that are more services-led are expected to "maintain a reasonable recovery trend despite headwinds".

Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Pakistan are more at risk and will see poverty increase in 2022. The slowing in India's growth during the current fiscal year, relative to the previous one, was because most of the COVID recovery happened last year, the report said. The impact of the Russia-Ukraine war, global monetary tightening, high commodity prices and interest rates impacting domestic demand, contributing to this slowing.

Manufacturing and services have been expanding in India since January, and growing at a rate faster than the rest of the world. With a relaxing of COVID restrictions, economic activity had picked up, as had demand in contact-intensive sectors.

Output had grown at an estimated 13.5% (year on year) in the April-June period this year, a contraction however, relative to the preceding quarter. Services and construction had expanded the fastest on the production side, the report said, and private demand had grown year on year, but this was largely due to a low base effect from the second quarter of 2021 when the economy was reeling under the delta wave of COVID.

**Annie Ernaux wins Literature Nobel**

Above all, Ms. Ernaux's crystalline prose has excavated her own passage from working-class girl to the literary elite, casting a critical eye on social structures and her own complicated emotions.

"In her writing, Ms. Ernaux consistently and from different angles, examines a life marked by strong disparities regarding gender, language and class", the Swedish Academy noted.

"And when she with great courage and clinical acuity reveals the agony of the experience of class, describing shame, humiliation, jealousy or inability to see who you are, she has achieved something admirable and enduring". The chairman of the Nobel Committee, Anders Olsson, said Ms. Ernaux had "been under consideration for her books for many years". "We have had very intensive discussions about her," he told Swedish news agency TT. She debuted with the novel *Cleaned Out* in 1974, a cool-eyed but harrowing account of an abortion she went through in her youth and that she had kept secret from her family.

**UN Council rejects debate on Xinjiang**

Western countries thought that by going no further than simply seeking to talk about the findings, enough other nations would not block putting it on the agenda. But in a moment of 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. Amnesty International branded the vote farcical, while Human Rights Watch said it betrayed abuse victims.

The nations voting against a debate were Bolivia, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Gabon, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Sudan, the UAE, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

Argentina, Armenia, Benin, Brazil, Gambia, India, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico and Ukraine abstained. The draft decision was put forward by the U.S., Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Turkey, among others.

**Nine killed in bus accident in Kerala**

The school group from Moolamthuruthy in Ernakulam district was on a tour to Ooty. The tourist bus was trying to overtake a car when it rammed the KSRTC Superfast bus heading towards Coimbatore from behind.

The Prime Minister's Office announced a financial aid of ₹2 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased and ₹50,000 to the injured. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives.

**Director's comments stir debate on religion**

The speech sparked a debate over social media with sections of supporters of Hindutva, BJP and RSS organisations targeting him and many, including the Dravidians in the Twitter space, defaming him.

On Wednesday, Mr. Thirumavalavan said during the time of Raja Raja Chola, Saivism and Vaishnavism were different. The two openly fought against each other. There were continuous conversions. "In those times, where was Hindu?" he said.

The VCK leader asked if it was fair to impose modern-day identities on Raja Raja Chola because he built the Brihadeeswarar Temple for a Lingam. "Is that not twisting history? Vetrimalan mentioned only this," he said.

**U.K. Home Secretary links FTA to concerns over immigration**

Suella Braverman's comments come just two days after Secretary for International Trade Kemi Badenoch lowered expectations on the agreement; sources say Prime Minister Modi's visit to London is being planned for October-end

**Suhasini Haidar**  
**Kallop Bhattacharjee**

NEW DELHI

**A**s trade officials from India and the United Kingdom race to seal Free Trade Agreement talks (FTA) in the next couple of weeks, U.K. Prime Minister Liz Truss's new Home Secretary threw a dampener on the process on Thursday by suggesting that she would not back the deal if it involves increased immigration to the U.K.

The comments by British Home Secretary (Minister) Suella Braverman came just two days after the new U.K. Secretary for International Trade Kemi Badenoch also lowered expectations on the FTA, which is due to be announced by Deepavali (October 24), according to a deadline set by the previous U.K. government of Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

According to sources, officials are also working



Union Minister Piyush Goyal with U.K. Minister of State James Duddridge during the G-20 trade meeting in Bali. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

on a visit to London by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the end of October, contingent on the FTA negotiations being finalised to a satisfactory extent. The FTA is being touted as proof of the Modi government's ability to negotiate global trade deals, as well as a possible shot in the arm for Ms. Truss, in the middle of an economic cri-

sis, especially as it was she, as International Trade Secretary, who conducted the opening round of trade talks in 2021.

Speaking to the British magazine *Spectator*, Ms. Braverman, who is herself a child of Indian-origin migrants, said she had "concerns" and "reservations" about the deal.

"I have concerns about

having an open borders migration policy with India because I don't think that's what people voted for with Brexit," Ms. Braverman, speaking about the talks and India's push for visa flexibility and including services in the agreement, said during the interview.

"I do have some reservations. Look at migration in this country – the largest group of people who overstay are Indian migrants. We even reached an agreement with the Indian government last year to encourage and facilitate better cooperation in this regard. It has not necessarily worked very well," Ms. Braverman added, referring to the agreement on "Illegal Returns" that was promoted by the former Home Secretary Priti Patel.

The issue of immigrants overstaying in the U.K. has been a point of contention for some years, and the cause of a major controversy when former U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May visited India in 2016.

The Commerce Ministry declined to comment on the statements, which government sources called "internal" affairs of the U.K. On September 27, Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal held a virtual meeting with Ms. Badenoch. Mr. Goyal also met her deputy, Minister of State James Duddridge, on the sidelines of the G-20 trade meeting in Bali the week before, where he said that the two sides "have set their sights on a time-bound conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement negotiations".

Speaking at the Conservative Party Annual conference this week, Ms. Badenoch addressed concerns about the FTA with India.

"I am not in a rush to sign trade deals. We need to make sure that every deal is great for the U.K.," she said. However, she indicated that Ms. Truss was committed to the Deepavali deadline, and hinted that the FTA could be amended and expanded later as well.



**BJP MP Pragya Singh appears before court in blast case**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, prime accused in the Malegaon 2008 bomb blast case, appeared before the National Investigation Agency court on Thursday.

On September 29, 2008, a bomb exploded in Malegaon and Ms. Thakur was named in a charge sheet filed by the Maharashtra ATS in 2009, stating that the bomb was tied to her motorcycle.

The NIA had found evidence against her to be the weakest and said that evidence against her was not substantial.

**2 Congress leaders record statements in National Herald case**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday recorded the statements of two Congress leaders, J. Geetha Reddy and Gali Anil Kumar, from Telangana in connection with the *National Herald* case.

The agency had summoned them for some clarification allegedly pertaining to the donations made through an entity associated with the *National Herald* newspaper. Ms. Reddy, former State Minister, is said to have given clarifications regarding her payments to the newspaper.

Sources said Ms. Reddy made it clear that everything paid was legal and was through cheques to help

the newspaper pay pending salaries and settle the financial issues of the retired employees. Mr. Kumar also appeared before the ED. A few days ago, former State Minister Shabbir Ali had also joined the probe and given clarifications with regard to the payments made by him.

Former State Minister P. Sudarshan Reddy and former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav are likely to present themselves before the ED on October 10. The Congress leaders received ED notices last month.

The notices came after Congress president Sonia Gandhi and MP Rahul Gandhi – who owned 38% shares each in the Young Indian – were called for questioning in the case.

**Justice Dinesh Sharma to head the UAPA tribunal related to ban on PFI**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI



Dinesh Kumar Sharma

The Centre has appointed Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma of the Delhi High Court as the presiding officer of the tribunal for the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), related to the ban on the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates.

Once an organisation is banned under the provisions of the UAPA, a tribunal is set up by the government to adjudicate whether there are sufficient grounds for the decision. The office memorandum, issued by the Department of Justice in the Law Ministry on October 3, mentioned that Justice Sharma's time as head of the UAPA tribunal will count as "actual service".

Chief Justice S.C. Sharma of the Delhi High Court appointed Justice Sharma to head the tribunal that will examine the ban.

"Chief Justice of Delhi High Court has nominated Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma, Judge, to be appointed as the Presiding Officer of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal in the matter of Popular Front of India (PFI) and its

associates or affiliates or fronts including Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring these organisations as unlawful," said the Law Ministry memorandum.

According to procedure, the Union Home Ministry requests the Law Ministry to name a sitting judge of a High Court to be the presiding officer, and the Law Ministry, in turn, requests the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned to recommend a name. The

Home Ministry will now issue a formal notification naming Justice Sharma as presiding officer.

On September 28, the Ministry of Home Affairs had issued a notification declaring "the PFI and its associates or fronts as an unlawful association with immediate effect". The National Investigation Agency as well as the Enforcement Directorate had alleged that the PFI was engaged in raising and collecting funds from abroad and transferring them to India through "clandestine and illegal channels".

**Read our explainer**  
Did the ban spare PFI's political wing?  
[bit.ly/PFIBan](http://bit.ly/PFIBan)

**J&K delimitation orders have acquired force of law: EC, Home Ministry to SC**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI



Legal challenge: Members of the Delimitation Commission during their visit to Jammu on April 4. PTI

The Home Ministry and the Election Commission (EC) have found themselves on the same page in the Supreme Court, with both agreeing that delimitation orders notified in the Gazette, redrawing Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir following the dilution of Article 370, have acquired the "force of law".

The government and the top election body were responding to a petition filed by Srinagar residents, Haji Abdul Gani Khan and Mohammad Ayub Mattoo, challenging the constitutionality of the Delimitation Commission.

The petition had sought a judicial declaration that the increase in the number of Assembly seats from 107 to 114 (including 24 seats in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) in Jammu and Kashmir was unconstitutional and "singled out".

The EC and the Ministry responded that the petitioners had no jurisdiction even to "comment" on the government's powers to form the Delimitation Commission.

The plea said that if August 5, 2019, was to unite Jammu and Kashmir with India, then the delimitation process had defeated the "new order" of "One Nation, One Constitution".

The petitioners had questioned why J&K was "singled out" for delimitation when Article 170 of the Constitution had provided that the next delimitation in the country would only be taken up after 2026.

The EC and the Ministry responded that the petitioners had no jurisdiction even to "comment" on the government's powers to form the Delimitation Commission.

The Centre derived its powers to form, fix the scope and tenure of the Delimitation Commission under Section 3 of the Delimitation Act of 2002, which is "special legislation".

With regards to the increase in the number of Assembly seats, the EC and the government said the

order of the Delimitation Commission was already notified on May 5, 2022 in the Gazette. This was followed by public sittings in the Union Territory "to afford full opportunity to members of the public to make oral and written submissions to Delimitation Commission".

Subsequently, following the Gazette notification, the delimitation order had already been brought into effect from May 20, 2022. The delimitation order cannot be "re-agitated" in a court once it had gained finality by publication in the gazette, the affidavits said.

On March 6, 2020, the Centre had issued a notification constituting a Delimitation Commission chaired by former Supreme Court judge, Justice Ranjana P. Desai, for delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland.

**Despite turmoil, J&K rose to top on growth indices, says Farooq**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
SRINAGAR

Former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) president Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed eras of development, ushering its people into political, economic and social empowerment.

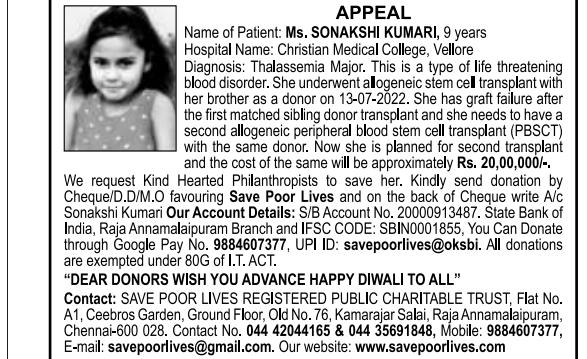
Despite the decades of turmoil, J&K rose to the top among Indian States in terms of major development indices," he said.

Dr. Abdullah came up with a list of achievements made during the NC rule.

Dr. Abdullah's statement comes a day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah challenged the NC to come up with a report card on developments in J&K under its regime. "J&K has

witnessed eras of development, ushering its people into political, economic and social empowerment. Despite the decades of turmoil, J&K rose to the top among Indian States in terms of major development indices," he said.

Dr. Abdullah came up with a list of achievements made during the NC rule, like educational institutes, power sector, health sector, industrialisation and democratic institutions.



M ND-NDE

## Abhishek Singhvi to head parliamentary panel on commerce

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI



The Congress on Thursday nominated Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Manu Singhvi as Chairman of the Parliament Standing Committee on Commerce. The party, however, is yet to take a call on the nominee for Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers.

"We have not yet taken a call on any name. There is still time, we will forward a name soon," Congress floor leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury told *The Hindu*. He has sent two letters in the past one month to the Lok Sabha Speaker protesting against the government's decision to take away the chairmanship of the Standing Committee on Information and Technology, which was headed by Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor.

On Tuesday, a reshuffle

of the parliamentary committees was undertaken and the government withheld the reconstitution of two panels – Commerce and Chemicals and Fertilizers – as their chair has been offered to the Congress. "It is unfortunate that the government has retained control over all key committees, including Home, Defence, External Affairs and Finance. These have conventionally been chaired by Opposition MPs. It seems the government is afraid that if any of us steer them, we will create an impediment for them," Mr. Chowdhury said.

Following the recent visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Kashmir, especially his well-attended meeting in Baramulla, the BJP sees green shoots for itself in the Valley and better prospects in the Assembly election in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"It has been 35 years since any Cabinet Minister in the Union government has held a public rally in Baramulla [a district in north Kashmir and often seen as the hotbed of terrorism] and for us, it is emblematic of the changing situation in Jammu and Kashmir," a senior BJP leader said.

Mr. Shah has promised to positively consider granting the Scheduled Tribe status to the Pahari



Reaching out: Home Minister Amit Shah greeting people during a rally in Baramulla district of north Kashmir on Wednesday. PTI

community. The opening of cinema halls and other measures are being seen as a positive sign with regard to the everyday life of people. In fact, Mr. Shah is said to have spoken to members of the Dhar family in Srinagar, proprietors of the newly opened multiplex in

the city, on whether the cinemas were attracting viewers, especially women and children.

The process of the finalisation of electoral rolls may take another month or so, according to government sources, and may in fact set rolling the process

of holding the election. Sources say that nearly 4.5 lakh voters outside the Union Territory (Kashmiri Pandits and others) could be added to the electoral rolls as could over one lakh residents who had come over from West Pakistan during Partition.

The BJP currently has no plans to tie up with any other party in the run-up to the polls but is carefully watching the progress of new outfits such as the Democratic Azad Party formed by former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad. "As of now, we will be fighting on our own strength and do not anticipate any pre-poll tie-ups," said a senior source in the BJP. There is an anticipation that polls may be held by next year, depending on when the Election Commission feels its preparations are adequate.

## Avalanche rescue



To ground zero: Army personnel proceeding towards the avalanche site in Uttarkashi. As many as 32 people had been rescued and 16 bodies recovered till Thursday evening. PTI

## RSS chief's population control call clashes with Centre's affidavit in court

### NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal



Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat's call for a "population control policy" on Wednesday may not be on the same page as the government's affidavit in December 2020 which said it cannot coerce couples into having a "certain number of children" in a bid to curb population explosion.

Further, a 2016 Supreme Court judgment authored by Justice Madan B. Lokur (retd.) had also held that any policy which compelled "mass sterilisation" would amount to infringement on "reproductive freedoms", especially that of the most vulnerable groups of society whose economic and social conditions make them easy targets of coercion.

Justice Lokur had written that "improved access, education and empowerment" and not coercion should be the guiding factors behind the government's population control campaign.

"Policies of the government must not mirror the systemic discrimination prevalent in society," the court had said in the judgment.

In a 2020 affidavit, the government was categorical in its stand against compulsory population control. "The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables couples to decide the size of their family and adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them, according to their choice, without any compulsion," the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

In fact, the government said the period from 2001 to 2011 witnessed the sharpest decline in decadal growth rate among Indians in 100 years.

It said India was a signatory to the Programme Of Action (POA) of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994. The POA was unequivocally against coercion in family planning.

"International experience shows that any coer-

## Govt. advisory against online betting ads welcomed

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) on Thursday welcomed the Information and Broadcasting Ministry's advisory to private television channels, digital news publishers and OTT platforms, asking them not to broadcast or show online betting advertisements in any form. The FIFS, in a statement, said consumer interests need to be safeguarded.

### SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai, Egmore  
Tender Notice  
No: E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT10-2022-23  
Dated 30.09.2022  
For and on behalf of the President of India, The Dy. Chief Elec Engineer/Gen/Cons/S. Rly/Egmore, Chennai-600 008 invites E-Tender for the following work:  
**Name of work:** Tambaram-Chengalpattu 3rd Line Work: Electrification of ICM Shed, Pit lines with stabilizing lines, New FOB, New Platforms Lightings, Water Supply Arrangements & Provision of 11kV Compact Sub-Station with Power Supply Arrangements to Lifts and Escalators at Tambaram Station and Service Buildings between Tambaram and Chengalpattu Jrn.  
Tender Notice No. and Date: E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT10-2022-23  
Period of completion: 9 Months  
Approximate cost of work: Rs. 6,84,48,653/-  
Cost of tender form: Nil  
Tender Closing date: 27.10.2022  
Complete details can be seen [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
Dy. Chief Elec Engineer/Gen/Cons/S. Rly, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008  
Follow us on: [@GMSRailway](https://twitter.com/GMSRailway)

## Modi visits to ready ground for BJP's Gujarat campaign

The Hindu Bureau  
AHMEDABAD

Prior to the announcement of the Assembly election in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to step up his campaign, with visits over multiple days to launch new projects and hold rallies and roadshows in half-a-dozen places across the State.

Beginning Sunday, the PM will be in Gujarat for three days till Tuesday, during which he is expected to visit the famous Sun Temple at Modhera in Mehsana, where he will dedicate a solar power plant, and in Jambusar, where he will lay the foundation stone for a bulk drug manufacturing estate to be developed by the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation.

He will visit Jam Kandana in Rajkot district, and Jamnagar. He will also visit Anand in central Gujarat.

On October 18, Mr. Modi will arrive to inaugurate the Defence Expo being held for the first time in Gandhinagar, and then he will visit Rajkot and other places, with his departure likely on October 20.

"PM Narendra Modi will be visiting more than six districts in as many days during his two trips to Gujarat," a State government official involved in the preparations for Mr. Modi's visits said.

In the last week of October, Mr. Modi is likely to visit the Statue of Unity in south Gujarat for the Rashtriya Ekta Divas, an annual day organised in memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

## IN BRIEF



### Rajputs need to take up arms again, says Sangeet Som

Former Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Sangeet Som has again created a controversy by alleging that the population of only a particular community is increasing and the Rajput community would need to take up arms in future to stop "Sar Tan Se Juda" (beheading) and terrorism threats. The former MLA also targeted the Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kerala and alleged that only green flags were hoisted in the yatra, and the National Flag was not used. The former legislator was addressing a gathering of Rajputs in Meerut.

### Row over Congress leader's remark against Murmu

A tweet by Congress leader Udit Raj stating that President Droupadi Murmu was indulging in "sycophancy" by claiming in her speech in Gujarat that most Indians consumed salt produced in the State triggered a political storm on Thursday. While the BJP accused the Congress of having an "anti-tribal" mindset, Mr. Raj defended himself by asserting that he made his comments as a Dalit and not as a Congress leader. The Congress should apologise, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said.

### Rajasthan Cong. leaders yet to respond to show-cause notices

The 10-day deadline for three Rajasthan Congress leaders – Cabinet Minister Shanti Dhariwal, chief whip Mahesh Joshi and Dharmendra Rathore – ended on Thursday but they are yet to respond to the show-cause notices for indiscipline. The disciplinary committee of the Congress had asked them to explain why they defied the high command and organised a parallel meeting of MLAs instead of taking part in the Congress Legislature Party on September 25. Disciplinary panel sources say the leaders may be given a couple of extra days due to the festival season.

### Vijayvargiya criticises bureaucracy in M.P.

Kailash Vijayvargiya, senior BJP leader from Madhya Pradesh, is the latest in the party to criticise the State's bureaucracy and government machinery. Mr. Vijayvargiya on Thursday questioned the "undue credit" that government officials got for making Indore the cleanest city of India. Mr. Vijayvargiya said that if someone deserved praise, it was the sanitation workers and the people of Indore, in that order, and there was no point in "giving massages to officials".

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS TIRUPATI	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
e-tenders are invited for supply of Paper materials in different categories for TTD Printing Press in FY-2022-2023 (2nd spell). For tender notice & details log on to the website <a href="http://www.tirumala.org">http://www.tirumala.org</a> and <a href="https://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in">https://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in</a> . For further details contact : 0877-2264355 or 0877-2264292	
ROC No. PR4/13946/Adv. No.237/ PRO/2022, Dated:06.10.2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER	
T.S.R.T.C	
TENDER NOTICE	
Tender Notice No PSO-II/WATER BOTTLES/2022-23, Dt.04.10.2022 Sealed Tenders (Complete in all respects) are invited from the Manufacturers only for supply of the following items so as to reach the Purchase Officer(C-II) TSR(TC, 3rd Floor, B-Block, Bus Bhavan, Musirabad, Hyderabad-500020, 1. Packaged drinking water bottles with sizes of 500ml, 500ml & of 1 litre(1000ml) bottles as per the BIS specification IS:14543:2016 to deliver to TSR(TC) Zonal Stores Upjal-Hyderabad & Zonal Stores Karimnagar with TSR Label and Brand as approved by TSR(TC) from the Manufacturers of Packaged Drinking Water Bottles. The Tenderers shall download the Tender Form, terms and conditions (with relevant details) from our Website: <a href="https://tsrtc.telangana.gov.in">https://tsrtc.telangana.gov.in</a> (Tenders). The file in tender documents shall be submitted along with the EMD and tender fee by way of DD to the Purchase Officer(C-II) TSR(TC, 3rd Floor, B-Block, Bus Bhavan, Musirabad, Hyderabad on or before 15.00 hours on 22.10.2022. Corporation reserves the right to reject/cancel any tender/all the tenders.	
Sd/- T.S.R.T.C CHIEF CONTROLLER OF STORES	

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE			
Office of the Executive Engineer (Projects-Central-07) Division, Annex-2 Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.			
No.EE/PC-7/TEND/04/2022-23 Date: 06.10.2022			
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)			
Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amt. put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Construction of New School and College Building at Govindarajanagar (Thimmenni halli) West Zone and PU College Building at Yelahanka and School Building at 4th Phase, Yelahanka, Bengaluru.	14.95 Lakhs (Rs. 1 Lakh through e-procurement & remaining as specified in bid document.)	996.63
1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal. 2) Last date for receipt of queries: 12.10.2022 upto 5.30 p.m. 3) Pre-bid meeting : 13.10.2022 at 4.00 p.m 4) Last date for submission of proposals: 18.10.2022 upto 5.30 p.m. 5) Date of opening of technical bids: 20.10.2022 at 4.30 p.m. Further details can be obtained from office of the undersigned or GoK e-procurement website: <a href="https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in">https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in</a>			
Sd/- Executive Engineer, (Project Central-07) Division.			
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.			
		Wear Mask	
		Follow Physical Distancing	
		Maintain Hand Hygiene	

## IN BRIEF



## Vande Bharat train damaged after hitting buffaloes

Nearly a week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Vande Bharat Express between Mumbai Central and Gandhinagar, the train was damaged on hitting buffaloes between the Gairatpur and Vatva stations in Gujarat at 11.18 a.m. on Thursday. "Three or four buffaloes suddenly came on the way of the train, damaging its nose made of fibre-reinforced plastic. However, no functional part got damaged," a Railway official said. The official said the carcasses were removed, and the train resumed its journey within eight minutes and reached Gandhinagar on time. The Railways is trying to counsel villagers against leaving cattle near the train tracks.

## Bengal flash floods: Centre, State announce ex gratia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh each for the kin of the eight people who were killed in flash floods during immersion of Durga Puja idols in the Mal river in Jalpaiguri district on Wednesday evening. ₹2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each of the deceased in the tragic mishap during Durga Puja festivities in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. The injured would be given ₹50,000," the Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet. Ms. Banerjee tweeted that rescue operations by the National and State Disaster Response Forces were on.

## Bombay High Court gets six additional judges

The Union government has notified the appointment of six additional judges for the Bombay High Court. The October 6 notification said Sanjay Deshmukh, Yashivraj Khobragade, Mahendra Chandwani, Abhay Waghwase, Ravindra Joshi and Virushali Joshi had been appointed additional judges for two years with effect from the date they assumed charge. On September 7, the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit, approved a proposal for their elevation. The strength of judges in the High Court will now become 67 against the sanctioned strength of 94.

## Akasa Air to allow passengers to bring pets on their flights

Akasa Air will now be the second Indian carrier to allow passengers to bring pets with them on board their flights. The airline will allow "domesticated dogs and cats" in passenger cabin and cargo compartment. Only small pets up to seven kg can be brought inside passenger cabin. Animals weighing more than seven kg and up to 100 kg will go into the cargo compartment. The airline will commence bookings for pets from October 15 for flights from November 1. "This is Phase 1 of our launch, and progressively you will see us enhance our pet policy," Praveen Iyer, co-founder and Chief Commercial Officer of Akasa Air, said.

# Cough syrups exported only to the Gambia, finds CDSCO probe

Distributors' organisation says medicines that caused deaths in the Gambia unavailable in India, assures Drugs Controller that they will be pulled out if found; WHO suspects they may have been distributed elsewhere through informal markets

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**  
NEW DELHI

After a preliminary inquiry, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) found on Thursday that the four cough syrups made by Maiden Pharmaceuticals, suspected to have caused the death of children in the Gambia, were exported only to the West African nation.

The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a warning on Wednesday.

"The Haryana-based manufacturer is licensed by the State Drug Controller to make the products Promethazine Oral Solution BP, Kofexnal Baby Cough Syrup, MaKoff Baby Cough Syrup and MaGrip n Cold Syrup for export only," the Health Ministry added.

Controlled samples of the same batch manufactured by Maiden Pharmaceuticals have been taken and sent for testing to the Regional Drug Testing Lab, Chandigarh by the CDSCO, the Ministry said. The re-



**Under scanner:** The Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited factory in Sonepat district in Haryana. PTI

sults will guide the further course of action and bring clarity on the WHO inputs. The CDSCO has requested the WHO to share, at the earliest, the report on establishment of the causal relation to death with the medical products in question, the Ministry added.

By the tentative results received by the WHO, four of the 23 samples tested have been found to contain diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol.

The All India Organisation of Chemists and Distributors (AIOCD) said none of the four syrups

was available for sale in India. The group said it had assured the Drug Controller of India that in case these brands were in the Indian market, their supply would be halted immediately.

The Union government will look at where else these brands have been exported.

Despite multiple attempts by *The Hindu*, there was no response from the manufacturers.

"Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has no presence in the Indian domestic market and they only ex-

port their products," Rajeet Singh, general secretary, AIOCD, said. Mr. Singh said Indian distributors had been alerted on Thursday to the adverse effect of the solution "and have been cautioned against any possible availability or distribution of these in any part of the country".

The WHO mentioned that the syrups might have been distributed elsewhere and through informal markets.

"Laboratory analysis of samples of each of the four products confirms that

Pharmexcil asks firm to share details

**N. Ravi Kumar**  
HYDERABAD

The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) on Thursday put on watch Maiden Pharmaceuticals, the drug-maker named in a medical product alert by the World Health Organization.

The exporters body under the Union Commerce Ministry asked the firm to share details of the licensees and importers to whom the drugs were supplied as well as manufacturing licence copies and product permissions of the products.

"You are advised to investigate reasons of the serious adverse events and update us with your findings at the earliest to take necessary further action," Pharmexcil said.

Failure to provide the information sought by October 7 will result in the company's registration-cum-membership certificate being suspended without further notice, the organisation said.

"As far as WHO is concerned our manufacturer is involved... it is very serious," Pharmexcil Director-General Ravi Udaya Bhaskar said, calling for speeding up the process of investigation.

## Supply constraints dented coal-biomass mixing, says Minister

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

India's thermal power plant operators were unable to comply with norms that required them to mix coal with a certain proportion of biomass because of inadequate supply chains, Union Power Minister R.K. Singh said on Thursday.

The proceedings of an inter-ministerial meeting of the Environment, Agriculture and Power Ministries on Monday expressed concern over several operators not meeting the target of replacing 5% of their coal with biomass.

Biomass pellets have the same calorific value as coal and mixing them with coal saves consumption and cuts emissions.

"Supply chains have to be built up. You cannot co-fire biomass by itself and you have to torrefy it, facilities for which are coming

### Several power plant operators have not met the target of replacing 5% of their coal with biomass

up," said Mr. Singh at a press conference to announce a meeting of the International Solar Alliance, scheduled here, later this month.

As *The Hindu* had reported, in 2020-21, only eight power plants had co-fired biomass pellets, and this number had risen to 39 as of Monday.

To put that number in perspective, India has around 180 thermal power plants.

As of Monday, 83,066 tonnes of biomass have been co-fired in 39 thermal power plants across the country and has generated close to 55,390 MW of power.

## 'Can read, talk': Vyommitra's skills get a lift-off with digital grey matter

**Tiki Rajvi**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Vyommitra, the humanoid designed and developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to fly aboard unmanned test missions ahead of the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission, is undergoing pre-flight ground tests at the ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU) here.

Over the past few months, the IISU has successfully integrated it with a computer "brain", which enables it to "read" control panels aboard the unmanned test flights and communicate with the ISRO ground stations, IISU Director Sam Dayala Dev told *The Hindu*.

The ISRO and the IISU were in the news when they unveiled Vyommitra, a "female" robot astronaut, in 2020. Vyommitra is a half-humanoid lacking lower limbs. The IISU was responsible for the design,



The AI-enabled robot is designed to fly aboard a rocket, withstanding vibrations and shock during the flight.

development, and integration of the robot, while the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) at Thumba here developed its fingers.

The AI-enabled robot is designed to fly aboard a rocket, withstanding vibrations and shock during the flight, he said. It has been designed to resemble a human with facial expressions and speech and sight capabilities, he said.

"It has a certain level of intelligence. What we in-

months. In the meantime, Vyommitra is set to get a digital twin. The "twin" will undergo computer simulations where the control systems are tested for microgravity conditions. The twin will be developed in collaboration with academic institutions such as the IITs.

In September, Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh indicated that the first unmanned test-flight of the Gaganyaan programme would take place this year. The Gaganyaan programme would demonstrate human spaceflight by sending a crew to a 400-km low earth orbit and bringing them back safely.



**Watch** | Vyommitra, ISRO's newly introduced half-humanoid trib.al/YWgHCNx

## FAITH

## Pen pictures of Gokula

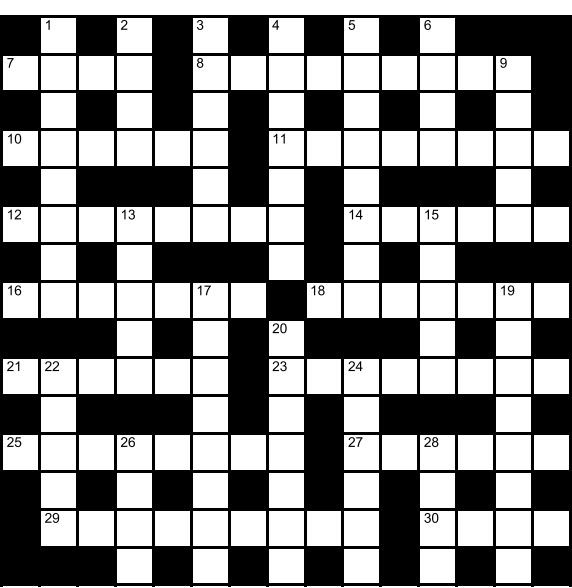
The Gopikas often brought complaints against Krishna to Yasoda. Periyazhwar imagines such scenarios in his verses, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse.

One Gopika went to her neighbour's house to get wood to light her cooking fire. Instead of returning at once, she stayed awhile, chatting with her neighbour. Krishna used her absence to drink up all the milk in her house. Another complaint was about a little girl losing her bangles. The girl was alone at home. Krishna asked her to part with her gold bangles so that He could buy some jamun fruits with them. She agreed. When her mother returned home, she found her daughter's bangles missing and when the girl was questioned, she told her mother about Krishna and the jamun fruits. The Gopika had scolded Krishna. But Krishna's reply was that He did not know what she was talking about, and He had done nothing wrong. Manavala Mamunilam elaborates on Krishna's declaration of His innocence. An expansion of "I did no wrong," would be a series of questions by Krishna, in the manner of a clever lawyer: "Did you see me go into your house? Did you see me talk to your daughter? Did you see Me asking her for her bangles to buy fruits with? How then can you accuse Me, when you have no evidence against Me?"

Periyazhwar's outpouring also includes verses describing Krishna's flute playing. When Krishna played the flute, His eyebrows were drawn together. When the music flowed from His flute, birds left their nests and did not move their feathers, so that they could listen to the music. Cows which had pulled up grass to chew on stood still. Even their ears did not move.

## TH CROSSWORD + 13679

(set by Incognito)



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



## Across

- 7 Dark spot in sauce from Mexico (4)
- 8 As a matter of regular practice, bank holds old upper class money (9)
- 10 Meaning is "Bring in" (6)
- 11 Critters go berserk in hamper (8)
- 12 Fill shelf (5,3)

## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13679

K	N	U	C	K	L	E	D	U	S	I	T	E
O	E	A	A	E	M	L	G					
L	A	S	E	S	S	A	N	A				
D	T	D	S	P	L	T						
W	H	E	T	S	T	O	N	E	T			
I	G	H	R	O	O	T						
V	A	G	R	A	N	T	O	N	I			
E	R	E	D	U	B							
S	C	A	P	E	G	W						
T	P	L	U	N	V	A						
A	C	R	I	D	A	L						
L	I	E	P	N	I	R						
E	N	CH	I	L	D	A						
S	O	S	R	I	E	B						
S	T	U	A	T	O	R						

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

## PARIS

**At least 82 people killed in Iran crackdown since Sept 30: Amnesty**



At least 82 people have been killed by Iranian security forces in the city of Zahedan in the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province since protests erupted there on September 30, Amnesty International said on Thursday. Iranian officials have characterised the unrest as attacks by "extremists" on police stations. AFP

## SEOUL

**North Korea fires two ballistic missiles, blames U.S. for 'escalation'**



North Korea fired two ballistic missiles on Thursday and claimed its recent blitz of sanctions-busting tests were necessary countermeasures against joint military drills by the U.S. and South Korea. The recent launches were "the just counteraction measures of the Korean People's Army", the Foreign Ministry said. AFP

## YANGON

**Myanmar junta jails Japanese filmmaker for 10 years**



Myanmar's junta has jailed a Japanese filmmaker for 10 years, more than two months after he was arrested while filming an anti-coup protest, a military spokesman said on Thursday. Toru Kubota, 26, was detained near an anti-government rally in commercial hub Yangon in July along with two Myanmar citizens. AFP

## MEXICO

**Gun attack in Mexico leaves at least 18 dead; cartel involved**



Gunmen in southern Mexico killed at least 18 people in an attack on Wednesday, including the town's mayor, authorities said. The attack happened in San Miguel Totolapan in Guerrero state. Press reports said the attack was staged by the Los Tequileros gang, which is affiliated with Jalisco Nueva Generacion, a drug cartel. AP

## Ex-policeman kills 22 children at daycare centre in Thailand

The victims were mostly stabbed to death; the attacker later shot dead his wife and child, before killing himself; he was dismissed from police service last year over drug allegations

Reuters

BANGKOK

A former policeman killed 38 people, including 22 children, in a knife and gun rampage at a daycare centre in Thailand on Thursday, later shooting dead his wife and child at their home before turning his weapon on himself, police said.

The children at the daycare centre in Uthai Sawan, a town 500 km northeast of Bangkok, were mostly stabbed to death, they said.

Police identified the attacker as a former member of the force who was dismissed from his post last year over drug allegations and he was facing trial on a drugs charge.

The man had been in court earlier in the day and had then gone to the daycare centre to collect his child, police spokesperson Paisal Luesomboon told broadcaster ThaiPBS.

When he did not find his child there, he began the killing spree, Mr. Paisal



**Cold-blooded:** The body of the suspected shooter inside a body bag at Na Klang Hospital following a mass killing at a daycare centre in Uthai Sawan, Thailand, on Thursday. REUTERS

said. "He started shooting, slashing, killing children at the Utai Sawan daycare centre." Videos posted on social media showed sheets covering what appeared to be the bodies of children lying in pools of blood in the garden of the daycare centre. Reuters could not immediately authenticate the footage.

About 30 children were

at the facility when the attacker arrived, fewer than usual, as heavy rain had kept many people away, district official Jidapa Boonsom, who was working in a nearby office at the time. "The shooter came in around lunch time and shot four or five officials at the childcare centre first," Ms. Jidapa said.

The attacker forced his

way into a locked room where the children were sleeping, Ms. Jidapa said. She said she thought he killed children there with a knife, adding that a teacher who was eight months pregnant was also stabbed to death. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha, in a statement on Facebook, called the shooting a "shocking incident".

## India abstains on Sri Lanka vote at UN Human Rights Council

Meera Srinivasan

COLOMBO

India on Thursday abstained from voting on a resolution on Sri Lanka at the UN Human Rights Council, while observing that Sri Lanka's progress in implementing commitments on the 13th Amendment, meaningful devolution and early provincial elections remains "inadequate".

"Achieving prosperity for all Sri Lankans and realising the legitimate aspirations of Tamils of Sri Lanka for prosperity, dignity and peace are two sides of the same coin," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Indra Mani Pande said. As an immediate neighbour, India has "substantively contributed" to the relief, rehabilitation, resettlement and reconstruction process in Sri Lanka after 2009 and more recently provided "unprecedented assistance" to the people of Sri Lanka to face the challenges of the recent economic crisis, he said. India had abstained last year, too.

Further, India has "taken note" of the Sri Lankan government's commitments on the implementation



of commitments "in the spirit of the 13th Constitutional Amendment", meaningful devolution and the early conduct of provincial elections, Mr. Pande said, underscoring India's long-standing concern over power devolution in Sri Lanka, an issue that also found mention in the resolution.

## Inadequate progress

"We believe that the progress towards the same remains inadequate. Accordingly, we urge the Government of Sri Lanka to work meaningfully towards early implementation of these commitments," the Indian diplomat said.

The resolution titled 'Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human

rights in Sri Lanka' was adopted by the Council after 20 of its 47 members voted in its favour. While 20 countries abstained, seven – including China and Pakistan – voted against it, effectively backing the Sri Lankan government. Prior to the vote, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry told the Council that the government "categorically rejects" the "manifestly unhelpful" resolution. He had earlier said the Council was "polarised", and that its resolutions were "all geopolitics".

The government, he said on Thursday, especially opposed the resolution reinforcing the Office of the High Commissioner's capacity to "collect, consolidate, analyse, and preserve" information and evidence pertaining to rights violations, and to "support relevant judicial and other proceedings, including in Member States, with competent jurisdiction".

## Impartial investigation

The resolution called upon the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure the prompt, thorough and impartial investigation and, if warranted, prosecution of all al-

leged crimes relating to human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law, including for long-standing emblematic cases, with the full participation of victims and their representatives. It also urged the government to address the ongoing economic crisis, including "by investigating and, where warranted, prosecuting corruption, including where committed by public and former public officials". Mr. Sabry accused the Core Group of nations that tabled the resolution of going beyond its mandate by including economic issues.

Sri Lanka's largest Tamil grouping in Parliament, the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), thanked the Core Group for keeping Sri Lanka's rights record on the Human rights Council's agenda for a decade. "It has helped maintain international oversight on accountability and reconciliation. Although we would like to see more decisive action [on the ground], we know this is the intervention that is possible for the Council," TNA spokesman M.A. Sumanthiran told *The Hindu*.

**Abducted Sikh family found dead in U.S.**

Press Trust of India

LOS ANGELES

"There's a special place in hell for this guy," the Sheriff Vern Warnke of Merced County in California has said of the suspect Jesus Manuel Salgadinho, who is suspected to have abducted four members of an Indian-origin Sikh family, including a 8-month-old baby girl. They were found dead in an orchard.

Sheriff Warnke said that there was no evidence currently to indicate Salgadinho knew the family prior to the kidnapping. Salgadinho was convicted in 2005 of armed robbery.

## Indian-origin college student killed in U.S.

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON



Students leave notes and lights during a vigil for Varun Manish Chheda on Wednesday. AP

and the manner of death was homicide, according to autopsy results. Another university student was arrested on a murder charge on Wednesday, NBC News quoted the school's police chief as saying.

Authorities said the incident happened in a room on the first floor of McCutcheon Hall. Chheda died of "multiple sharp force traumatic injuries,"

## Recaptured vast tracts of key Kherson region: Ukraine

Agence France-Presse

KYIV

Ukraine said Thursday that it had wrested Russian troops out from swathes of the southern Kherson region, pushing a counter-offensive that has undermined the Kremlin's claim to have annexed the territories.

The announcement came after a barrage of devastating Russian bombardments of the city of Zaporizhzhia that left several dead in an attack Kyiv said was a deliberate attempt to "sow fear" among the population.

Ukraine's military has

### The Ukrainian push is putting further strain on the Kremlin's announcement last week that it had annexed the territory

not only said it was reclaiming territory in the south, but also in the eastern Lugansk and Donetsk regions, that have been partially controlled by Kremlin proxy forces since 2014.

Kherson, a region with an estimated pre-war population of around one million people, was captured

early and easily by Moscow's troops after their invasion launched February 24 and was occupied by the forces for months.

The Ukrainian push deeper into Kherson is putting further strain on the Kremlin's announcement last week that it had annexed the territory – alongside three others – and that its residents were Russian "forever".

The four territories – Donetsk, Kherson, Lugansk and Zaporizhzhia – create a land corridor between Russia and the Crimean peninsula, which was annexed by Moscow in 2014.

Kherson, a region with an estimated pre-war population of around one million people, was captured

## 'U.S. thinks Ukraine is behind Dugina's death'

Reuters

LONDON

U.S. intelligence agencies believe parts of the Ukrainian government approved a car bomb attack near Moscow in August that killed Darya Dugina, the daughter of a prominent Russian nationalist, the *New York Times* reported, citing unidentified officials.

Reuters could not immediately verify the report.

## Officials rebuked

The United States took no part in the attack on Dugina and was not aware of it ahead of time, the *Times* reported. American offi-

cials admonished Ukrainian officials over the assassination, the *Times* said.

The paper said some U.S. officials suspected Dugina's father, Alexander Dugin, a vocal supporter of what Russia calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine, was the actual target of the assassination.

Ukraine denied involvement in the killing, while Russia's Federal Security Service accused Ukraine's secret services of being behind it.

Ukraine denied involvement in the killing, while Russia's Federal Security Service accused Ukraine's secret services of being behind it. Mykhailo Podolyak, a Ukrainian presidential advisor, told Reuters on Thursday that Dugina had been of no interest to Kyiv before she was killed.

## Biden doesn't exclude meeting Putin at G-20

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Thursday did not rule out meeting with Russian leader Vladimir Putin during the G-20 summit next month in Asia.

"That remains to be seen," the United States leader told reporters when asked if he'd use the G-20 gathering in Bali, Indonesia, as an opportunity to

## At 34, Burkina's new junta chief is world's youngest leader

Agence France-Presse

OUAGADOUGOU

talk directly with Mr. Putin. The White House has previously said such a meeting is not excluded.

However, travel plans for both men remain unconfirmed currently and the White House has said that if Mr. Putin attends the G-20 summit, then Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, should also participate, even if Ukraine is not a member of the group.

Ibrahim Traore, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, who had seized power just in January.

At that lofty moment, Mr. Traore became the world's youngest leader,

wresting the title from Chinese President Xi Jinping, who is two years older.

Mr. Traore's previously unknown face is now plastered on portraits around the capital Ouagadougou.

Mr. Traore was born in Bondoukou, in western Burkina Faso, and studied geology in Ouagadougou before joining the army in 2010.

He graduated as an officer from the Georges Namao Military School – a second-tier institution

compared to the prestigious Kadiogo Military Academy (PMK) of which Damiba and others in the elite are alumni.

## Posting in Mali

He served in the badly-hit north and centre of the country before heading to a posting in neighbouring Mali in 2018 in the UN's MINUSMA peacekeeping mission.

He was appointed captain in 2020.

When Mr. Damiba took

power in January, ousting elected president Roch Marc Christian Kabore, Mr. Traore became a member of the Patriotic Movement for Preservation and Restoration (MPSR), as the junta chose to call itself.

In March, Mr. Damiba promoted Mr. Traore to head of artillery in the Kaya regiment in the centre of the country. But it was a move that ironically would sow the seeds of Mr. Damiba's own downfall.

## IN BRIEF



## NHIT to raise ₹1,500 crore via non-convertible debentures

National Highways Infrastructure Trust (NHIT), a registered infrastructure investment trust under the INVIT Regulations and sponsored by the NHAI, has filed its draft prospectus with SEBI to raise ₹1,500 crore by issuing non-convertible debentures.

The net proceeds are proposed to be utilised towards infusion of debt into the project SPV of NHIT, repayment of the bridge loan facility of NHIT and general corporate purposes.

## Zydus wins USFDA nod for generic anti-epilepsy drug

Drugmaker Zydus Lifesciences received the United States Food and Drug Administration's (USFDA) approval to market Brivaracetam tablets. An anti-epileptic drug, the approved product is a generic of multinational pharma firm UCB's Brivzaclt. The drug had annual sales of \$412 million in the U.S., the company said citing IQVIA data. Brivaracetam is used in the treatment of partial-onset seizures in patients four years of age and older. The drug would be made at the group's formulation facility in Ahmedabad.

## Mahindra unit, Actis set up industrial, logistics realty JV

Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd. said it has entered into an agreement with global investor Actis to establish a joint venture platform for developing industrial and logistics real estate facilities across India. Up to 100 acres of land with ready infrastructure in the two Mahindra World Cities, offering a built-up potential of more than two million square feet, has been earmarked to be developed by the platform. The total investment in the business over the initial years is estimated at ₹2,200 crore, they said.

# Samson's late blitz not enough as India falls short in opening one-dayer against South Africa

The India No. 6 scores an unbeaten 86 off 63 deliveries with nine fours and three sixes and nearly pulls it off for the Men in Blue; Shreyas (50) and Shardul (33) play good supporting roles; Maharaj (8-1-23-1) puts the brakes on the hosts' chase; Klaasen (74 not out) and Miller (75 not out) power the South Africa innings with an undefeated 139-run stand for the fifth wicket



Battling it out: Samson kept India in the hunt with a superb knock. R.V. MOORTHY

## SA IN INDIA

### Rakesh Rao

LUCKNOW

**F**irst with the bat and later with the ball, South Africa struck India between the ears. As a result, the outcome became a foregone conclusion in the rain-shortened 40-over-a-side ODI here on Thursday.

Eventually, if the nine-run margin of victory for South Africa was less than impressive, it was due to some late flourish by Sanju Samson (86 not out, 63b, 9x4, 3x6).

With 30 needed off the final over, bowled by Tabaiz Shamsi, Samson hit 19 of the 20 runs scored.

In fact, once half-centuries Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller pulled the Proteas out of the tightening Indian grip with an unconquered 139-run stand and Kagiso Rabada and

Wayne Parnell delivered early blows, the host was always behind the eight ball.

Chasing 250, India lost openers Shubman Gill and skipper Shikhar Dhawan cheaply. They fell during a spell of 25 successive dot-balls that included three maiden overs – two from Rabada and one from Parnell. In conditions that assisted swing and movement, the pace duo bowled a disciplined line and hit the right length.

While left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj kept the Indians on a tight leash, Ishan Kishan and debutant Ruturaj Gaikwad also disappointed as India was left reeling at 51 for four.

Shreyas Iyer's 37-ball half-century, during a 67-run stand with Sanju Samson, followed.

Samson, after struggling early on in his innings, delighted the crowd with some big hits and raised 93 with Shardul Thakur (33).

## SCOREBOARD

### SOUTH AFRICA

Janneman Malan c Shreyas b Shardul 22 (42b, 3x4), Quinton de Kock lbw b Bishnoi 48 (54b, 5x4), Temba Bavuma b Shardul 8 (12b, 2x4), Aiden Markram b Kuldeep 0 (5b), Heinrich Klaasen (not out) 74 (65b, 6x4, 2x6), David Miller (not out) 75 (63b, 5x4, 3x6); Extras (b-2, lb-4, w-15, nb-1); Total: 22; Total (for four wkt. in 40 overs): 249.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-49 (Malan, 12.1 overs), 2-70 (Bavuma, 14.6), 3-71 (Markram, 15.6), 4-110 (de Kock, 22.2)

### INDIA BOWLING

Siraj 8-0-49-0, Avesh 8-0-51-0, Shardul 8-1-35-2, Bishnoi 8-0-69-1, Kuldeep 8-0-39-1.

### INDIA

Shikhar Dhawan b Parnell 4 (16b), Shubman Gill b Rabada 3 (7b), Ruturaj Gaikwad st. de Kock b Shamsi 19 (42b, 1x4), Ishan Kishan c Malan b Maharaj 20 (37b, 3x4), Shreyas Iyer c Rabada b Ngidi 50 (37b, 8x4), Sanju Samson (not out) 86 (63b, 9x4, 3x6), Shardul Thakur c Maharaj b Ngidi 33 (31b, 5x4), Kuldeep Yadav c Bavuma b Ngidi 0 (1b), Avesh Khan c Bavuma b Rabada 3 (6b), Ravi Bishnoi (not out) 4 (2b, 1x4); Extras (lb-2, w-14, nb-2)

18; Total (for eight wkt. in 40 overs): 240.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-8 (Gill, 2-4), 2-8 (Dhawan, 5.1), 3-48 (Ruturaj, 16.4), 4-51 (Kishan, 17.4), 5-118 (Shreyas, 26.4), 6-211 (Shardul, 37.3), 7-211 (Kuldeep, 37.4), 8-215 (Avesh, 38.5).

### SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Rabada 8-2-36-2, Parnell 8-1-38-1, Maharaj 8-1-23-1, Ngidi 8-0-52-3, Shamsi 8-0-89-1.

**Toss:** India; **MoM:** Klaasen. South Africa won by nine runs to take a 1-0 lead in three-match series.

**Second ODI:** Oct. 9, Ranchi, 1.30 p.m.

the other debutant, trapped Quinton de Kock for 48, his maiden ODI wicket.

At this stage, India looked in control. But Miller and Klaasen slowly took charge. The former scored his 18th ODI half-century and the latter his fourth as they matched each other's strike-rate and sent the ball past the boundary rope eight times each.

The duo benefited from

India's woes in the death overs as the fielders floundered and also dropped catches. Just when Miller and Klaasen were looking to step up a gear, Siraj and Gaikwad dropped catches off Avesh Khan, who conceded 28 of the 54 scored in the last five overs.

Bishnoi, despite his lone wicket, proved the most expensive (one for 69) while Kuldeep Yadav (one for 39) was impressive.

## Sangeeta's controlled performance helps her win individual, team golds

### NG ARCHERY

#### Y.B. Sarangi

AHMEDABAD

Sangeeta gave a controlled performance to claim the recurve women's individual and team gold medals in the National Games at the Sanskardham archery ground here on Thursday.

The 22-year-old Sangeeta's performance helped her team Haryana to secure four of five gold medals on offer in the recurve division. Haryana also bagged the men's team and mixed team crowns.

On a cloudy and comparatively pleasant day, Sangeeta, hailing from Hisar, defeated young Jharkhand archer Anshika Singh 6-2 (28-25, 26-23, 24-25, 28-26) in the individual final to emerge as the champion. Simranjeet Kaur bagged the bronze medal.

"I just focused on winning the gold medal. There was some wind, but I controlled my shooting and got good scores," said Sangeeta.



Sangeeta who won the women's recurve individual and team gold medals. VIJAY SONEJI

Later, Sangeeta joined hands with Bhajan Kaur and Preeti to beat the star-studded Jharkhand trio of Komalika Bari, Ankita Bhakat and Dipti Kumari 5-4 (shoot-off 28-27) in a closely-fought women's team summit clash. The bronze went to host Gujarat.

Akash and Bhajan pipped Maharashtra's Gauri Lambe and Charuta Kaur.

malpur 5-4 (shoot-off 19-16) for the top honour in the mixed team event. Jharkhand finished third.

Haryana got the men's team title as well. Services could not compete in the final as one of its team members, Olympian Pravin Jadhav, was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday because of dengue.

Defending champion Tarun Deep Rai took the bronze.

Atanu Das shone amid

## I am happy that the new athletes are listening to us, says Hima Das

### ATHLETICS

#### Y.B. Sarangi

GANDHINAGAR

'Dhing Express' Hima Das loves the camaraderie among the experienced and up-and-coming women sprinters on the National scene and hopes that it will help the 4x100m relay team shine on the world stage in the near future.

Having shifted her focus to shorter races, Hima, a former World under-20 champion in 400m and a three time medallist (including two golds in 4x400m relays) in the 2018 Asian Games, feels that good bonding among the sprinters will benefit the team.

At the National Games here, co-competitors Hima and Dutee Chand had encouraged Y. Jyothi prior to the 100m race and the 100m hurdler acknowledged the senior athletes' role in her performance.

Hima threw more light on how well she gelled



Gelling well: Hima's encouragement helped Jyothi win the 100m hurdles on Tuesday. VV. KRISHNAN

with Jyothi. "We, the relay team (Hima, Dutee, Srabani Nanda and Jyothi), competed in the Commonwealth Games (and finished fifth with 43.81). Several top countries, barring the USA, were there."

"We will not take much time to touch the top level. We need to maintain our chemistry because we have to make India the best team in the next four years."

"As a responsible athlete, this is an effort to encourage the up-and-com-

ing athletes to move forward. I am happy that the new athletes are listening to us. Jyothi is like my own sister. It feels good. One day we will make the (National) flag fly high," said Hima.

**Encouraging**

Hima said the overall scenario of Indian athletics is encouraging. "Indian athletics is going up. Neeraj Chopra bhai won gold in the Olympics and I had clinched the World under-20 gold (in 2018). Peo-

ple get inspired from such results. The competition is getting tougher and we are enjoying this because good athletes are coming from different corners of the country."

On her own performance at the National Games, Hima, who finished behind Archana Su-seendran (23.06) for the silver medal in 200m with 23.61, said she was not well prepared.

### Short preparation

"After the Commonwealth Games, I took some rest. Suddenly the National Games happened and one cannot get a good performance with a short preparation, you need at least six months. I will give my best in the National Open meet even though time is very less."

Hima, who was down with a back injury and COVID issues for two years, looked forward to doing well in the Asian Games. "Now the focus is on the Asian Games and we have got one year in hand," she said.

## Virdhawal Khade enjoying his role as coach

### SWIMMING

#### M.R. Praveen Chandran

RAJKOT

As soon as she touched the finish line to beat favourite Maana Patel in 50m freestyle, Avantika Chawhan turned around and gave a thumbs up sign to a her coach Virdhawal Khade. A smile broke on the face of Khade who till then was standing expressionless on the stands.

It was a special moment for Khade who tasted success as a coach for the first time in the National Games after having won bucketful of medals as a competitor in the event before.

Khade, an Asian Games bronze medallist, is enjoying his career as a coach. For the past one year, Khade has been mentoring and training young swimmers at the Khar Gymkhana in Mumbai.



Proud master: It is a good feeling when your trainee wins a gold, says Khade referring to Avantika. RITU RAJ KONWAR

### Medals Table

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Services	41	29	26	96
Haryana	29	23	20	72
Maharashtra	24	24	45	93
Tamil Nadu	19	20	19	58
Uttar Pradesh	18	13	12	43
Karnataka	17	18	29	64
Punjab	14	22	19	55
Kerala	13	15	11	39
Manipur	13	5	11	29
West Bengal	12	11	16	39

## NBA in talks to return to India for pre-season soon: Silver

### Ashwin Achal

ABU DHABI



Silver. AFP

Buoyed by the success of the NBA India Games 2019, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver stated that the league plans to return to India as quickly as possible. The NBA India Games 2019 featured two pre-season games between the Sacramento Kings and Indiana Pacers in Mumbai.

"We do have plans to come back to India. Playing the two pre-season games in Mumbai was an incredible experience. Both teams really embraced the experience. We've also had discussions about returning to India as quickly as possible," Silver said.

The development of the sport in India is the primary focus of the league, Silver added. "While pre-season games are special, it is only a moment in time.

What we are really focussed on is developing the game throughout India. We will work with FIBA (international basketball federation) to conduct more clinics, more academies, and to better distribute the game in India," Silver said.

Silver said young French forward Victor Wembanyama could be the league's next big star. Wembanyama is considered one of Europe's best prospects, and is touted to be the first pick in the 2023 NBA draft.

"I could jinx a player by anointing him as the next 'great one.' Victor certainly has all the attributes to be a true game changer. NBA teams are salivating at the notion that they could get him," Silver said.

(The author is in Abu Dhabi on invitation from NBA India)



With an 8-foot wingspan and the shooting touch of a point guard, French prodigy Victor Wembanyama didn't disappoint in his first US appearance. Wembanyama, 18, flew to Nevada with his French league team to showcase the skills that many believe will make him the No. 1 pick in next year's NBA draft.

**Agence France-Presse**  
HENDERSON (USA)

## IN BRIEF



## Tamil Nadu finishes with six medals in squash

Tamil Nadu finished with a rich haul of six medals, including three gold, two silver and a bronze, in the squash event of the 36th National Games at Gandhinagar on Wednesday.

**The results (finals): Men, team:** TN bt Maharashtra 2-0 (S. Velavan bt Suraj Chand 11-4, 11-8, 11-5; Abhay Singh bt Rahul Baitha 11-7, 11-9, 11-4); **Singles:** Abhay Singh (TN) bt S. Velavan (TN) 11-2, 11-6, 3-11, 11-8.

**Women, team:** Delhi bt TN 2-0 (Anahat Singh bt Rathika Seelan 11-3, 11-5, 11-3; Tanvi Khanna bt Sunayna Kuruvilla 11-5, 11-8, 11-2); **Singles:** Sunayna Kuruvilla (TN) bt Urvashi Joshi (Mah) 9-11, 7-11, 11-3, 11-8, 11-1.

## Haryana routs Gujarat; Maharashtra beats Bengal

Defending champion Haryana and Maharashtra warmed up for their quarterfinals matches with wins in the men's hockey event of the 36th National Games at the Dhyanchand Hockey Stadium, Rajkot, on Thursday. Haryana scored an unconvincing 7-0 win over lowly Gujarat. A brace from captain Devinder Walmiki enabled Maharashtra to beat West Bengal 2-0 in another Group B match. The women's quarterfinals will begin on Friday.

**The results:** Men: Group B: Maharashtra bt West Bengal 2-0; Haryana bt Gujarat 7-0.

## Rohan and Avani in the van after round one

Maharashtra's Rohan Patil enjoyed a sole lead with a score of five-under 67 among men and Karnataka's Avani Prashanth carded a one-under 71 to lead the pack among women after the first round competitions of the National Games at the Kensils Golf and Country Club, Ahmedabad, on Thursday.

**The scores (first round): Men: Individual:** Rohan Patil 67; Abhinav Lohar and Karandeep Kochhar 68; Ishaan Chawhan 71; Arjun Bhati, Aryan Anand and Varoon Parmar 72.

**Team:** Haryana 143; Maharashtra 144; Karnataka 146; Delhi, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh 147; West Bengal 149.

**Women: Individual:** Avani Prashanth 71; Amandeep Kaur 72; Durga Nittur, Gaurika Bishnoi, Neha Tripathi and Kriti Chowhan 73; Nisha Patel 74.

**Team:** Karnataka 144; Maharashtra and Punjab 150; Delhi 152; Haryana 153; Chandigarh 155.

## China thumps India 3-0 in men's pre-quarterfinals

Host and top seed China thumped India 3-0 in the men's pre-quarterfinals of the World team table tennis championships at Chengdu on Thursday.

**The result:** China bt India 3-0 (Fan Zhendong bt Harneet Desai 11-2, 11-9, 11-5; Ma Long bt G. Sathiyan 14-12, 11-5, 11-0; Wang Chuqin bt Manush Shah 11-4, 11-5, 11-6).

## Clinical India u-17 beats Kuwait 3-0

Thangalsoum Gangte scored a brace to guide India to a crucial 3-0 victory over Kuwait in the AFC under-17 Asian Cup 2023 football Qualifiers here on Thursday.

India had registered a commanding 5-0 win over Maldives in its previous match. Two goals from Gangte gave India three points.

Goalkeeper Sahil also shone through with a notable display, making a number of crucial saves, ensuring a hard-earned clean sheet.

India will take on Myanmar in its next match.

## Purav-Divij pair enters semifinals

Purav Raja and Divij Sharan beat Kyrian Jacquet and Clement Tabur of France 6-1, 6-4 to reach the doubles semifinals of the €67,960 Challenger tennis tournament in Mouilleron le Captif, France.

**The results:**

**€134,920 Challenger, Parma, Italy: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Davide Pozzi & Alexander Weis (Ita) 7-6(4), 6-1.

**€67,960 Challenger, Mouilleron le Captif, France: Doubles (quarterfinals):** Purav Raja & Divij Sharan bt Kyrian Jacquet & Clement Tabur (Fra) 6-1, 6-4.

**\$53,120 Challenger, Campinas, Brazil: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Boris Arias & Federico Zeballos (Bol) bt Alexandre Muller (Fra) & Sumit Nagal 4-6, 6-2, [10-5].

**\$53,120 Challenger, Gwangju, Korea: Doubles (quarterfinals):** Yuki Bhambhani & Saketh Myneni bt Marek Gengel & Dalibor Svrca (Cze) 7-6(3), 6-4.

**\$53,120 Challenger, Tiburon, USA: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Carl Emil Overbeck (Den) & Siddhant Banthia bt Denis Kudla & Ben Shelton (USA) 5-7, 7-6(4), [11-9].

# Srihari, Maana and Advait set new records

The Karnataka and Gujarat swimmers set new Games marks in 100m backstroke while the Madhya Pradesh lad breaks Sajan's record in the 800m freestyle category

## NG SWIMMING

**M.R. Praveen Chandran**  
RAJKOT

**T**he big names in Indian swimming dazzled by setting new games records on the fifth day of the 36th National Games swimming at the Sardar Patel Aquatic Complex here on Thursday.

Olympian Srihari Nataraj broke the existing record in 100m backstroke. Madhya Pradesh's Advait Page and crowd favourite Maana Patel also set new marks.

Nina Venkatesh barged into the record breakers group by setting a new mark in 50m butterfly. Kerala's Sajan Prakash swam to his third gold medal of the meet while winning the 50m butterfly.

**Terrific show**

Advait came up with a terrific show in the final 50 metres to upstage leaders Aryan Nehra and Sajan Prakash to win the gold in 800m freestyle. Local lad Aryan set the pace and led for the most part of the race with Sajan behind him.

**Going all out**

Advait, who was far behind the leaders, caught up with them in the final 100 metres. At the homestretch, Advait went all out



**Making a splash:** Srihari won the men's 100m backstroke gold on Thursday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

and finished ahead of Aryan and Sajan with a new record of 8:12.24s.

**Conserving energy**

In the 100m backstroke, Srihari led from the start but slowed down at the finish to conserve energy for the 50m butterfly, his last event.

Srihari still managed to set a new record by clocking 55.80s and broke P.S. Madhu's old mark (57.62s) set in 2015.

However, Srihari looked out of sorts in the 50m butterfly which saw Sajan blitz the field to take the gold in 25.10s.

Maana Patel proved that

she is the undisputed queen of backstroke as she effortlessly won the 100m event without any competition.

**Bettering own mark**

Maana broke her own old mark (1:05.32) by clocking 1:04.35s in the final.

In 50m butterfly, Karnataka's Nina Venkatesh bested Divya Satija, who had set a new record (28.76s) in the heats, for the gold. Nina clocked 28.39s for the new mark.

**The results:**

**Men: 800m freestyle:** 1. Advait Page (MP) 8:12.24; NGR; OR: 8:15.49, Sajan Prakash, Kerala,

2015), 2. Aryan Nehra (Guj), 3. Sajan (Ker).

**100m backstroke:** 1. Srihari Nataraj (Kar) (55.80s; NGR; OR: 57.62, P.S. Madhu, SSCB, 2015), 2. Vinayak (SSCB) & 3. S. Siva (Kar). **50m butterfly:** 1. Sajan (Ker) (25.10s), 2. Benedicton Rohit (TN), 3. Harsh Saroha (Har).

**Women: 1500m freestyle:** 1. Bhavya Sachdeva (Del) (17:54.97), 2. Vritti Agarwal (Tel), 3. Hashika Ramachandra (Kar).

**Men: 50m butterfly:** 1. Maana Patel (Guj) (1:04.35; NGR; OR: 1:05.32, Maana Patel, Gujarat, 2015), 2. Ridhima Veerendra Kumar (Kar), 3. Palak Joshi (Mah).

**50m butterfly:** 1. Nina Venkatesh (Kar) (28.39; NGR; OR: 28.78, Divya Satija, Haryana, 2022), 2. Divya (Har), 3. Tanishi Gupta (Kar).



**Ruthless:** Ankushita's combinations were too much for Niharika to handle. V.V. KRISHNAN

## Boxers Jamuna and Ankushita start off with emphatic wins

**Y. B. Sarangi**  
GANDHINAGAR

ing counts, before the referee stopped the contest in the final round.

In the men's section, South Asian Games gold medallist Jamuna Boro and her Assam state-mate and World youth champion Ankushita Boro posted emphatic wins to begin their campaign in style at the boxing arena of the National Games here on Thursday.

While Jamuna trounced Nirmal of Nagaland 5-0 in a women's 57kg fight, Ankushita beat former World junior medallist Nikarika Gonella in a 66kg bout to enter the quarterfinals.

Jamuna unsettled Nirmal early by landing a flurry of punches before banking on her swift movements to record a comprehensive victory.

"I wanted to get off to a decent start and live up to the expectations. The going will not be easy as there are many good boxers in my category," said Jamuna.

Ankushita displayed her combinations to trouble Telangana's Niharika, who got as many as four stand-

## Punjab and Delhi hunt talent for TPL

## Kamesh Srinivasan

NEW DELHI



**On a mission:** Ankita, Ravinder Singh, Rohit Rajpal and Zeeshan Ali at the Talent Day of TPL in Delhi on Thursday. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

It was festive atmosphere at the DLTA Complex, as the players, men, women, boys and girls went through the matches in the talent hunt for the Tennis Premier League (TPL) on Thursday.

"We have kept it a 10-point format, to drive home the fact that every point counts in tennis. Here every point is like a match-point," said Kunal.

Thakkur, who has worked hard to build the TPL into a fascinating proposition, along with Mrunal Jain.

**Adding players**

Having formed the core with three international players in each of the eight

teams, the TPL is adding more players through the Talent Day events in select cities.

Punjab Tigers and Delhi Binny's Brigade were the ones hunting for talent in the two-day event at the

DLTA. "It is our first season. We are very excited and positive."

"Am a big advocate of Indian talent. We are in it to win it," said Ravinder Singh of Punjab Tigers.

The mentor of the Pun-

from young players and assured all help for TPL. "We are right behind you," said Rajpal.

Davis Cup coach Zeeshan Ali also lauded the effort to make tennis more popular in the country, as he wished that the TPL would become "the biggest sports event" in future.

**Drive behind exercise**

Kunal Thakkur briefly explained the drive behind the whole exercise to promote tennis, and pointed out that the men's and women's champions from Talent Day would get ₹50,000 each, while the under-18 girls' winner would get ₹30,000 and the under-14 boys' winner ₹20,000, so as to help them play more tennis tournaments.

**Happy with response**

His team will have Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan as the main player.

**Happy with response**

The Davis Cup captain Rohit Rajpal was happy to hear about the response

## Khushi Gaur enters semifinals

## Sports Bureau

LUCKNOW

Khushi Gaur beat Tanishca Bhatnagar 6-2, 6-4 to enter the girls' semifinals of the Asian under-14 tennis tournament at the Vijayant Khand Stadium courts on Thursday.

In the semifinals, Khushi will face Sherry Sharma, while Aleena Farid will clash against Diya Chaudhary.

Rain had upset the day's schedule.

**The results: Quarterfinals:** Aleena Farid bt Agrima Gauri 6-0, 6-0; Diya Chaudhary bt Kavya Pandey 6-0, 6-0.

Sherry Sharma bt Aashritha Maheshwari 6-1, 6-0; Khushi Gaur bt Tanishca Bhatnagar 6-2, 6-4.

## Indian Super League is 'back home' and ready to roll

## Stan Rayan

KOCHI



**Hard at work:** Kerala Blasters players preparing for their opener against East Bengal. THULASI KAKKAT

It's party time again in the Hero Indian Super League, with teams and stars coming 'back home' after two years. After being in Goa the last two seasons, and locked in a 'bubble' owing to the global pandemic, the league is now back to its normal home-and-away format.

And what better place to start than in Kochi where Kerala Blasters, the side with the biggest fan base in the ISL, takes on East Bengal at the Nehru Stadium on Friday. It will be a full house for sure.

The 11-team ISL will have a different look and feel this time. Instead of games every day, matches will now be played during weekends or closer to that, from Thursday to Sunday.

which will make the season longer. That should be a huge blessing for clubs.

"From a coach's perspective, we have more time to practise, more time to recover in a longer season," said Ivan Vukomanovic, the coach who helped Blasters finish runner-up last season, on Thursday.

"In a short tournament, there is a difference in the way you prepare. And the moment you start, there is no huge gap to train, to try out certain things. And it's bad, because if you're injured, then the season is

done for you. When the season is long, there is a chance to recover and play again."

And instead of four teams, for the first time, the top six will make the playoffs.

"The top six playoffs format is more interesting be-

cause more teams will be fighting till the end, to get the spot in the top six. Speaking about top four, last