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(Karol Bagh)



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15th February, 2023

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20th February, 2023



8010-440-440



Drishti IAS

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to know more about DMPP 2023

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— Key Features —

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24th February, 2023

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8010-440-440



BOOSTING BILATERAL TIES
Foreign Secretary
meets Nepal PM

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DEFENCE EXPO BEGINS
Aero India
a sign of
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strength: PM

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CHINA'S CLAIM
'Over 10 U.S. balloons
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DATA POINT
**Private tuitions
helped blunt
learning loss**

Results show in maths
and reading skills

OPINION » PAGE 7



BCCI MOVE
Venue for third Test
shifted to Indore

SPORT » PAGE 15

ICHR not
rewriting
history, only
filling gaps'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) has no plans of "rewriting" history but is filling "gaps" by incorporating all major personalities and events which are not part of history books, Union Education Minister Dharmaendra Pradhan said on Monday.

"ICHR has not launched any project to rewrite Indian history. The government has no intention to rewrite history. But if you ask me, if the ICHR has taken any project on history, with due respect, I would like to inform this House that, yes it has taken," Mr. Pradhan told the Lok Sabha during Question Hour.

Expanding history'
"We are expanding history and filling gaps by incorporating major historical events, personalities and incidents," he said.

Top court upholds constitution of J&K delimitation panel

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI



The court said the plea did not challenge the constitutional validity of the Commission.

There is no illegality associated with the establishment of the Delimitation Commission under the order of March 6, 2020, a Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and A.S. Oka held.

The petition was filed by Srinagar residents, Haji Abdul Gani Khan and Dr. Mohammad Ayub Mattoo.

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VARIED REACTIONS
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Adani case: Centre has no objection to SC panel

Govt., SEBI want to 'suggest' to the court the committee's mandate and possible names in a sealed cover to protect the market from any upsets; proposal to be submitted at hearing on Friday

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Union government and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Monday said they have no objection to the Supreme Court constituting an expert committee to examine the existing regulatory regime and frameworks in the securities market to protect investors from share value meltdowns such as the one seen in the Adani Group, triggered by the U.S.-based short-seller Hindenburg Research report.

However, the Centre and the SEBI urged a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud to allow them to "suggest" to the court the committee's mandate and

 The remit of the committee would be very relevant because any unintentional message to international and domestic investors that even a regulatory or statutory authority needs monitoring by a committee appointed by the highest court of the country may have some adverse impact on the flow of money.

TUSHAR MEHTA,
Solicitor-General

some calibre and standing," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the SEBI, assured the court.

Mr. Mehta explained that it may not be "appropriate" to discuss the government's suggestions in open court as they "may or may not appeal to Your Lordships". He said "we would not like to undermine the competence of the agencies, including the regulator and the regime available".

The court asked Mr. Mehta to prepare a note on the proposed mandate of the committee and bring it on Friday (February 17), the next date of hearing.

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'WHY NOT A JPC INQUIRY?'
» PAGE 11

IN BRIEF



Aldermen cannot vote: SC; mayoral poll not on Feb. 16

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday said the nominated members (aldermen) of the MCD cannot vote in the mayoral polls. The elections now won't be held as scheduled on February 16 as the SC has posted the matter for hearing on Friday. » Page 3

Fadnavis, Pawar spar over 2019 govt. formation

PUNE
Over three years after he joined hands with NCP leader Ajit Pawar to stage a coup and form the government in Maharashtra, BJP leader and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said the move had the support of NCP chief Sharad Pawar. » Page 4

Smriti steals the show at WPL auction

Star India opener Smriti Mandhana hit paydirt, attracting the highest bid of ₹3.40 crore, at the Women's Premier League (WPL) auction in Mumbai on Monday. Royal Challengers Bangalore secured her services while all-rounders Natalie Sciver-Brunt of England and Australia's Ashleigh Gardner were bought for ₹3.20 crore each by Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Giants respectively.



QQ

We have been watching auctions of men's (league). It is such a big moment for women to have an auction of this sort. RCB's legacy is big, they have built a big fan-base. Hope we both can together build a big team

SMRITI MANDHANA

TOP BUYS	
■ Smriti Mandhana (Ind): Royal Challengers Bangalore, ₹3.4 cr.	■ Deepthi Sharma (Ind): UP Warriorz, ₹2.6 cr.
■ Natalie Sciver-Brunt (Eng): Mumbai Indians, ₹3.2 cr.	■ Jemimah Rodrigues (Ind): Delhi Capitals, ₹2.2 cr.
■ Ashleigh Gardner (Aus): Gujarat Giants, ₹3.2 cr.	■ Shafali Verma (Ind): Delhi Capitals, ₹2 cr.
■ Pooja Vastrakar (Ind): Mumbai Indians, ₹1.9 cr.	■ Beth Mooney (Aus): Gujarat Giants, ₹2 cr.
■ Sophie Ecclestone (Eng): Royal Challengers Bangalore, ₹1.9 cr.	■ Richa Ghosh (Ind): Royal Challengers Bangalore, ₹1.9 cr.
■ Harmanpreet Kaur (Ind): Mumbai Indians, ₹1.8 cr.	■ Pooya Vastrakar (Ind): Mumbai Indians, ₹1.9 cr.
■ Chamari Athapaththu (SL) Laura Wolvaardt (SA) Danni Wyatt (Eng)	■ Sophie Ecclestone (Eng): UP Warriorz, ₹1.8 cr.

SPORT » PAGE 15

Retail inflation rises to 6.52% in January, a 3-month high

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation shot back up to 6.52% in January after a two-month streak below the 6% mark, with consumer food prices hardening again to 5.94% from 4.2% in December 2022 amid a broad-based pick-up in price trends across goods and services.

Rural inflation, which has outstripped urban inflation in recent months, firmed up from 6.05% in December to 6.85% in January, while urban consumers faced retail price rise of 6% in January, compared to 5.4% in December.

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Geo-sciences community calls for broad panel of experts to power heritage Bill

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A draft Bill, aimed at protecting India's geological heritage that includes fossils, sedimentary rocks, natural structures, has raised alarm in India's geo-sciences and palaeontologists' community.

The Draft Geo-heritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill, 2022, while deemed necessary by several researchers, vests powers entirely in the Geological Survey of India (GSI), a 170-year-old organisation that comes under the Ministry of Mines.

Provisions of the Bill

Conservation effort

The Draft Geo-heritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill, 2022 aims to be a law for the protection, preservation and maintenance of geo-heritage sites

Definition: Sites containing geo-relics and phenomena, stratigraphic type sections, geological structures and geomorphic landforms of national and international interest

■ Geological Survey of India has declared 32 geo-heritage sites/national geological monuments for protection and maintenance

facement, and violations of directives of a site by the Director General of GSI.

"We welcome a Geo-heritage Bill, however, rather than have all authority in the Director General, GSI, there needs to be a broader committee of experts from a wider range of institutions. This would mean that the interests and difficulties faced by researchers, who actually work in the field, are kept in mind," G.V.R. Prasad, palaeontologist and head of Delhi University's geological department, told *The Hindu*.

CONTINUED ON
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give it the power to declare sites as having 'geo-heritage' value, take possession of relics (fossils, rocks) that rest in private hands, pro-

hibit construction 100 metres around such a site, penalise – with fines up to ₹5 lakh and possibly imprisonment – vandalism, de-

Mehrauli residents say legal buildings being razed

DDA continues its 'anti-encroachment drive' for fourth day; residents protest near Bhool Bhulaiya monument amid heavy police presence

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Demolitions by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) under its 'anti-encroachment drive' in Mehrauli continued for the

fourth day, amid tight police presence near Bhool Bhulaiya monument. On Monday, residents staged a protest even as those housed in buildings that were to be demolished scrambled to gather their belongings. Afzal-Uz-Zaman, a doctor and a resident of one such building, told *The Hindu* that he had bought a small space in the building in 2009 for a little over ₹12 lakh and the authorities had raised no pro-

blems over its legality until Monday. "There were no issues when we [residents] were paying property taxes all these years. Why demolish it now? Now, we are on the streets," said Mr. Zaman, 48.

Meanwhile, AAP MLA Somnath Bharti urged Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena – also the DDA chairperson – to stop the drive and that a fresh demarcation exercise be conducted since the report

tabled during the previous exercise had errors.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Kapoor hit out at AAP, saying it was trying to mislead people "by blaming the DDA for the demolitions".

Jamia violence: HC seeks stand of Sharjeel, others on police plea

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked student activists Sharjeel Imam, Asif Iqbal Tanha and others to respond to the police's challenge to a trial court order discharging them in the 2019 Jamia Nagar violence case. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma clarified that the observations made by the trial court would not affect further investigation in the matter or trial.

On February 4, the trial court discharged the 11 accused, recused himself.

including Mr. Imam and Mr. Tanha, holding that they were made "scapegoats" by the police and that dissent has to be encouraged, not stifled. The police has said the trial court has not only discharged the accused but has also been swayed by "emotional" and "sentimental feelings".

Meanwhile, the matter related to the case was on Monday transferred to another court after Additional Sessions Judge Arul Varma, who had recently discharged the 11 accused, recused himself.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-59/22/2022-23 Date: 13.02.2023

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Super Grade Electrical Contractors License issued from KCEI eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of "Providing Power Infrastructure to Mulwada Industrial Area, 2nd Phase, Vijayapura District".

Last date for submission of bids is: 24.02.2023 upto 04:30 pm

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4584/Zen/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin,
Berhampur-760004
e-mail id : se_sicbam@yahoo.com

e - Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB- 40 / 2022-23

1. Type of Work : Flood Protection Work.
2. Total No. of Works : 01 (One) No.
3. Amount put to Tender : Rs.749.54 Lakh
4. Period of Completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar months

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur	ACE,RBB (BNID)-99/2022-23	749.54	From 15.02.2023, 10.00 AM to 02.03.2023, 5.00 PM

Date of opening of the Technical Bid :- 03.03.2023 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website "www.tendersodisha.gov.in".

Additional Chief Engineer,
Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur
OIPR-32411/1/1005/2223

A-1153:

U.P. RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LIMITED
(U.P. Government Undertaking) (An ISO 9001:2000 Certified Company)
Visheshwariya Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010
NIT No-37/AGM (T/E)/Tender E.Court/RNN/2023 Date: 10.02.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

U.P.R.N.N.Ltd. Invites on behalf of the Managing Director, percentage rate composite bids from eligible contractors for Site Preparation in the Court Complexes of U.P. at Unnao -2.80 L, Bahraich -2.81+2.80 L, Balrampur-3.56 L, Ghazipur-1.96 L, Jaunpur -4.09+4.09+2.10 L, Fatehpur-2.65 L, Firozabad-2.57+2.66 L, Agra -3.69+4.09 L, Mathura -2.00 L, Lalitpur -3.58 L, Shamli -3.19 L, Shaharanpur -3.07 L, Bulandshahr-3.89 L, Sitapur -3.59+3.35 L, Kannauj -2.65 L, Amroha-2.19 L, Pilibhit -4.20 L, Rampur -2.37 L, Gorakhpur-2.95+2.95 L, Maharajganj-2.96+2.93 L, Shambhal-2.20 L. The detailed document is available on UPRNLL website <http://www.uprnnl.uspsc.gov.in>

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Head Office, 12, THAMBUSAMY ROAD, KILPAUK, CHENNAI-600010
Ph.No. (044) 26426773, Email id: mstcs.in@nic.in
CIN: U51137TN1972SC006157

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE
No.: BS6/006807/2023 Dated: 13.02.2023
Short E-Tender No: TNCSC/22-23/ET-101

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites Online electronic tender for the "Purchase of 20,000 Metric Tonnes of Tur dal (Split - Husked & Fatka) as per Agmark specification". Complete short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through <https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprocurement/tncsc> and also available in www.tenders.tn.gov.in. The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.

For Registration and further details contact MSTC LIMITED, Phone: 2522842/25251910/25261005 E-mail: mstcsro@mstcindia.co.in
Last Date and Time for Online Submission: **Upto 11.00 A.M. on 08.03.2023**
DIPR/933/Tender/2023
MANAGING DIRECTOR
"நெடுங்கணக்கால தாங்கள் தமது விரைவான பார்டினரில் பார்டினர்களை வெளியேற்றி"

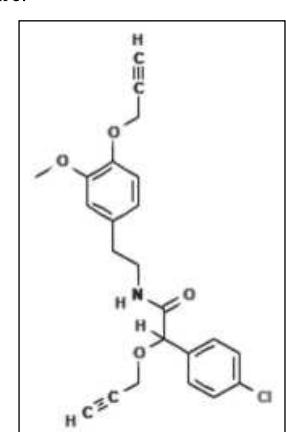
OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER
KARNATAKA BHAVAN (CAUVERY), 10, KAUTILYA MARG, CHANAKYAPURI, NEW DELHI-110021.
No: DRC/3/Mgr(A&S)-TENDER/2023-24 Dated: 11.02.2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
Office of Resident Commissioner, Government of Karnataka, "Karnataka Bhavan" has invited tender through e-procurement for Providing Housekeeping and Manpower services to Karnataka Bhavan from eligible firms/agencies. **Date of pre bid meeting date: 16.02.2023 at 03:00 pm. Last date for submission of tender: 27.02.2023 till 05:30 pm.** Details can be obtained from <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>
SD- Additional Resident Commissioner
Karnataka Bhavan, New Delhi

PATENT CAUTION NOTICE

Our client, SYNGENTA PARTICIPATIONS AG, a company organized and existing in accordance with the laws of Switzerland, of Rosentalstrasse 67, 4058 Basel Switzerland (formerly at SCHWARZWALDALLEE 215, CH-4058 BASEL SWITZERLAND), is a member of the Syngenta Group, which is a global enterprise with core competencies in the fields of agri-business and is involved in crop protection and seeds. SYNGENTA PARTICIPATIONS AG has been granted patents in several countries covering inventions relating to Mandipropamid. In India, our client Syngenta has been granted a patent, the details are as follows:

- Indian Patent No. 272933 (653/DELNP/2008) dated August 8, 2006 is in relation to "PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF PHENYLPROPARGYLETHER DERIVATIVES"
- This patent was granted on May 4, 2016 by the Indian Patent Office and is valid and in force by virtue of grant of said patent.
- The aforesaid patent granted in India is a national phase of PCT/GB2006/002946.
- The said patent is specifically directed to process for preparing Mandipropamid having the following structure:



- The claims of the granted patent can be obtained from: <https://ipindiaservices.gov.in/PublicSearch/PublicationSearch/Eregister>

By virtue of the grant of the Indian patent, our client has exclusive rights, inter alia, to prevent third parties from the action of making, using, offering for sale, selling (including exporting), or importing products obtained by the patented processes in India. Our Client shall take stringent legal measures against any person infringing valuable right of our Client in the said patent.

Place: Delhi ANAND AND ANAND, (Advocates)
Dated: 14.02.2023 B-41, Nizamuddin East, New Delhi -110013

Haryana Police to be Awarded The President Colour by Sh. Amit Shah

Union Home and Cooperation Minister

Presided Over by Sh. Manohar Lal Chief Minister, Haryana

August Presence Sh. Anil Vij Home Minister, Haryana

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 | 11:00 am Vachher Stadium, Madhuban Police Complex, Karnal

Scan QR code to join the programme

सुशासन ही आधार, डबल इंजन हरियाणा सरकार

1089/13/887/2023/15645/1997

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PUBLIC NOTICE**PUBLIC NOTICE**
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that 1) Mrs. Usha Kapur 2) Mr. Arvind Kapur and 3) Mrs. Vinita Mehta are the owners of all that piece and parcel of land being situated at 57/58, Sheikh Memon Street, Zaveri Bazar, Kalabdevi, Mumbai-400002 and the building is constructed on the land bearing C.S. No. 1580 of Bhuleswar Division with building standing thereon known as Memon House, (hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property"). Further, the Said Property is free from all encumbrances, charge, deposit, claims, lien or mortgage of any nature whatsoever. However, the Original of Decree dated 14.12.1932 in Suit No. 203 of 1932 of District Court Amritsar R.L. No. C/78-7-1934 pertaining to Said Property has been misplaced & not been found till date.

Any person who finds the said Decree / shall intimate to the undersigned & if any person, Bank, Financial institution having any claim or right of ownership in the share, sale, mortgage, lease, lien, licence, gift possession or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise or having above agreement/s is hereby called upon to intimate to the undersigned within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice of his such claim of any with all supporting documents failing which the transaction in favor of our client shall be completed without reference to such claim & the claims, if any of such person shall be treated as waived & not binding on our clients.

Mr. Ravinder Kumar Yadav
Advocate High Court
C/o Girish P. Jain & Co.
101-102 Peace Haven
N.M. Kale Marg, Dadar (West),
Mumbai - 400028

Date : 14/02/2023
Place: Noida

</div



Sky is the limit: (from left) The 'Trishul' formation comprising three Su-30 MKIs of the Indian Air Force; the Light Combat Helicopter; and the aerobatic team 'Suryakiran', displaying their skills at the Aero India show at the IAF Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Aero India expo showcases India's self-confidence: PM

This year's exhibition in Bengaluru has the participation of more than 80 countries along with 800 defence firms, which comprise of around 100 foreign and 700 Indian companies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The perception of Aero India has changed and today it is India's strength. It is a show that not only showcases the scope of the defence industry but also the self-confidence of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Monday while inaugurating the 14th edition of Aero India.

Setting a target to take defence exports from \$1.5 bn to \$5 bn by 2024-25, Mr. Modi said the defence sector has seen a transformation in the last 8-9 years. "From here, India will take rapid strides to be included among the largest defence manufacturing countries and our private sector and investors will play a big role in that."



Proud moment: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the inaugural of the 14th edition of Aero India at IAF Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

He said the country which was the largest defence importer for decades has now started exporting defence equipment to 75 countries in the world. "The India of today thinks fast, thinks far and takes quick decisions", Mr. Modi said, an analogy that India

in Amrit Kaal is soaring like a fighter pilot. This year's expo has the participation of more than 80 countries along with 800 defence companies, which include around 100 foreign and 700 Indian companies.

Defence Minister Raj-

nath Singh chaired a CEOs' round table where he reiterated that India does not want to remain an assembly workshop and that manufacturing cutting-edge products was the need of the hour to attain *Aatma-nirbharata*. The round table was attended by over 70 foreign and Indian CEOs.

Mr. Modi referred to the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant* as examples of India's successes in self-reliance. "The new India of the 21st century will neither miss any opportunity nor will it lack any effort," he added.

Addressing the CEOs' round table, Mr. Singh listed out the series of "far-reaching" reforms undertaken by the Defence Ministry to create a business-friendly climate in the country.



Suryakiran: The aerobatic team 'Suryakiran' displaying their skills at the Aero India show at the IAF Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

U.K. for tie-up in high-end defence technologies

Dinakar Peri
BENGALURU

Terming the need for strong relations between India and the U.K. "mission critical", U.K. Minister for Defence Procurement Alex Chalk pitched for collaboration in high-end defence technologies, including jet engine technology, which, he said, were essential to preserve territorial integrity and to stand up for the international rules-based order. But to uphold that order you need strong defence capabilities that is the context for this very significant step we are taking here in India."

He also pitched for cooperation in supply chain resilience, which had been brought to the fore in the war in Ukraine, and India's strengths in it.

The jet engine cooperation proposal put forward by Rolls-Royce was the best "out there" and "most cost-effective" that "would set India apart," Mr. Chalk told a small group of journalists at Aero India show

in Bengaluru.

"The context is the security context out you find yourselves in. You have the presence in a difficult backyard of China which we understand. So we recognise that a strong, independent, sovereign and capable India is essential to preserve its territorial integrity and to stand up for the international rules-based order. India is an important part of this international rules-based order. But to uphold that order you need strong defence capabilities that is the context for this very significant step we are taking here in India."

On jet engine cooperation, for which India is evaluating co-development proposals from three global engine manufacturers, the visiting Minister said, "What the U.K. committed is our biggest ever capability transfer in our history."

Bharati University. "Will Amartya Sen occupy land? It is a shame for West Bengal that a Nobel laureate is not being spared," she said.

She also ridiculed the Centre over the notice [now withdrawn] asking people to hug a cow on Valentine's Day. Ms. Banerjee wondered what would happen if the cow hits the person. "They should first approve a compensation of ₹10 lakh for those who might get hurt."

Earlier, there were noisy scenes in the Assembly as the BJP legislators protested and later staged a walk-out against the Speaker's decision to expunge parts of the speech by the Leader of the Opposition, Suvenu Adhikari.

TMC MLA Tapas Roy moved a resolution demanding suspension of Mr. Adhikari for casting aspersions on the Chair. Speaker Biman Banerjee said Ms. Banerjee had apologised on behalf of the Opposition and urged the MLA to withdraw the resolution.

Mr. Adhikari said it was the Chief Minister who gave hints to disrupt his speech in the Assembly.

Agencies 'call centres' of ruling party, says Mamata Banerjee



(From left) West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Speaker Biman Banerjee and Governor C.V. Ananda Bose in Kolkata.
FILE PHOTO

Shiv Sahay Singh

KOLKATA

Reiterating her call to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said the country should strive for a "people's government" in the next general election.

Participating in the debate on Governor C.V. Ananda Bose's address to the Assembly, Ms. Banerjee targeted the BJP government at the Centre on a number of issues, including the role of the Central agencies as well as that of the forces guarding borders. Ms. Banerjee said the BJP is nothing without the support of agencies like the CBI and the ED. "These agencies have become like the call centres of the BJP," she said.

Slamming the Centre for its silence over the killings of villagers allegedly by the BSF, she said the Centre did not even bother to send a fact-finding team.

Ms. Banerjee also talked on issues like coal smuggling scam and the ongoing land controversy at Visva-

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD. (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	UHBVN	ENGAGEMENT OF AGENCY/FIRM FOR REVENUE COLLECTION ACCOUNT (RB-REINTEANCE INVESTIGATION & DRAWING ACCOUNT (CDS-CHEQUE DRAWN ON GOVT. IN JHARKHAND))	13.02.2023 23.02.2023	3 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in TENDER NO - FAV Collection/UJH/06/2023 Dated 13.02.2023	9569666604 acollectionuhbvnfrq@uhbvn.org.in
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in						
SAMVAD - 13/2023/40/15670/I/1997						

KSEBL KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED -TENDER NOTICE										
Name of work: Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Service Provider for 37 lakh Prepaid Smart Meters in Kerala State Electricity Board Limited (KSEBL) on DBFOOT basis under TOTEX mode as part of RDSS. PAC: Rs. 2400 Crore (Approx.) Last bid submission date : 22.03.2023 11.00 am. www.etenders.kerala.gov.in, www.ksebl.in PR/MC1/E Tender (EM)/2023										

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED										
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu) METROS, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035										
NIT No: CMRL / PHASE-II / SYS / C4-AFA03b / 2023										
E-procurement Tender-Funding agency- New Development Bank International Competitive Bidding										
e-TENDER No : PHASE-II / SYS / C4-AFA03b / 2023										

CMRL invites open e-tender through e-procurement portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) as detailed below:
"Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning & Maintenance of Station Level Equipment For Automatic Fare Collection (AFC) System for CMRL Phase II - Corridor 4"
Please refer websites
1) www.chennaimetrorail.org or
2) <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>
For further information,
DIPR / 894 / TENDER / 2023
Chennai Metro Rail Limited Director (System & Operations)

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECT) DEPARTMENT											
Online Sale of Tenders - 16/02/2023 to 13/03/2023 upto 02.00 PM											
Last date of submission of tenders - 13/03/2023 at 03.00 PM.											
Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Tender Amount (Excluding GST, Royalty, Testing Charges, Labour Cess & Insurance)	Earnest Money Deposit 0.5 %	Security Deposit 1 %	Time Limit	Cost of Tender Document Rs.	Exemption from P.M.C. Registration	All the documents are attached to online tender	Tender Type	Contact Persons
1	PMC/ Chief Eng. (Project)/ 2022-23/ 55	CONSTRUCTION OF 30 M WIDE BRIDGE ON MUTHA RIVER FROM SUNCITY ROAD (SINHGAD ROAD) TO 30 M WIDE D. P. ROAD, KARVE NAGAR (DUDHANE LAWNS) PUNE	37,04,95,886/-	22,43,051/-	44,86,101/-	24 months (Including Monsoon)	29,679/-	YES	YES	New Tender	Mr. Hemant Jagtap (Deputy Engineer) 9689931820 Smt. Shwetambari Nikate (Jr. Engineer) 8698111559

Sd/-
(Abhijeet Ambekar)
Executive Engineer (Projects)
Pune Municipal Corporation

CHIEF ENGINEER ROAD DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (N.I.T.) YEAR 2022-23 INVITATION FOR CONSULTANCY WORKS FOR DEVELOPMENT ROAD IN PMC LIMITS

Tender Sale Date - 14/02/2023 to Date :- 28/02/2023 upto 2.30 PM

Bid Submission Start & End Date - 14/02/2023 to Date :- 28/02/2023 upto 2.30 PM

Technical Envelope Opening Date : 02/03/2023, 3.00 PM (If Possible)

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost Rupees put to the Tender Excluding GST	NIT Mode	EMD Amount Rs.	Work Period	One Envelope / Two Envelope	Consultants Appointment Condition	New Work/ Re-tender Work	Concern Contact Person
1	PMC/ ROAD/ 2022/406	APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR POST TENDER ACTIVITY AND SUPERVISION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF UTWT / CONCRETE ROADS AND RELATED WORKS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN PUNE CITY (PACKAGE 1)	564443832.68	B-2	500/-	Post Tender 12 Months	Two Envelope (B-2)	Only Required PMC EmpANELLED Consultants	New Work	Mr. Kadu Atul 9689937594

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Honour of office

Those required to shun partisan politics must not be made Governors

A former judge of the Supreme Court of India and a former Indian Army commander are among the new Governors of States appointed by the Centre on Sunday. The Governors of several States and the Lieutenant-Governor of a Union Territory were also shuffled. In recent years, Governors have sought to play a political role in States such as Jharkhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, creating a train of controversies. For good reasons, the roles of the military and the judiciary too are topics of interest, particularly with regard to their relationship with the political executive. The executive government's eagerness to control judicial appointments, besides the debate on the collegium system of judges appointing judges, is evident. It has selectively delayed and accelerated appointments recommended by the collegium, effectively exercising powers that it does not have in appointing judges. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has also faced charges of using the armed forces to further its political narratives. Earlier too, retired police and intelligence officers went on to occupy Raj Bhavans, but it was the appointment of a retired Chief Justice of India (CJI) as a Governor in 2014 that created a new precedent. Another retired CJI was nominated to the Rajya Sabha, in 2020, raising eyebrows.

The institution of the Governor is a legacy of the British imperial governance structure. The legitimacy of a nominated Governor in a democracy was the topic of a heated debate in the Constituent Assembly, but it was carried on into the new republic nevertheless. The Governor was to act as a dynamic link between the Centre and the State, but the makers of the Constitution were clear that the posts must remain ornamental, except in very narrowly defined situations in which they were allowed discretion in decision-making. Over the decades, the overreach of Governors has become a serious question in Centre-State relations and democracy in general. The dominance of the BJP at the Centre since 2014 has added fresh tensions with the States. The BJP has a vision of national unity that causes anxiety among regional interest groups. The office of the Governor was to be embellished by the personalities of those who would occupy it. Opening it as a post-retirement possibility for those who are required to stay aloof from partisan politics in their current roles, lowers the dignity of the offices that they leave behind and what they go on to occupy.

Not a pipe dream

Functional tap water is a basic necessity that must be provided to all households

Among the marquee schemes that the government hopes to showcase ahead of the general election next year is the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The aim here is to provide piped water to every rural household by 2024. In the Budget address, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman apportioned ₹69,684 crore, a 27% increase, from the ₹54,808 crore from the revised estimates of financial year 2022. However, the outlay reflects the extent of the work that remains. Of the targeted 19.3 crore rural households, only 3.2 crore had piped water in August 2019. The JJM dashboard on the Jal Shakti Ministry website says that as of February 2023, over 11 crore households, or about 57% of the targeted, now have tap water. While that is an impressive jump in percentage points for three years, it will be difficult with only 12 months to go to ensure that the remaining 47% are connected. So far, only the States of Goa, Gujarat, Haryana and Telangana have reported 100% coverage of eligible households with piped water, with Punjab and Himachal Pradesh nearly there at over 97%. Excluding these, only 10 other States or Union Territories have reported over 60% coverage. Large, populous States such as Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have reported only 30% coverage, and Madhya Pradesh, around 47%.

A fully functional tap water connection is defined as a household getting at least 55 litres of potable water per capita per day all through the year; however, local reports suggest that despite having a tap connection, several village households revert to their local groundwater resources as the quality of supplied tap water is inadequate. Few independent assessments of the scheme exist. A sample survey of around 3,00,000 eligible households that was commissioned by the Ministry of Water Resources to assess the functioning of the scheme found only three-fourths of them reported water seven days a week, and, on average, households were getting water for only three hours a day. While over 90% of institutions such as anganwadis and schools reported access to tap water, several of them reported high levels of chlorine as well as problems with bacterial contamination. Moreover, the current numbers on the adoption in households are based on self-reporting by villages and are not certified by a third party. Some States such as Bihar have stated that most of their connections were provided for under State funds and not under the JJM. Functional, permanent tap water is a basic necessity and rather than aim to reach just a numerical target, the government should try to evaluate the extent of quality, consistent adoption of tap water in rural India. While planned as a bottom-up scheme, the Centre must ensure that States with the lowest adoption and largest population be assisted with improving numbers, rather than only facilitating States that are close to the finishing line.

House rules and the weapon of expunction

The expunction of portions of the speeches made by some Opposition politicians in Parliament recently is an issue that has sparked off a debate on an action taken by the Speaker (in the speech by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi), and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (in the case of the speech made by Congress President and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge). Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Kharge were both speaking on the Motion of Thanks to the President of India for her address to the Members of Parliament of both Houses. This is customary practice although the Constitution does not provide for any such motion, except direct that each House shall discuss the matters contained in the address. This is a practice adopted from the British Parliament.

When such a motion is discussed, MPs are generally permitted to speak on anything under the sun. It is an occasion to point out lapses on the government's part and discuss the gamut of issues that concern the governance of the country. Speeches are generally political and the Chair never insists on relevance. Since the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to Parliament, MPs have the right to critically scrutinise the performance of the government. Accountability to Parliament requires the government to respond adequately to the questions raised by MPs in the debate. Under the Rules of the House, it is the Prime Minister who replies to the debate in both Houses.

The rules that are in place

Article 105 of the Constitution confers on members, freedom of speech in the House and immunity from interference by the court for anything said in the House. Thus, freedom of speech in the House is the most important privilege of a Member of Parliament which is subject only to the other provisions of the Constitution relating to the running of the House and the House Rules. Rule 380 of the Rules of procedure of the Lok Sabha and Rule 261 of the Rules of the Rajya Sabha give the power to the presiding officers of these Houses to expunge any words used in the debate which are defamatory, unparliamentary, undignified or indecent. Once expunged they do not remain on record and if anyone publishes them thereafter, they will be liable for breach of privilege of the House.

There are also occasions when an MP may,



P.D.T. Achary
is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

during his speech, make an allegation against a fellow MP or an outsider. Rule 353 of the Lok Sabha regulates the procedure in that regard. Under this Rule, the MP is required to give "adequate advance notice" to the Speaker as well as the Minister concerned.

It may be noted here that the Rule does not prohibit the making of any allegation. The only requirement is advance notice, on receipt of which the Minister concerned will conduct an inquiry into the allegation and come up with the facts when the MP makes the allegation in the House. In this case, it may be noted that the allegation which necessitates advance notice, etc. is of a defamatory or incriminatory nature. It means that if the allegation is neither defamatory nor incriminatory, the above rule would have no application.

The rule does not obviously apply to an allegation against a Minister in the government. Since the Council of Ministers is accountable to Parliament, the Members of the House have the right to question Ministers and make imputations against their conduct as Ministers. All that is a part of their duty to ensure the government's accountability to Parliament. Article 105 gives them the freedom to discharge their duty fearlessly.

Allegations and Speaker rulings

However, a Member of Parliament needs to follow a certain procedure while making an allegation against a Minister. Such a procedure has been laid down by Speakers in the past. Making an allegation against a Minister or the Prime Minister is considered to be a serious matter; therefore, the presiding officers have carefully laid down a stipulation that the MP who makes an imputation against a Minister of the government should be sure about the factual basis of the allegation, and that he must take responsibility for it. If the MP complies with this stipulation, then the allegation will be allowed to remain on record. There have been many instances in the Lok Sabha when MPs have made allegations against Ministers. Here are two rulings made by the Speakers on such occasions.

On September 2, 1965 when Prakash Vir Shastri, MP, made personal allegations against Humayun Kabir, the then Minister for Education, the Minister refuted the allegation but the MP reiterated his allegation and referred to press reports. In his ruling, the Speaker, Sardar Hukam Singh, said, "I wish to inform all the Honourable members with great respect that a mere report in a newspaper about anything does not give you the privilege to raise it in the House. I know that normally the source of information available to members is newspapers. But that is not a sufficient basis for a member to make an allegation against a Minister, member or other dignitaries. It is necessary to probe it further and satisfy oneself about it... Even if the allegation is proved wrong, it will, after all, affect the reputation of the person."

On December 21 1981 in the Lok Sabha, Bapusaheb Parulekar, MP, made a reference to an allegation published in the *Sunday* (a weekly) against the then Railway Minister, Kedar Pande, and his family members in connection with permanent railway card passes. The Deputy Speaker, G. Lakshmanan, who was in the chair gave the following ruling: "The member should, before making an allegation in the House, satisfy himself after making enquiries that there is a basis for the allegation. The member should be prepared to accept the responsibility for the allegation and the member should be prepared to substantiate the allegation."

Issue of defamation

However, a careful reading of the Rules of the House would reveal that the axe of expunction can be wielded only when the allegations mentioned therein are of defamatory or incriminatory character. Under Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code (Second exception), any statement respecting the conduct of a public servant in the discharge of his public function or his character (so far as his character appears in that conduct) is not defamation. If such a statement is made in the House against a Minister who is a public servant, it does not come within the 'mischievous' of Rule 353 or Rule 380.

Therefore, it does not afford an occasion for the presiding officers to expunge words in or portions of a speech on the ground that they are defamatory. It is thus clear that before the weapon of expunction is wielded, it needs to be ascertained whether the speech contains defamatory or incriminatory statements or only critical comments (which a Member of Parliament has the right to make). It also needs to be ensured that the freedom of speech enjoyed by the Members in the House is not needlessly curtailed.

In a House where freedom of speech is the most important privilege of a Member of Parliament, establishing defamatory or incriminatory statements as opposed to critical comments, which an MP has the right to make, is important



Feroze Varun Gandhi
is a three-time Member of Parliament from the Pilibhit Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh, and the author of the new book, 'The Indian Metropolis: Deconstructing India's Urban Spaces'

On December 24, 2009, a tunnel boring machine in Joshimath, Uttarakhand, hit an aquifer about three kilometres from Selang village. This resulted in the loss of nearly 800 litres of water per second (enough to sustain the needs of nearly 30 lakh people per day). Soon after, groundwater sources began drying up even as the water flow reduced but never stopped. Meanwhile, Joshimath has no system to manage wastewater. Instead, the large-scale use of the soak-pit mechanism could exacerbate land sinking. Ongoing infrastructure projects (the Tapovan Vishnugad dam and the Helang-Marwari bypass road) may also worsen the situation.

The problem in hilly urban India

Land subsidence incidents in hilly urban India are becoming increasingly common – an estimated 12.6% of India's land area is prone to landslides, especially in Sikkim, West Bengal and Uttarakhand. Urban policy is making this worse, according to the National Institute of Disaster Management (and highlighted in the National Landslide Risk Management Strategy, September 2019). Construction in such a landscape is often driven by building bye-laws that ignore local geological and environmental factors. Consequently, land use planning in India's Himalayan towns and the Western Ghats is often ill-conceived, adding to slope instability. As a result, landslide vulnerability has risen, made worse by tunnelling construction that is weakening rock formations.

Acquiring credible data is the first step toward enhancing urban resilience with regard to land subsidence. The overall landslide risk needs to be mapped at the granular level. The Geological Survey of India has conducted a national mapping exercise (1:50,000 scale, with each centimetre denoting approximately 0.5 km). Urban policymakers need to take this further, with additional detail and localisation (1:1,000 scale). Areas with high landslide risk should not be allowed to expand large infrastructure; there must be a push to reduce human interventions

and adhere to carrying capacity. Aizawl, Mizoram, is in 'Seismic Zone V', and built on very steep slopes. An earthquake with a magnitude greater than 7 on the Richter scale would easily trigger over 1,000 landslides and cause large-scale damage to buildings. But the city has developed a landslide action plan (with a push to reach 1:500 scale), with updated regulations to guide construction activities in hazardous zones. The city's landslide policy committee is cross-disciplinary in nature, seeking inputs from civic society and university students, with a push to continually update risk zones.

Further, any site development in hazardous zones needs assessment by a geologist (with respect to soil suitability and slope stability) and an evaluation of its potential impact on buildings that are nearby. It may need corrective measures (retention walls), with steps to prohibit construction in hazardous areas. In Gangtok, Sikkim, the Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham has helped set up a real-time landslide monitoring and early warning system, with sensors assessing the impact of rainfall infiltration, water movement and slope instability.

Rising flood risk

Flood risk is the second issue. In August 2019, Palava City (Phase I and II) in Dombivli, Maharashtra experienced heavy flooding, leaving residents stranded. Seasonal rain is now increasing in intensity, and the reason for the flooding soon became evident – the township, spread over 4,500 acres, was built on the flood plains of the Mothali river. When planned townships are approved, with a distinct lack of concern for natural hazards, such incidents are bound to occur. There are more examples. Floods in Panjim, Goa, in July 2021, led to local rivers swelling and homes being flooded, leaving urban settlements along the Mandovi affected. Again, urban planning was the issue; the city, built on marshlands, was once home to mangroves and fertile fields, which helped bolster its flood resilience. In Delhi, an estimated 9,350

From Joshimath to Panjim, India's flawed urban journey is a case of not having a multi-generational process in place

households live in the Yamuna floodplains, while the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report of March 2022 has highlighted the risk Kolkata faces due to a rise in sea levels. The combination of poor urban planning and climate change will mean that many of India's cities could face devastating flooding.

Flood-proofing India's cities will require multiple measures: urban planners will have to step back from filling up water bodies, canals and drains and focus, instead, on enhancing sewerage and stormwater drain networks. Existing sewerage networks need to be reworked and expanded to enable wastewater drainage in low-lying urban geographies. Rivers that overflow need to be desilted regularly along with a push for coastal walls in areas at risk from sea rise. Greater spending on flood-resilient architecture (river embankments, flood shelters in coastal areas and flood warning systems) is necessary. Protecting "blue infra" areas, i.e., places that act as natural sponges for absorbing surface runoff, allowing groundwater to be recharged, is a must. As rainfall patterns and intensity change, urban authorities will need to invest in simulation capacity to determine flooding hotspots and flood risk maps.

Looking ahead

Urban India does not have to embrace such risks. Instead, cities need to incorporate environmental planning and enhance natural open spaces. Urban master plans need to consider the impact of climate change and extreme weather; Bengaluru needs to think of 125 mm per hour peak rainfall in the future, as against the current 75 mm. Urban authorities in India should assess and update disaster risk and preparedness planning. Early warning systems will also be critical. Finally, each city needs to have a disaster management framework in place, with large arterial roads that allow people and goods to move freely. India's urban journey is not limited to an election cycle. It must plan for a multi-generational process.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New Governors

Political criticism over the appointment of the former Supreme Court of India judge, Justice S. Abdul Nazeer, as the new Governor of Andhra Pradesh cannot be dismissed. People who were part of high office, especially from the judiciary, need not look for employment in the political arena once they retire from service. Ambitions are important but this should not be at the cost of one's image and integrity. One must recall

the golden words of the BJP leader Arun Jaitley when he said 'pre-retirement judgments are influenced by post-retirement jobs and it's a threat to the independence of the judiciary'. His observation was candid going by the troubled Governor-State relations in the present day. A.P. Thiruvaduthai, Chennai

loyalists and leaders. With these appointments, the strength of Governors and Lieutenant Governors directly related to the party in power only increases. A similar strategy was also adopted by the Congress earlier, so both national parties have used this to their advantage. These appointments and the recent cases of strife between the Chief Ministers of certain States and their Governors only highlight the importance of having a proper mechanism to

appoint the Governor of a State. Reform is the need of the hour apart from a transparent mechanism that will instill trust in the public. P.R. Vikram, Periyapatalam, Tamil Nadu

Of all the gubernatorial appointments, it is that of the Governor of Andhra Pradesh which could have been avoided. The judge is one who happened to be a part of several important judgments in which the government was on the

winning side. The government can present any number of non-partisan arguments in support of its decision, but what will stick out is the *quid pro quo* perception, which will not be in the best interests of the judiciary. Athulya M., Hyderabad

Down memory lane
The photograph of tennis great Bjorn Borg with Indian star Vijay Amritraj, in Chennai, rekindled memories of the halcyon

days of the Swede and his 11 Grand Slam singles titles ('Sport' page, February 13). In the 1970s and 1980s, Borg was tennis's biggest drawing card. Tennis had never really been so cool before Borg played it. R. Sivakumar, Chennai



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

Constitutional oath is not a mere formality

A Constitution is the basic law that lays the foundation for the governance of a country. It lays down broad policy/directives for the authorities and institutions tasked with its implementation.

Basic eligibility criteria for appointment to several high constitutional offices are prescribed in the Constitution. Yet, many silent disqualifications operate. These are implied and read into the eligibility criteria by courts, solely guided by the objective of upholding the Constitution and the law and the integrity of the institution for which the functionary is chosen.

Importing a disqualification

In *B.R. Kapur v. State of Tamil Nadu* (2001), the Governor's appointment of Jayalalithaa as Chief Minister despite her conviction for a criminal offence was called in question. Article 164(1) of the Constitution does not prescribe any disqualification for the appointment of a Chief Minister. Article 173, however, disqualifies a person with prior conviction from being a member of the Legislature. The court was confronted with the question of whether it could import a disqualification for a person being appointed as a Chief Minister, when none was prescribed. The Supreme Court said yes. It held, "The will of the people as expressed through the majority party prevails only if it is in accord with the Constitution. The Governor... is sworn to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the laws (Article 159). The Governor cannot... do anything that is contrary to the Constitution and the laws." The Governor's act of administering oath to Jayalalithaa after her conviction was declared unconstitutional.

The oath to be taken by a judge of a High Court under Schedule III of the Constitution requires a declaration of allegiance to the Constitution and performance of

R. Vaigai
is a lawyer practising in the Madras High Court

Anna Mathew
is a lawyer practising in the Madras High Court

S. Devika
is a lawyer practising in the Madras High Court

The authors were among the petitioners before the Supreme Court in the case relating to the appointment of Justice Victoria Gowri

duties "without fear or favour, affection or ill-will". The appointee must also declare that she will "uphold" the Constitution and the laws. Such an oath is unique to the judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court, since they are the sentinels of the Constitution. The oath is a solemn assurance to the people that justice will be rendered without any bias. Does not a person who has shown religious bigotry become disabled from discharging the oath of office of a judge? Will such disability fall within the realm of mere suitability or essential eligibility?

Adhering to the oath

"Eligibility of a judge of a High Court should not be construed in a pedantic manner," declared the Supreme Court in *N. Kannadasan v. Ajoy Khose* (2009). An additional judge of the High Court, who was not appointed as a permanent judge due to allegations of lack of probity, was later recommended by the then Chief Justice of the Madras High Court for appointment as president of the State Consumer Commission. The appointment was declared illegal by the Supreme Court, which held that an independent and impartial judiciary should be manned by persons who dispense justice "without fear or favour, ill-will or affection." It held that a person who lacked the qualities necessary to adhere to the oath of office of a judge was ineligible for appointment to any judicial office. Thus, the capacity to dispense justice in terms of constitutional oath was held to be non-negotiable.

Inability to adhere to the Constitution as per the oath prescribed has been held to be a disqualification by a full Bench of the Madras High Court in the case of K.S. Haja Shareef (1983), who, after taking oath as a member of the Assembly to "bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution," accepted appointment as Honorary Consul General of Turkey at Madras. On such appointment, he had agreed

to abide by the directives of a foreign State. The court held that such a person cannot be expected to be a member of the Legislature since a conflict of interest between the two countries would arise and the constitutional oath will prevail to unseat him.

Selection of judges

To limit 'eligibility' for appointment of a High Court judge to a minimum makes a mockery of the integrity and independence of the judiciary. Such a facile reading turns the solemn assurance of an impartial and fair judiciary into a hollow promise. Just as breach of the oath will result in removal, adherence to the Constitution should precede taking the oath of office.

Faced with opacity in judicial appointments/transfers, the Supreme Court in *S.P. Gupta v. Union of India* (1981) directed the Government and the Chief Justice of India (CJI) to disclose all the materials. The judges held that their constitutional duty demanded such scrutiny through judicial review. They also held that if on scrutiny it was found that all the materials were not before the CJI (now collegium), the consultation/selection process is defective and invalid.

The events leading up to the announcement of the Supreme Court regarding the selection of Justice Victoria Gowri reveal the fault lines between the government and the judiciary. The selection process came under a cloud once the CJI expressed in open court that materials now brought before the collegium were not available earlier. The collegium relies on the government's agencies to produce background materials of persons recommended to be judges. Transparency and accountability in the selection of judges alone will ensure an independent judiciary. The Preamble to the Constitution should permeate selection of every judge.

A dream that could upset the BRS apple cart

How the AIMIM could play spoilsport for the BRS and the Congress

STATE OF PLAY

Ravi Reddy
ravi.reddy@thehindu.co.in

The spat between Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Minister K.T. Rama Rao and All-India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi in the Telangana Assembly last week would have been considered routine but for Mr. Owaisi's remark that his party will contest 50 seats in the upcoming Assembly elections and win at least 15.

This surprised political circles as the AIMIM has been seen as a close ally of the BRS since the bifurcation of united Andhra Pradesh. Also, the remark comes at a time when the BRS is making its foray into national politics with the aim of emerging as a strong opposition party to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre. The AIMIM has always taken an anti-BJP stand. Its leaders openly air their reservations about the ruling party at the Centre in a bid to emerge as the champions of the cause of minorities across the country. Though the AIMIM and BRS have never struck an alliance, the AIMIM has always had an understanding with the ruling dispensation, whether it is led by the Congress or the BRS.

Since 2013, the AIMIM has been trying to expand its base outside Hyderabad by contesting Assembly elections, but without much success. In the 2020 Bihar Assembly elections, the party won five seats. But last year, four of its MLAs switched over to the Rashtriya Janata Dal. In the 2022 Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat elections, the AIMIM's performance was dismal. In both States, its candidates drew a



blank and its vote share was less than one per cent. But the AIMIM's presence badly hit other major opposition parties such as the Congress, the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party. The AIMIM has won elections to civic bodies in many States, but has failed to convert these victories into seats in Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

It is amid this poor showing that Mr. Owaisi has challenged the ruling party in Telangana. But BRS leaders are unfazed. "If the AIMIM wants to contest the elections this year, it will only benefit the BJP, as was the case in other States," a BRS leader said. For this reason, the AIMIM is sometimes referred to by some leaders as the 'B team' of the BJP.

The AIMIM has always contested from seats where it is sure to win. The Old City of Hyderabad is its home turf. In 2018, it contested eight seats and won seven. The party has two MLCs in the Legislative Council and Mr. Owaisi's brother, Asaduddin Owaisi, represents the Hyderabad parliamentary constituency.

The AIMIM contested only 50 out of the 150 divisions in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections three years ago. It won 45 seats. It extended outside support to the BRS, which won in 56 divisions. The TRS-MIM combine ensured that the post of Mayor went to the ruling party. The BJP made impres-

sive gains in the same polls.

Telangana has 119 Assembly seats. Twenty-five constituencies are in the twin cities and their suburbs spread across the Medchal Malkajgiri and Ranga Reddy districts. In the House now, the BRS has 102 members, the AIMIM has seven, the Congress has five, the BJP three, and the All India Forward Bloc, one. One seat is held by an Independent candidate and one MLA is nominated from the Anglo-Indian community. If the AIMIM is serious about fighting the elections in 50 seats, it can at the most bag minority votes in only 29 Assembly constituencies. The majority of these lie in the twin cities and their suburbs. The AIMIM's influence is confined to certain urban pockets of north and south Telangana, but it is inadequate to win elections. The AIMIM has failed to cultivate rural voters. It has always indicated to its cadres that they must vote for parties that are opposed to the BJP if AIMIM candidates are not in the fray.

If the AIMIM tests its luck in 50 seats, the BRS and Congress may feel the pinch in some constituencies. This may upset the BRS's apple cart and deal a body blow to the Congress, which banks on securing the votes of minorities. The BJP too may not gain much as Telangana has never seen mass communal polarisation on the eve of elections.

Since 2018, the AIMIM has indirectly supported the BRS in electoral battles outside Hyderabad. Its recent decision could have an impact on the BRS's performance since minority votes, which were going to the ruling party, could be split. The AIMIM could play spoilsport for the BRS and the Congress as it is not in a position to win seats by consolidating Muslim votes.

Private tuitions helped blunt learning loss in many States

States which recorded a drastic decrease in maths and reading skills also saw a decline in private tuition-takers post-pandemic

DATA POINT

**Swethavimala M.
& Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

The data points published on January 23 and February 1 showed that the maths skills and reading skills of rural school students in the southern and western States were impacted the most due to COVID-19. Further reading of the Annual Status of Education Report (2022) shows that in many southern and western States, the share of children taking paid private tuition classes reduced after the COVID-19 outbreak, while it increased in all other regions.

Notably, Gujarat, where reading ability was the poorest among all the States in 2022, recorded the biggest decrease in students taking tuition classes post-pandemic. Similarly, the share of students who took tuition classes also decreased in the southern States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka – all of which recorded drastic declines in maths and reading skills. Interestingly, Andhra Pradesh, the only southern State which recorded an increase in the share of students who could do division problems post-pandemic, was also the only southern State which saw a significant increase in tuition-going children. Telangana and Rajasthan recorded only meagre increases.

In States where the coaching culture was already prevalent and in regions where children began attending private classes from an early age, the increase in the share of students who took tuitions was much sharper post-pandemic.

Chart 1 shows the share of Class I-VIII rural school students who took paid private tuition classes in 2022. The share in the southern, western and central States was low compared to other regions. Chart 2 shows the change in the share of Class I-VIII rural school students who took paid private tuition classes in 2022 compared to 2018. Only Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra recorded significant increases among the southern and western States.

Chart 3 shows the share of Class I rural school students who took paid private tuition classes in 2022. It shows that the private coaching culture starts at a very young age in the eastern, north-eastern and northern States.

In States where the coaching culture was already prevalent and in regions where children began attending private classes from an early age, the increase in the share of students who took tuitions was much sharper post-pandemic.

Chart 4 shows the difference between the share of Class I-VIII private students and government students who took paid tuition classes in 2022. The higher the number, the more the share of private school students. A negative figure indicates the opposite. The graph shows that in all States (except Kerala and West Bengal), the share of private school students who took paid tuitions was higher, showing that the richer classes were able to manage the pandemic-forced learning losses better compared to poorer households.

Taking another route

The graphs are based on data collated from the Annual Status of Education Report - 2022 (Rural), based on a survey conducted between September and November 2022



Chart 1: The share of Class I-VIII rural school students who took paid private tuition classes in 2022

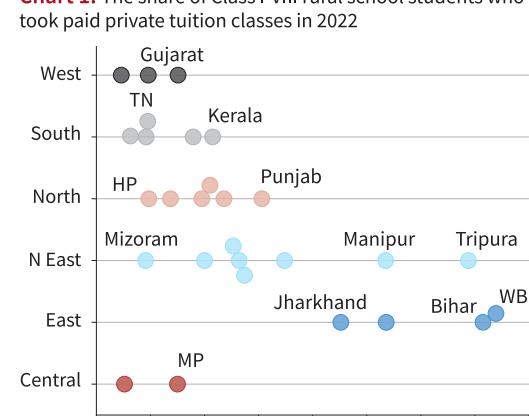


Chart 3: The share of Class I rural school students who took paid private tuition classes in 2022

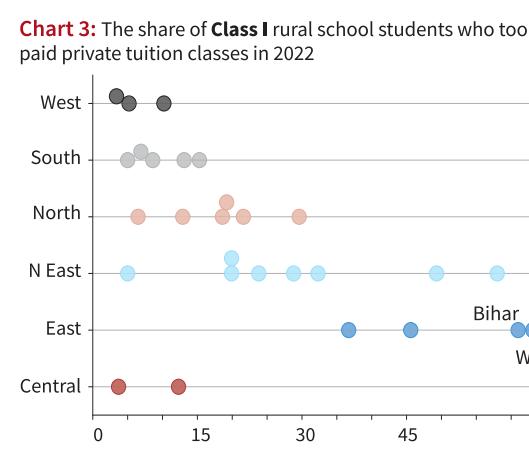


Chart 4: The difference between the share of private and govt. students who took paid tuition classes in 2022

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 14, 1973

Dollar devalued by 10 per cent: Yen to float

Washington, Feb. 13: The United States has devalued the dollar by another 10 per cent and President Nixon has asked Congress to raise the price of gold from \$38 to \$42.22 an ounce. The U.S. action came in the wake of the latest currency crisis which has been rocking world exchange markets for the last few days. Its intended effect is to make imported products dearer and American goods more competitive abroad. The announcement, made on the U.S.'s own initiative, but after consultations with its major trading partners, was announced by Treasury Secretary George Shultz at a late night news conference, after he had conferred with Mr. Nixon earlier in the day. Though a devaluation of the dollar had been forecast ever since the latest crisis came to surface, last night's announcement was so sudden that the early morning editions of some newspapers missed it. Mr. Shultz said that the devaluation move would be accompanied by a float of the Japanese yen so that the dollar-yen gap would be wider than 10 per cent. The European currencies will not be realigned, as was the case after the Smithsonian negotiations in December 1971.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 14, 1923

Memel affair

London, Feb. 12: It is foreshadowed that Memel will shortly be handed over to Lithuania following the discussions at the Conference of Ambassadors, the meeting of which to-day noted the Allied report from Memel showing that the Allies' demands have been satisfactorily carried out.

(British Official Wireless) Leaflet (Oxford) Midnight, Feb. 13: All the meeting of the Conference of Ambassadors in Paris yesterday the Allied report showing that Lithuania had carried out the Allied demands regarding Memel was discussed. It appeared that armed bands had been withdrawn and a provisional Government had been set up. It is expected that a decision will be taken by the Conference probably on Thursday embodying the principle of transferring the sovereignty of Memel to Lithuania subject to certain conditions and that the Lithuanian Government will be invited to accept the principle and to send representatives to Paris to complete the details in connection with the formal convention.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Most universities still functioning without NAAC accreditation

695 The number of universities across India operating without accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Parliament was informed. Data given by Union Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar also added that 34,734 colleges were also operating without NAAC accreditation. PTI

Power Finance Corporation sees rise in profit

7 In percentage, the rise in consolidated net profit of the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) at ₹5,241 crore in the December quarter, mainly due to higher revenues. The company's net profit was ₹4,893 crore in the October-December quarter of FY22. The company's total income rose to ₹19,662 crore in the quarter under review from ₹19,213 crore in the year-ago period. PTI

Projects approved by MoHUA under AMRUT 2.0 scheme

6,527 The number of projects under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 that was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Minister of State Kaushal Kishore said. The Minister added that ₹45,482 crore has been approved for the projects under the scheme. PTI

Faculty positions in government HEIs remain vacant

14,606 The number of faculty positions vacant in higher education institutions (HEIs) under the Ministry of Education. Union Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar directed all Central institutions to fill up the vacancies. He added that more than 6,000 posts of faculty and non-faculty were filled. PTI

Australian government funding for indigenous communities

293 In million dollars, the amount set aside by the Australian government in funds to improve the lives of Australia's original inhabitants. On top of the \$830 million in Indigenous spending announced in October, the new funding includes \$104 million to provide drinking water to Outback Indigenous communities. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Tackling postpartum depression

What constitutes postpartum depression? Are there particular factors that make women susceptible to the condition? Do the symptoms vary much between that of clinical depression? What are the different methods of treatment? How effective is electroconvulsive therapy?

PULSE-CHECK

Alok Kulkarni

The links between childbirth and mental disorders have been described for hundreds of years. Mental illness after childbirth isn't merely of historical interest. As illustrated by the findings of the U.K. Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths, suicide is a leading cause of maternal death following childbirth.

In India itself, the prevalence of postpartum depression was around 22% in 2017. If a person develops psychotic depression or if the depression is severe, there is a high risk of dying by suicide. In such situations, healthcare workers advise more aggressive interventions.

Traditional classification systems don't include separate categories for episodes of mental illnesses that occur in the perinatal period, leading to confusion in clinical practice as well as in research. The ubiquitous use of the term 'postpartum depression' also erroneously refers to all forms of psychological distress following pregnancy - from mild mood changes to more severe psychotic conditions.

Postpartum depression is a significant form of depression that can begin after childbirth, with symptoms that vary from person to person, and has important differences from 'baby blues'. In clinical practice, this period can last anywhere between four to six weeks following delivery, but sometimes even up to a year.

Women can be affected by a range of mental health problems in pregnancy and the postpartum period, including depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, psychosis, and personality and eating disorders. Despite this, perinatal psychiatric disorders have not received the attention that they deserve.

Postpartum depression is a real medical illness that can affect any mother regardless of age, income or cultural and/or educational background. Women are not to be faulted for having postpartum depression.

A prior history of mood or anxiety disorders, stressful life events, poor social support, and domestic violence are established risk factors for depression in the postpartum period. Additional risk factors include poor social support, adverse life events, domestic violence, a history of prior psychiatric illness, unplanned or unwanted pregnancy, and present/past pregnancy complications.

Clinical presentation

The clinical presentation doesn't vary much between depression in the postpartum period and depression that occurs at other times. The core symptoms of depression include low mood, loss of pleasure in activities, and easy fatigability. Ho-



Early signs: Depression, anxiety, and eating disorders are some of the conditions that women face during pregnancy and postpartum phases. GETTY IMAGES

wever, fatigue, loss of libido, appetite and weight change, and sleep disturbances are more common in the postpartum period. Thoughts of self-harm are also common in postpartum depression.

Women who present with psychiatric symptoms in the postpartum period are at higher risk of being diagnosed with a severe mental illness called bipolar disorder.

In a 2012 Danish study, around 14% of women with first-time psychiatric symptoms

within a month of childbirth were later diagnosed with bipolar disorder in a follow-up timeframe of 15 years. Another study, published in 2010, found that more than half the participants with bipolar disorder with postpartum onset were initially misdiagnosed with unipolar depression.

CBT is a talking therapy that helps people by changing the way they think and behave. It is based on the premise that thoughts, feelings, physical sensations, and actions are interconnected, and that negative thoughts and feelings can trap us in a vicious cycle. CBT attempts to restructure faulty patterns of thinking into more positive and logical ones.

Interventions are also directed at the mother-baby dyad, especially if there has been no response to treatment. Among those with moderate to severe depression, medication will be required. The use of safe, effective, evidenced-based medications for depression in pregnancy has increased considerably in recent decades, with rates varying from 3% to 13%.

Innovative and novel drug treatments are increasingly available for women with postpartum depression. One such involves a 60-hour hormonal infusion (brexanolone), which has shown promise in an early-stage trial. Before it can be adopted more widely, the results will need to be replicated in larger trials.

Decisions regarding medication for breastfeeding women must be made only after a risk-benefit analysis. Interventions such as special diets, exercise, yoga, and the use of oestrogens and progestins have

limited evidence vis-à-vis postpartum depression as of today.

In severe depression characterised by suicidal ideas or when the person has thoughts of self-harm or of harming the baby, doctors perform electroconvulsive therapy. Here, a small electrical charge is applied to the person's temples while the person is under short anaesthesia. This results in a controlled seizure that helps to offset brain changes caused by depression.

It is one of the most effective interventions in the history of clinical medicine. Unfortunately, it has been portrayed negatively in films (notably 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest').

A range of safe, effective, and evidence-based treatment options exist for psychiatric disorders with onset in the postpartum period. Postpartum depression is a common but serious disorder that is amenable to bio-psycho-social interventions. Right treatment at the right time in fact leads to rapid recovery and a better quality of life.

No part of this article should be construed as medical advice. If you have any questions, please contact your physician.

Dr. Alok Kulkarni is a senior consultant psychiatrist, Manas Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Hubli.

Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies could seek help and counselling by calling Sanjivini: 011-4076 9002 (Delhi), DISHA - 1056, 0471-2552056 (Chennai), ASRA - 022 2754 6669 (Mumbai) and Lifeline Foundation - 033-24637401/32 (Kolkata)

The Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale

A mother underlines which of the four possible responses is closest to how she has been feeling during the past week

In the past 7 days:

1. I have been able to laugh and see the funny side of things
 - a. As much as I always could
 - b. Not quite so much now
 - c. Definitely not so much now
 - d. Not at all
2. I have looked forward with enjoyment to things
 - a. As much as I ever did
 - b. Rather less than I used to
 - c. Definitely less than I used to
 - d. Hardly at all

3. I have blamed myself unnecessarily when things went wrong
 - a. Yes, most of the time
 - b. Yes, some of the time
 - c. Not very often
 - d. No, never
4. I have been anxious or worried for no good reason
 - a. No, not at all
 - b. Hardly ever
 - c. Yes, sometimes
 - d. Yes, very often

5. I have felt scared or panicky for no very good reason
 - a. Yes, quite a lot | b. Yes, sometimes
 - c. No, not much | d. No, not at all
6. Things have been getting on top of me
 - a. Yes, most of the time I haven't been able to cope at all
 - b. Yes, sometimes I haven't been coping as well as usual
 - c. No, most of the time I have coped quite well
 - d. No, I have been coping as well as ever
7. I have been so unhappy that I have had difficulty sleeping
 - a. Yes, most of the time
 - b. Yes, sometimes
 - c. Not very often
 - d. No, not at all
8. I have felt sad or miserable
 - a. Yes, most of the time
 - b. Yes, quite often
 - c. Not very often
 - d. No, not at all
9. I have been so unhappy that I have been crying
 - a. Yes, most of the time
 - b. Yes, quite often
 - c. Only occasionally
 - d. No, never
10. The thought of harming myself has occurred to me
 - a. Yes, quite often
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. Hardly ever | d. Never



Sourced from: British Journal of Psychiatry 1987, 150:782-786, J L Cox, J M Holden and R Sagovsky

THE GIST

Postpartum depression is a real medical illness that can affect any mother regardless of age, income or cultural and/or educational background. Women are not to be blamed or faulted for having postpartum depression.

Women who present with psychiatric symptoms in the postpartum period are at higher risk of being diagnosed with a severe mental illness called bipolar disorder. In a 2012 Danish study, around 14% of women with first-time psychiatric symptoms within a month of childbirth were later diagnosed with bipolar disorder in a follow-up timeframe of 15 years.

Psychological interventions have been shown to be effective for mild postpartum depression in clinical trials. Given that many people don't wish to take medicines while breastfeeding, peer-support, counselling, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), and interpersonal therapy become important interventions. In severe depression characterised by suicidal ideas, doctors perform electroconvulsive therapy.

Postpartum depression is a common but serious disorder that is amenable to bio-psycho-social interventions. Right treatment at the right time in fact leads to rapid recovery and a better quality of life.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

When a community takes to the streets for inclusion and their right to dignity

The onus of battling discrimination has fallen onto the shoulders of Dalits. We have to shrug off indifference and shoulder responsibility. It is only when we concentrate on the construction of a political consensus in society, that the uncomfortable distinction between 'us' and 'them' will dissolve.

Neera Chandoke

A 16-year-old Class II Dalit student in Uttar Pradesh's Bijnor district was allegedly beaten up by principal Yogendra Kumar and two others on Monday after he drank water from the principal's bottle during a farewell party organised for outgoing Class 12 students. Based on the student's complaint, the police lodged a case against the principal and two others under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act and other Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). In the light of this incident, the following piece from 2018 gains significance.

On the morning of April 3, the front pages of newspapers told us of violent protests by Dalits in northern India the day before. They had opposed the dilution by the Supreme Court, in its order of March 20, 2018, of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Blazing headlines and accounts that followed told us how many people had been killed and injured, about innumerable acts of arson, of the blocking of trains, closure of shops and the calling in of Central forces in some States. Sadly, the tone of most reports was dispassionate, soulless and bare. They might have been recounting a tale of a privileged group inflicting violence on geographical and human landscapes for the noble purpose of lowering taxes.

But we need to go beyond headlines and ask why a vulnerable community took to the streets. Think of its desperation, how it has lost confidence in the ability of Indian democracy and now the judiciary to give it justice, how the promises of the Constitution have been blatantly and vulgarly betrayed, and how it has been subjected to repeated indignities, reiterated insults and bodily harm by citizens of this great Republic. Worse, its own leaders have let it down.

If the leadership had faithfully discharged its mandate of representing the needs of Dalits, the represented would not be living lives that are best described as subhuman. In January 2016 the death of Rohith Vemula, in July 2016 the public attacks on Dalits in Una, and earlier this year attacks on celebrations of the historic Bhima-Koregaon battle in Maharashtra showed up in great detail the flaws of our body politic. How many more indignities does the community have to suffer? How long will non-Dalits be indifferent to this suffering? It is time to reflect. What has gone wrong with the project of justice that independent India initiated with a flourish? What has gone wrong with our own sensibilities? It is time to agonise and to feel shame.

Uneven results

Affirmative action policies centring on the politics of presence have certainly contributed to the repair of historical wrongs. The advantages of these policies are, however, unevenly spread out. The constituency of affirmative action has benefited in bits and pieces. For instance, we see the making of an educated and professionally qualified Dalit middle class. A Dalit movement has succeeded in prising open worlds that for long had been closed to the community. Activists have seized the right to voice through collective action, and now influence and even shape, public debates.



Last resort: Protestors hurl stones during the 'Bharat Bandh' against the alleged 'dilution' of the SC/ST Act in Morena on April 2, 2018. PTI

Today, Dalits write their own histories and biographies. A vibrant literary movement denounces the ostracism of an entire community from mainstream society, and chronicles the nerve-racking experience of being treated as an outcaste. Challenging prevailing literary conventions, rewriting the script of literary and poetic production, inserting the community into critical narratives of the Indian nation, and intent on representing their own community, writers have profoundly dented the way we think of others and of ourselves.

This genre of literature has gained considerable acclaim. English translations of Dalit literary works, for example Omprakash Valmiki's *Joothan* (2003), Narendra Jadhav's *Untouchables* (2005), and Baby Kamble's *The Prisons We Broke* (2009), have expanded the canon of post-colonial literature and aesthetics in Indian and western universities. And, above all, electoral politics, affirmative action and the space afforded by civil society for mobilisation have enabled a suppressed community to recover agency and speak back to codified power. Yet caste-based discrimination persists in significant areas of social interaction. In short, the one vital good that the justice project tries to secure – respect/self-respect – continues to elude attempts at repair of historical injustice.

Unrealised justice project

The impact of disrespect upon the Dalit community cannot be underestimated. Disrespect reinforces other injustices confronted by the community in everyday life. And it disrupts social relationships based on the reciprocal obligation to see each other as equal and as worthy of dignity. Disrespect demoralises and diminishes human beings and erodes their confidence to participate in the multiple transactions of society with a

degree of assurance. Despite historical struggles against rank discrimination in words, verse, and collective action, despite acceptance of historical wrongs by the leaders of the freedom struggle, despite the mobilisation of the Dalit community, and despite affirmative action, caste-based discrimination continues to relentlessly stalk the political biography of independent India. Till today what caste we belong to continues to profile social relations, codify inequalities, govern access to opportunities and propel multiple atrocities. The project of justice remains unrealised.

Indians have failed to secure justice for their own fellow citizens. It is time to express solidarity. Constitutional and legislative provisions and Supreme Court judgments are important, but they are simply not enough. If the right to justice is violated, citizens should be exercised and agitated about this violation. For this to occur, for society to feel deeply about violations of basic rights, the right to justice has to be underpinned by a political consensus. A consensus on what constitutes, or should constitute, the basic rules of society is central to our collective lives. A social movement geared to attack caste-based discrimination can remind us that denial of respect is a problem for non-Dalits as well.

Shrugging off indifference

To put the issue starkly, if respect is compromised, the project of redistributive justice has borne inadequate results. One of the most essential goods human beings are entitled to, the right to dignity, has not been realised. For this right to be recognised, social movements that speak the language of equality for their own particular constituencies have to come together and support the idea of building a political

consensus on what is due to all human beings, what should be done for them and what should not be done to them.

We read of such movements in pre-Independence India. In independent India, the onus of battling discrimination has fallen onto the shoulders of Dalits. The rest of society wends its way without regard for the infirmities of its fellow citizens. We have to shrug off indifference and shoulder responsibility. It is only when we concentrate on the construction of a political consensus in society, that the uncomfortable distinction between 'us' and 'them' that bedevils much of the case for remedial justice will dissolve. We have to do this because disadvantaged communities are not only likely to be economically deprived but also socially marginalised, politically insignificant in terms of the politics of participation as distinct from the 'vote', humiliated, dismissed and subjected to intense disrespect through practices of everyday life. Anyone who suffers from these multiple disadvantages will find it impossible to participate in social, economic and cultural transactions as an equal.

Certainly, efforts have been made to repair historical injustice. But the ideology of discrimination continues to dominate despite a multitude of constitutional provisions, laws, affirmative action policies and political mobilisation. We can no longer assume that some redistribution of resources will lead to respect and self-respect. The politics of voice can achieve a great deal in the public sphere, but if the ideology of discrimination continues to shape social relations, much of the gains are lost. One of the most essential goods human beings are entitled to, the right to respect, has not been realised.

Neera Chandoke is a former Professor of Political Science at Delhi University

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

S. Venkataraghavan

QUESTION 1

Who (and when) is believed to have coined the term Artificial Intelligence(AI)?

QUESTION 2

Which Indian company was part of the founding team of Open AI and donated towards the initial \$1 billion Open AI pledge?

QUESTION 3

By what name was the scary thought experiment, which states that "an otherwise benevolent artificial superintelligence (AI) in the future would be incentivised to create a virtual reality simulation to torture anyone who knew of its potential

existence but did not directly contribute to its advancement or development" called? This originated in a 2010 post at discussion board LessWrong, a technical forum focused on analytical rational enquiry.

QUESTION 4

What is the name given to google's next-generation language and conversation capability powered by their Language Model for Dialogue Applications (or LaMDA for short)?

QUESTION 5

By what name do we know the test of a machine's ability to exhibit intelligent behaviour equivalent to, or indistinguishable from, that of a human?

can you give me some interesting trivia or quiz question on AI and ML that can be asked to general public

Sure! Here are some trivia questions related to AI and ML that can be asked to the general public:

- What is the difference between Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning?
- Who is considered the father of Artificial Intelligence?
- What is the purpose of a Neural Network in Machine Learning?
- How does a decision tree work in Machine Learning?
- What is the difference between supervised and unsupervised learning?
- What is the purpose of an activation function in a Neural Network?
- Can you give an example of a real-world application of Artificial Intelligence?
- What is the difference between a regression and classification problem in Machine Learning?
- What is reinforcement learning and how does it work?
- Can you name a few popular open-source tools used in the field of AI and ML?

These questions can be a great starting point for a trivia or quiz contest about AI and ML.

What is the name of this chatbot in the image

Answers to the previous day's quiz:

- An accomplished director, he was a narrator of a radio series in the 1930s in the U.S. **Answer: Orson Welles, The Mercury Theatre on the Air**
- He started out at the age of 19 in AIR and co-authored the book, "The Winning way". **Ans: Harsha Bhogle**
- Who christened the term "Akashvani" for AIR? **Ans: Rabindranath Tagore**
- A pejorative term to describe telegraphy operators who lacked Morse code skills, it is now used to describe themselves as a matter of pride. **Ans: Ham radio**
- This programme of devotional songs aired every year during a festival in West Bengal. **Ans: Mahisasura Mardini, Birendra Kumar Bhadra**
- Visual: **Ans: Walter Kaufmann**

Early Birds

S Sampath Kumar — M. Suresh Kumar — Jagadish S — Moumita Roy Basu



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

Dr. P. Jeyakumar, Dr. C. Senthilkumar and Dr. S. Gopinathan of Kilpauk Medical College, Madras, want to know when to use 'dwell' and when to use 'live'.

'Dwell' is a literary word. Poets use this more often than others. 'Live' is the word that is ordinarily used. Never say 'I dwell in Mambalam'. You live in the world of reality and 'dwell' in the world of ideas and imagination. He dwells in a world of fantasy. Doctors dwell in the world of medicine. 'To dwell on or upon' means 'to write or speak at length.' This can be used in writing and speech. The minister dwelt on the achievements of his party. She dwelt on the beauty of her dog to the annoyance of her listeners.

Miss V. R. Tripathi of Varanasi wants to know how to use the word 'awhile'.

'Awhile' means 'for a short time.' You are tired; rest awhile. They sang awhile. He stammered awhile. 'For' and 'awhile' don't go together. 'For' is implicit in 'awhile'. You shouldn't say 'wait for awhile.' But you can say 'Wait for a while.' 'Think of the use of 'awhile' for a while.'

Mr. B. R. Pantulu, Programme Executive, All India Radio, Pondicherry wants to know why a TV set is referred to as the 'idiot box'.

When you watch TV for a long time and when it becomes a habit, you cease to think for yourself. TV does the thinking for you and you become a mindless idiot. It is not the set that is an idiot. The box that makes you into an idiot is an idiot box. 'Idiot board' is a mechanical device used to prompt a speaker on television.

Several readers want to know whether the expression 'grammatical error' is correct. They wonder how anything grammatical can be erroneous.

Grammatical here means 'relating to grammar.' 'Grammatical error' means 'error relating to grammar.' So the expression is correct.

Mr. R. K. Patil of Bijapur wants to know the pronunciation of the word 'education.'

The 'e' in the word is pronounced like the 'e' in 'bed'. 'du' rhymes with 'few' and 'hue'. 'du' is pronounced like the word 'due', 'cation; rhymes with 'station' and 'nation.' The 'c' is pronounced 'k'. The stress is on the third syllable 'ca.'

Word of the day

festoon:

adorn (a place) with chains, garlands, or other decorations

Synonyms: decorate, grace, beautify, ornament, adorn, embellish

Usage: The staffroom was festooned with balloons and streamers.

Pronunciation: <https://bit.ly/festoonpro>

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

From Page One**Adani case: Centre has no objection to SC panel**

"So that we have something on paper to apply our minds to. We will have a discussion and then pronounce the order," Chief Justice Chandrachud responded.

A 22-page submission note shared by the SEBI, also represented by advocate Pratap Venugopal, in court said the market regulator was already enquiring into the allegations made in the Hindenburg report as well as the market activity immediately preceding and post the publication of the report to identify violations of SEBI Regulations.

The market regulator attempted to allay fears by saying that the events concerning the Adani Group following the Hindenburg report were "localised to a single group of companies and that there is no significant impact at a market-wide level or at a system-wide level, that might warrant a system-level review of the regulatory frameworks in operation". It said Indian markets had seen "far higher turbulent times in the past, especially during COVID".

SC upholds formation of J&K delimitation panel

Represented by senior advocate Ravi Shankar Jandhyala and advocates Sriram Parakkat and M.S. Vishnu Shankar, the petition was limited to a challenge of the notification issued by the Union government in March 2020 establishing the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission and a second one in March 2021 extending its term for the purpose of conducting delimitation only for Jammu and Kashmir. "Once the Delimitation Commission was established, there is nothing wrong if the Central government extended the period of appointment of the Chairperson till the task of delimitation/readjustment was completed," Justice Oka concluded.

Justice Oka had said the notifications drew their power specifically from Section 62(2) of the 2019 Act. Section 62(2) provided for the readjustment of constituencies to be carried out by the Delimitation Commission.

The court questioned why the petitioners, without challenging the source of the government's notifications – that is Section 62(2), had confined their challenge solely to the notifications.

Retail inflation rises to 3-month high in Jan.

There were no base effects at play as January 2022 had recorded 6.01% retail inflation, the beginning of a ten-month streak over the 6% upper tolerance threshold set for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that included an eight-year high inflation of 7.8% last April and culminated in October at 6.77%.

The higher than expected rebound in January's price rise may persist for a couple of more months, economists reckoned, and may compel the RBI to consider yet another rate hike at its next monetary policy review. It had projected an average 5.7% pace of price rise for this quarter that now looks difficult to attain unless there's a significant mellowing down in prices over February and March. Vegetables that had reported a 15.1% fall in prices in December 2022, continued to be in deflationary territory falling 11.7% in January 2023, but most other food items continued to witness spiralling prices.

Among the major States, Telangana recorded the highest inflation in January at 8.6%, followed by Andhra Pradesh (8.25%), Madhya Pradesh (8.13%), Uttar Pradesh (7.45%) and Haryana (7.05%).

"Inflation remains fairly generalised across most categories as companies are still passing on higher input costs to consumers and this will continue through this quarter," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda.

With core inflation (excluding food and energy prices) staying sticky as highlighted by RBI governor Shaktikanta Das in this month's monetary policy review, Mr. Sabnavis said inflation will likely remain elevated in the next two months too, though the headline number may moderate.

Geo-science calls for broad panel of experts

In 2019, the Indian National Science Academy and a group called the Society of Earth Sciences had submitted a proposal to the government to establish a broad-based National Geoheritage Authority that would advise State governments on conservation, setting up geo-heritage parks, deciding on the geological importance of sites and administer the possession of fossils or other relics in these regions.

A highly placed official in government told *The Hindu*, on condition of anonymity, that the current version of the Bill was unlikely to be placed before the Union Cabinet, a pre-requisite for it to be brought to Parliament.

Other than protecting places of geological interest, the need for a law that specifically protects sites of geo-heritage value follows from India being a signatory to the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, since 1972.

'Worried' about pending transfers, SC says a 'lot more' needs to be done

Court had in the past wondered how some collegium recommendations were cleared 'overnight', while others took ages; in the hearing held on February 3, it put the government on a 10-day ultimatum to clear pending transfers in High Courts

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The government's delay in clearing certain pending transfers, including that of Orissa High Court Chief Justice S. Muralidhar to Madras and the reiterated collegium recommendation of senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal for appointment as a Delhi High Court judge, saw a "worried" Supreme Court observe that a "lot more" is needed to be done, though "some developments" have happened since the last hearing on February 3.

"Some developments have happened, but a lot more is needed to be done," a three-judge Bench, led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, orally said.

Justice Kaul was accompanied by Justices Manoj Misra and Aravind Kumar, two new appointments to the Supreme Court. Justice



Misra was among a batch of five judges whose appointments were cleared on February 4, after a wait of nearly two months since the collegium recommended their names for top court judgeships on December 13 last year.

Justices Kumar and Justice Rajesh Bindal took oath as top court judges on Monday, about two weeks after the collegium recommended their names on January 31. The court had in the past wondered how some names were cleared "overnight" while others took ages.

They said the regular Chief Justiceship in Madras High Court has been va-

cant since September 12 last year. In fact, the collegium had recommended the transfer of Justice T. Raja, the current Acting Chief Justice of the High Court, to Rajasthan on November 24, 2022. Justice Raja is scheduled to retire on May 24, 2023.

"This cannot go on endlessly. At some point, My Lords have to crack the whip," advocate Prashant Bhushan submitted.

Long delay

A note submitted by senior advocate Arvind Datar and Amit Pai features Justice Muralidhar's name as first in a list of nine High Court judges recommended by the collegium for transfer to other High Courts in September-November last year.

In fact, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju flagged the issue of a lack of a timeline in the Memorandum of Procedure for judicial transfers in the Lok Sabha on February 10.

The Supreme Court, in the previous hearing on

February 3, put the government on a 10-day ultimatum to clear pending transfers in High Courts.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani on February 3 sought more time. He did not appear on Monday. His office sought an adjournment.

In a January 6 hearing, the court had said delay in transfers "not only affects the administration of justice but creates an impression as if there are third party sources interfering

with the government".

Another list in the note submitted by Mr. Datar and Mr. Pai shows 13 pending reiterates recommendations for appointment to the High Courts, including that of Mr. Kirpal, who was first recommended on November 11, 2021 and reiterated again on January 18, 2023.

The Bench listed the case again on March 2. On the steps taken by the government to clarify the policy of ownership of disputed land, he said as per the authenticated land plan of 2003 duly certified by revenue authorities and as per a joint survey report of 2017 conducted by team of Railways, Revenue and Nagar Nigam authorities of the area, the ownership of the land vests with the Railways.

It's up to State to rehabilitate those evicted, says Vaishnaw

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid the threat of eviction looming large over 70,000 people in Haldwani in Uttarakhand, Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said in the Rajya Sabha that housing is a State subject and responsibility for providing alternative sites for rehabilitation or resettlement as well as bearing cost of the same vests with the State governments or urban local bodies.

"Section 147 of Railway Act only provides for eviction of unauthorised occupants from Railway land," he said in a written reply.

On the steps taken by the government to clarify the policy of ownership of disputed land, he said as per the authenticated land plan of 2003 duly certified by revenue authorities and as per a joint survey report of 2017 conducted by team of Railways, Revenue and Nagar Nigam authorities of the area, the ownership of the land vests with the Railways.

Justices Bindal and Kumar take oath as SC judges, fill the last two vacancies

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Justices Rajesh Bindal and Aravind Kumar took the oath of faith and allegiance to the Constitution and filled the last two vacancies in the 34-member Supreme Court Bench on Monday.

The Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, is functioning with full capacity now. Seventeen Benches heard cases listed chock-a-block on Monday.

'No tinkering'
Justice Bindal was the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court and Justice Kumar the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court at the time of their elevation to the top court.

The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended



their names for appointment to the top court on January 31.

The government had fully complied with the collegium's direction that the five should be appointed as a batch and there should be no tinkering with the seniority.

While the resolution of the collegium with regard to the appointment of Just-

ice Bindal was "unanimous", Justice Joseph was of the opinion that Justice Aravind Kumar could be considered at a later stage.

On the choice of Justice Bindal, the collegium had reasoned that he was number two in the all-India seniority of High Court judges and the senior-most judge from the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

J&K parties express varied reactions to SC verdict on J&K delimitation panel

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

J&K parties, including the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), on Monday expressed unhappiness over the Supreme Court's decision to dismiss a petition challenging the constitutionality of the J&K Delimitation Commission and its recent exercise in the Union Territory. Meanwhile, the BJP has welcomed it.

Former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said her party had already rejected the J&K Delimitation Commission and the J&K Reorganisation Act. "An SC decision on the J&K Reorganisation Act as well as Article 370 is yet to come. The commission was a tactical rigging ahead of the election to convert a majority popula-

tion into a minority in J&K," Ms. Mufti said.

The NC, which participated in the delimitation exercise, also expressed unhappiness. "The NC from day one made it clear that the entire process of delimitation in J&K was unconstitutional. It's a lie that any region or a section of society was less represented earlier," NC provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta said.

Congress leader M.Y. Tarigami termed the SC decision "another disappointment for people of J&K". "The delimitation process under the Jammu and

Kashmir Reorganisation Act is unacceptable," Mr. Tarigami said.

Congress leader Ravinder Sharma said the Congress wanted delimitation as per settled pattern and norms, where criteria like population, connectivity and administrative convenience should have been taken into consideration. "However, the exercise resulted in carving our constituencies with 1.92 lakh voters at one place and 54 lakh voters at another place. There is a huge gap in constituencies and has resulted in discrimination. We respect the decision of the SC though," Mr. Sharma said.

Meanwhile, the BJP welcomed the SC decision. "The SC has shown a mirror to all those who keep questioning the Constitution" it said.

Russian reluctance to leave Ukraine is the real problem: Plotner

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Russia's unwillingness to exit from its "neighbouring country" was responsible for prolonging of the Ukrainian crisis, Jens Plotner said. The Foreign and Security Policy Advisor to German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is on a visit to India.

Dr. Plotner on Monday met his Indian counterpart, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, and said India has an "important voice" in resolving the year-long crisis.

"We have great admiration for Indian diplomacy... This having been said, we do not have a shortage

at the moment for mediators but we have an acute shortage of Russia's willingness to stop this war and get out of its neighbouring country," Dr. Plotner said in an interaction with the media at the residence here of Germany's Ambassador to India, Philipp Ackermann.

Law Minister Rijiju scoffs at criticism over appointment of ex-SC judge as Governor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Responding to the Congress's sharp attack on the Narendra Modi government for appointing retired Supreme Court judge Justice S. Abdul Nazeer as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday said the "whole ecosystem is once again in full swing on the appointment of a Governor... India will be guided by the people as per the provisions of the Constitution

KIREN RIJU
Law Minister

six new faces appointed as Governors. The former Supreme Court judge, who retired in January, was part of the five-judge Bench that delivered the Ayodhya verdict.

He also headed a Bench that upheld the November 2016 demonetisation decision.

Attacking the government over Justice Nazeer's appointment, the Congress had called the move a "threat" to the independence of the judiciary.

"This issue is not about individuals but about principles. As a matter of fact, the person in question is a

very fine person and a good judge. But it affects the independence of the judiciary that is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution," Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi told *The Hindu*.

On Sunday, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh shared on Twitter a 2012 comment by the late Arun Jaitley in which he had said "pre-retirement judgments are influenced by the desire of a post-retirement job".

He criticised the EPFO for showing "lethargic and scornful attitude" towards the implementation of the court's directives.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Communist Party of India (Marxist) MP John Brittas has urged Union Minister for Labour and Employment Bhupender Yadav to give directions to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for an immediate follow-up to the Supreme Court's directions on enabling sections of employees and pensioners to opt for higher pension.

In a letter, the MP said the EPFO should issue a fresh circular and roll out an online facility for enabling those who were in service as on September 1, 2014 to submit the option, considering the fact that the period of four months, given by the court for the same would expire by March 4.

He criticised the EPFO for showing "lethargic and scornful attitude" towards the implementation of the court's directives.

Success of Rahul's yatra may cut both ways in forging Opposition unity

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra was a success, certainly from his vantage point. But the success of the yatra may be pushing Opposition politics to a stalemate ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

First, the success. The yatra has, as many pointed out, restyled Mr. Gandhi and restored him to the front and centre of Opposition politics. He announced the yatra at a time when everyone was confused about his plans after he decided not to return as president of the Congress.

A group within the party had raised questions about the drift in the party's leadership. Other Opposition leaders were trying to spread their wings – Trinamool Congress leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her Telangana counterpart and Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader, K. Chandrashekhar Rao, made their national ambitions clear, sensing an opportunity to displace the Congress as the axis of non-BJP politics.

Mr. Gandhi's yatra put a lid on it. It is now difficult, if not impossible, to envisage a viable Opposition to the BJP without the Congress, or Mr. Gandhi, after the yatra.

The yatra refurbished his image, and he is now

Galvanising civil society

Mr. Gandhi's yatra galvanised India's civil society organisations. Civil society organisations have had a strange relationship with the Congress for long.

The rise of Hindutva brought the state sledgehammer so hard on them



Political issue: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at the Bharat Jodo Yatra in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

and on the other, they undermined the party, as open detractors and as Trojan horses in the camp.

that many had lost all hope. Causes that they champion – from environment to human rights, indigenous rights to gender violence – were all orphaned in the recent years.

The yatra has given them a new hope. They found a new platform to congregate on, and gained a new lease of life.

All this, however, is not leading to any unified, purposeful Opposition to the BJP ahead of 2024. The Opposition is in the risk of hurtling towards a stalemate. Regional chiefs who may have an interest in confronting the BJP now know that Mr. Gandhi is at the centre stage, but they are not yet willing to accept his leadership.

In fact, political calculations at the beginning of 2022 were premised on Mr. Gandhi's continuing decline within the Congress and outside. A post-Rahul future of the Congress was being discussed. The yatra

has not merely quelled that speculation, but also become an opportunity for him to demonstrate a possessive passion for politics.

The new Rahul Gandhi

But this success is the recipe for a new stalemate. While Mr. Gandhi has perched himself as the moral authority within the party and the larger Opposition universe, he does not want to, or cannot, exercise his authority to resolve issues within the party in Rajasthan, Maharashtra or Karnataka.

The onus is on Mr. Gandhi to break this stalemate. The Rahul Gandhi you know is dead, he declared enigmatically, during the yatra. There is apparently a new Gandhi. The new Gandhi needs to stand up.

Amid protest, Rajya Sabha adjourned till March 13

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Amid continued protests and sloganeering by Opposition members on Monday over the Adani row, the first part of the Budget Session of the Rajya Sabha was adjourned till March 13.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar cautioned Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Mallikarjun Kharge for "casting aspersions on the Chair" and expunged his remarks.

Mr. Dhankhar said, "My greatest problem is that when on an issue, I give the floor, it goes on a tangent. LoP wanted to speak on an aspect of expunging of observations... And, given the status of the LoP, I permitted him to hold the floor. He held the floor and started reading out the portions

I had expunged."

Mr. Kharge rose to speak about the February 9 incident when a portion of his speech on the Adani Group was expunged. The Opposition also raised objection to the suspension of senior member Rajani Patil.

Mr. Dhankhar spoke about deliberate obstruction of proceedings. Asking the Opposition to maintain decorum and allow question hour to continue, he said, "Does the public expect us to be like this... It does not."

Leader of the House Piyush Goyal asked Opposition MPs to apologise for their behaviour during the Prime Minister's speech while replying to the Motion of Thanks. Only after that, he said, could the demand for revocation of suspension be considered.

Why can't govt. agree to joint House panel on Adani issue, asks Congress

Do you fear that a truly independent probe might implicate you personally in group's wrongdoings, asks Jairam Ramesh; Adhir writes to the Speaker over privilege notice served on Rahul Gandhi over his February 7 speech in the Lok Sabha

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday asked why the Narendra Modi government could not agree to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe the Hindenburg Research report's allegations against the Adani Group if it could agree to set up a committee before the Supreme Court.

Party's general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a tweet, also asked if the proposed committee of experts would examine the New York-based Hindenburg Research or the Adani Group.

"Today in Supreme Court, Solicitor-General



In SC, Solicitor-General said govt. has no objection to a committee to examine the Hindenburg report on Adani. Then why the stubborn refusal to JPC?

JAIRAM RAMESH

Congress general secretary

said govt. has no objection to a committee to examine the Hindenburg report on Adani. Then why the stubborn refusal to a JPC which will anyway be dominated by BJP & its allies? But will the proposed committee investigate Hindenburg or Adani," Mr. Ramesh asked.

Separately, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury wrote to Speaker Om Birla

over the privilege notice served on former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi over his February 7 Lok Sabha speech and comments made against Mr. Modi.

'Public interest'

"The issue was raised in the 'public interest' and for the service of the nation," Mr. Chowdhury said, adding that BJP leaders who make derogatory remarks

against members of the Gandhi-Nehru family were "never admonished or reprimanded".

In a related development, the Congress also posed a series of questions to Prime Minister Modi under the *Hum Adani ke Hain Kaun series*.

Mr. Ramesh alleged that as far back as 2007, the market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), while conducting an investigation into the volatility of stocks of Adani Exports (now Adani Enterprise) had found that "entities associated with notorious stock manipulator Ketan Parekh (KP) had indulged in manipulative activities such as synchronised trading/circular trading and

creation of artificial volume to influence the price in the scrip of Adani".

"Why did SEBI tolerate an even more extreme rise in Adani Group stock prices after 2020 without investigating it with the required seriousness," Mr. Ramesh asked, adding that "a close relative of Mr. Parekh may be still maintaining links with the Adani group."

He further added that both the Congress and the BJP governments, in the past, had formed JPCs to probe stock manipulation.

"What are you afraid of? Do you fear that a truly independent investigation might implicate you personally in the Adani Group's wrongdoings," Mr. Ramesh asked.

Governor to continue as Chancellor of W.B. varsities

The Hindu Bureau

KOLKATA

With the tussle between the Raj Bhavan and the State Secretariat a thing of the past, West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose will continue to function as the Chancellor of State universities.

Last year, five Bills were passed in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly replacing the Governor with Chief Minister as the Chancellor of State Universities. The Bills are awaiting the approval of the Raj Bhavan and it seems that the State government does not want to push for it.

"As far as the amendment replacing the Governor with Chief Minister as Chancellor is concerned, it was decided to continue with the present system," a press statement from the Raj Bhavan said.

A change in the attitude of the West Bengal government was evident ever since Mr. Bose took over office in November 2022. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who had described the Governor as a "gentleman", had said that issues such as who would be Chancellor of the State universities would be sorted out through discussion.

The Statement said that for the past two months, the Governor had been focusing on "upholding the Constitution of India, ensuring the rule of law and promoting the welfare of the people of Bengal".



Boosting ties: Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra with Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Monday. PTI

Foreign Secretary Kwatra meets Nepal PM in Kathmandu

Kalol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra on Monday met Nepal's new Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' in Kathmandu.

The meeting marked the first high-level interaction between India and Nepal since the new Left-dominated government took charge on December 26, 2022.

The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu described Monday's discussion as "productive" that covered "various sectors, including economic and development cooperation". Mr. Kwatra also met Nepal's President Bidhya Devi Bhandari at her official residence.

He was received at the Tribhuvan International Airport by India's Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava and proceeded to meet Nepal's Minister of Foreign Affairs Bimala Rai Paudyal. While the Indian side has maintained silence about the agenda of this "stand

Cong. releases 'chargesheet' against govt. in Meghalaya

The Hindu Bureau

TURA

The Congress released a "chargesheet" on Monday against the National People's Party-led coalition government in poll-bound Meghalaya for corruption that is "unprecedented in scale and shamelessness".

The BJP is a minor constituent of the government.

The "grand Meghalaya loot", as the Congress called the chargesheet, could not have taken place without the "knowledge and blessings" of Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma.

The chargesheet listing 10 cases of scams and financial irregularities was released in Shillong on Monday by Congress leaders Pawan Khera, Mathew Antony and Bobbeeta Sharma. The collapse of the dome of the new Meghalaya Assembly building being constructed at Mawdiangdiang on the outskirts of Shillong topped the chargesheet as a "case of ransom". The dome collapsed on May 22, 2022.

The chargesheet said the contract for the building, estimated at ₹105.59 crore over a completion period of 36 months, was awarded to the Lucknow-based Uttar Pradesh Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd. for ₹127.76 crore. But the U.P. company subcontracted the project to two firms that were disqualified during the bidding process and the project cost escalated to ₹177.78 crore.

Top Congress leaders remain absent from campaign in Tripura

Syed Sajjad Ali

AGARTALA

Tripura Congress leaders have not received confirmation of a visit by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday at the time of going to press. Tuesday is the last day of campaigning for the Assembly election to be held on February 16.

Party leader Sudip Roy Barman had said that Mr. Kharge would be in Agartala on Tuesday in response to a query on why the party's top leaders were skipping the campaign.

The Tripura unit of the party reportedly approached the Gandhi family, Mr. Kharge, Chief Ministers, senior leaders of the northeastern States, and

crowd pullers like Kanhaiya Kumar, but none of them came.

The Congress's Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, MP from West Bengal Deepa Dasmuni, and State in-charge Ajoy Kumar attended a few rallies. The party's election observers for Tripura – Assam MP Abdul Khaleque, leader Arvinder Singh Lovely and Rajya Sabha MP Mukul Wasnik, who were tasked with supervising elections in three States in the northeast – spent only a day in Tripura.

The party is visibly lagging behind the star-studded BJP campaign. State leaders are working closely with the CPI(M), which has a strong organisation, to take on the ruling BJP.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: 8/3/22-23/SEPHC/PKG JAL JEEVAN MISSION - 2020-21 - WSS to Puduserry panchayat Construction, Commissioning and maintenance of 5 MLD WTP, 2 LL OHSS at WTP compound, 3 LL OHSS at Welaya, Raw water Booster station near KINFRRA, supplying, laying, testing, commissioning and maintenance of Raw Water Pumping Main, Clear Water Pumping Mains to OHSSs including laying along NH 544 by HDD method, distribution systems with providing FHTCs 3750 Nos including surveying and distribution network design, Supply and erection of RW Booster pump and CW Pump sets including Railway line crossing by HDD method, EMD: Rs. 500000, Tender fee : Rs. 16540, Last Date for submitting Tender : 07-03-2023 03:00 pm, Phone: 0491254927, Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.tenders.kerala.gov.in, Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Palakkad

RASHTRIYA ISPAT NIGAM LIMITED (A Government of India Enterprise)

VISAKHAPATNAM STEEL PLANT WORKS CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT REGISTRATION OF CONTRACTORS

REF. NO. VSP/WC/REGN-P/2022-23, Dt: 14-02-2023

1. Fresh applications are invited online for Registration of Contractors for various works in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

2. Registered Agencies having validity upto to 31/08/2023 need to apply for renewal of Regiration, online.

3. Last date for submission of "ONLINE" application:on or before 06th March, 2023.

The applications will be processed on First-cum-first serve basis.

4. Print out of the filled in online application, duly signed, with all supporting documents along with DD/BC for Rs 1,100/- in favour of RINL, Payable at Visakhapatnam towards Registration application cost & processing fee, shall be submitted in a file to "The Office of CGM(Works Contracts)-Ic, 2nd Floor, Works Contracts Department", on or before 13th March, 2023.

5. Contact:Shri VGC Jayaram,DGM & Convener-CRC, Works Contracts, Chief General Manager(WC)

For online Application form, other details & corrigendum please visit regularly www.vizagsteel.com / Contracts / Common Contractors Registration

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Limited (KUIDFC) (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Nagarabhaviyuddhi Bhavan, No.22, 17th F Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru - 560 038,

Phone: 080-25196124-129 e-Mail: info@kuidfc.com Website: www.kuidfc.com

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED TOWNSHIPS IN KARNATAKA ON PPP MODE

Government of Karnataka intends to develop Integrated Townships on PPP Mode at 6 or more locations in Karnataka across the districts like Mysuru, Haveri, Chikkaballapura, Chitradurga, Kolar and Ramanagara. Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Limited (KUIDFC) is the nodal agency for the proposed Project and it hereby invites "Expression of Interest" (EOI) from well-established organizations for "Development of Integrated Townships in Karnataka" on PPP Model.

Important dates: EOI documents can be downloaded from e-procurement portal of GoK (<https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>) from 13.02.2023 onwards. Pre-application conference:

04.03.2023, 11.30 hrs. Last date for submission of EOI: 14.03.2023, 17.30 hrs. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours. Any further changes pertaining to the EOI will be uploaded in e-procurement platform only. Contact: General Manager (Town Planning Cell), PH: 080-25196124-Ext:214 email: info@kuidfc.com

Sd/- General Manager (Urban Affairs), KUIDFC

KERALA INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR EDUCATION General Education Department, Government of Kerala

QUOTATION

Expression of Interest / Quotation are invited from competent and experienced firm for entering to Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) for maintaining RF Equipments installed at KITE VICTERS Studio, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

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IN BRIEF



PM to open TRIFED's Aadi Mahotsav in Delhi on Feb. 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate TRIFED's Aadi Mahotsav festival on Thursday at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said on Monday. The Aadi Mahotsav is TRIFED's (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd.) flagship event which will feature the exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, handloom, paintings, jewellery, cane and bamboo, pottery, food, natural products, and tribal cuisine among many artefacts at over 200 stalls inside the stadium. Mr. Munda added that more than 1,000 tribal artisans and artists from 28 States and UTs will take part in the festival.

Tharoor for a comprehensive law to protect health workers

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday said close to 75% of doctors in the country had faced physical abuse of some kind, and demanded comprehensive legislation to check violence against healthcare professionals. Speaking in the Lok Sabha, the Kerala MP said the government had introduced a Bill to protect doctors facing physical harm from the kin of patients, but it was withdrawn later. Mr. Tharoor said the existing laws to deal with such incidents were weak and demanded a stringent law to prevent such incidents.

Dalit boy drinks water from principal's bottle, thrashed

A Class 11 Dalit student was allegedly beaten up by a school principal and two others for drinking water from the principal's bottle, in Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh. According to a complaint filed at the Afzalgarh police station, the 16-year-old student of Chamandevi Inter College alleged that when he was drinking water from a bottle kept at the school during a farewell party on Sunday, the principal and his brother thrashed and hurled abuses at him, saying that it was for the principal's use only. The police have lodged a complaint against the principal, Yogendra Kumar, and two others under the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act and other Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

12 South African cheetahs to land in India on Saturday

After months of delay, a dozen wild cheetahs from South Africa will finally arrive on Saturday in the Kuno National Park (KNP) of Madhya Pradesh, where eight such felines were brought from Namibia last year, a wildlife expert associated with India's cheetah revival project said on Monday. These big cats – seven males and five females – will embark on journey to their new home aboard an Indian Air Force (IAF) transport aircraft from the OR Tambo International Airport, Gauteng, South Africa on Friday evening, the project participant and expert said. KNP Director Uttam Sharma said they have set up 10 quarantine bomas (enclosures) for the cheetahs. PTI

Copyright row: *Kantara* team reiterates previous stance

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Rishab Shetty and Vijay Kirgandur, director and producer of Kannada blockbuster *Kantara*, appeared before the investigating officer at the Kozhikode town police station on Monday as part of an ongoing probe in a case filed by the Kerala band Thaikkudam Bridge accusing the two of copying their music and using it for the 'Varahoopam' song.

Mr. Shetty and Mr. Kirgandur stood by their previous argument that no portion of the song was copied and the one used in *Kantara* was their original composition. They also claimed that the ongoing police investigation into the allegations was quite natural and part of the normal legal procedures.

The two appeared before the investigating officer on Sunday and Monday following an order by the Kerala High Court that had laid out specific conditions while granting them anticipatory bail.

Dalit student's death at IIT-B highlights institutional failure to create safe spaces: APPSC

18-year-old was driven to end his life in part due to institute's inability to address the discrimination faced by students from marginalised backgrounds on campus, say members of student group

Abhinav Lakshman
Abhinav Deshpande
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

A day after an 18-year-old Dalit student at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, died by suicide, a student body has said he was driven to end his life in part due to institutional failure to address the bias faced by students from marginalised backgrounds on campus.

"We do not know what pushed him to this end: caste discrimination or unendurable stress. What we know for sure is this is an institutional issue... We must understand that this is not a personal/individualised issue, but an institutional murder," the Ambedkar Periyar Phule Study Circle (APPSC) said.

IIT-Bombay is being investigated by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes over complaints sent by the APPSC on the lack of student counsellors to deal with caste-based mental health issues.

'Lack of mentors'
IIT-Bombay has now started introducing mechanisms like SC/ST student mentorship programmes, but students say the institute has not been moving quickly on the initiative.



Students hold a vigil at IIT-B on Sunday night. TWITTER/@APPSCIITB

Chemical Engineering Department, where the deceased was studying, does not have any SC/ST student mentors," Pranav Jeevan, a student and member of the APPSC, told *The Hindu*.

He said the institute had agreed to hold a condolence meeting on Monday evening only after the students had held a candlelight vigil on campus on Sunday. At the condolence meeting, when students tried to raise the issue of

lack of support for Dalit, Bahujan and Adivasi students facing bias on campus, "the administration said the matter may be taken up some time next week", Mr. Jeevan said.

The Powai police have filed a case of accidental death and have sent the student's mobile phone and laptop for forensic analysis. The police said the parents have not yet levelled any allegations of caste discrimination against the institute.

Meanwhile, Subhasis Chaudhuri, IIT-B director, in an email to students on Sunday evening, said the institute "deeply mourns" the student's death.

Those who require assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts may contact the Tata Institute of Social Sciences helpline: 022 25521111 (8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Monday to Saturday).

Reply to plea on Deputy Speaker post, SC tells govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Union government to respond to a plea that no elections have been held to the posts of Deputy Speakers in Parliament and five State Legislative Assemblies.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud issued notice to the Centre and requested the Attorney-General of India R. Venkataramani to be present in court when the case comes up for hearing.

The five legislative Assemblies concerned are Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand. "We will first hear what the Attorney General has to say before issuing notices to the States," the Chief Justice said. The petition said Articles 93 and 178 mandated the House of the People in Parliament and State Assemblies respectively to "choose" two of their members to the office of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

₹86,912 cr. released as GST compensation to all States up to May 31, 2022: FM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that a total of ₹86,912 crore had been released towards Goods and Services Tax compensation payable to all States up to May 31, 2022, but it had been delayed for some States due to the non-availability of the Accountant-General's authenticated certificate.

Ms. Sitharaman was replying to a question by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader A. Raja during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha over whether it was possible to release the GST compensation amount "in anticipation" of the A-G's report as some States were facing financial distress.

The Finance Minister replied that as per law, it was the GST Council that decided to whom the compensation was released, and not the Union government. She said that if there was any delay in securing the A-G's authentication, it was a



Clear the air: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressing the Lok Sabha on Monday. ANI

matter between the A-G and the State government concerned, and they had to sort it out. "If between them there is a problem, the authentication certificate gets delayed in reaching the Central government," the Finance Minister said.

Replying to a supplementary question by Kerala MP N.K. Premachandran, the Finance Minister pointed out that Kerala had not sent the A-G's certificate for GST compensation for 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. "You have not sent [the AG certifi-

cate] even for one year and you keep blaming us that we are not giving you money on time. On the contrary, in the matter of tax devolution, as per the Finance Commission's report, two installments instead of one have gone to all States. Kerala has also benefited from that," Ms. Sitharaman said. "The State governments have to, pardon me using the word, be efficient to sort out things with the A-G. But without A-G certificate, beyond certain limits, it is very difficult for me to go," she said.

"The problem lies when you have some Chief Justices who are technologically friendly and others who think the other way... I am going to ensure that everybody is online... This infrastructure for virtual courts is provided using public funds. I think all the

CJI wants HC to ensure use of virtual court technology, says it is here to stay forever

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Virtual court technology is here to stay "now and forever" and the Chief Justices of High Courts, who have shut down online court hearings post-pandemic, are duty-bound to "fall in line and come on board", Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said on Monday.

The Chief Justice said he was "really disturbed" by the attitude of certain High Court Chief Justices who were disbanding technological infrastructure created by using public money. He said they could not just switch off the cameras and microphones and insist on the physical presence of lawyers and litigants.

"The problem lies when you have some Chief Justices who are technologically friendly and others who think the other way... I am going to ensure that everybody is online... This infrastructure for virtual courts is provided using public funds. I think all the



Chief Justices of High Courts need to learn that they have to be on board and there are no exceptions," he said.

The top judge's comments were in response to submissions by some lawyers that certain High Courts just switch off their cameras and microphones during hearings, ignoring the infrastructure made available to them.

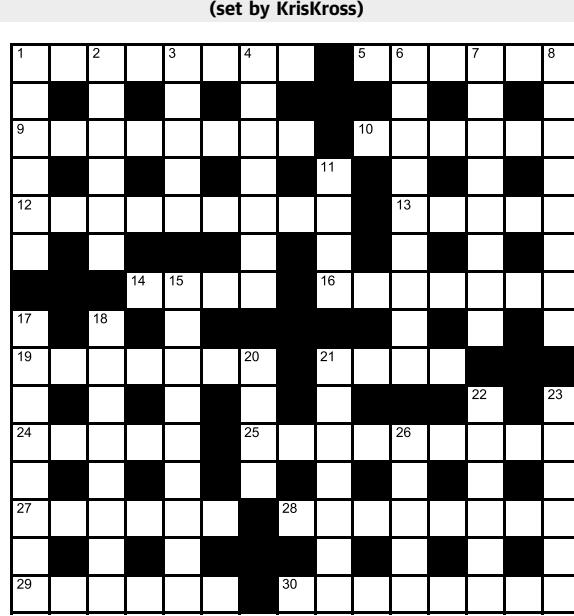
'Deeply distressed'
"I am deeply distressed by this attitude... All the money which we have spent, they are just disbanding the infrastructure we have created for virtual hear-

ing..." Chief Justice Chandrachud, who heads the Supreme Court e-committee, lashed out.

He referred to how some judges were of the view that if they could come physically to court, lawyers could very well come too. "You have to understand that the conditions in which judges come to work are very different from that the Bar has to work in," the CJI said. The Chief Justice referred to how the Union Budget has made available ₹7,000 crore for the e-courts project after a Parliamentary Committee gave a strong report in favour of more funds for the judiciary.

"The funds are not for us personally, we are going to use it for reaching out to people, to close the Internet divide at the grassroots level... Chief Justices need to take this mission forward... This is not how you deal with public money. If money has been spent, you [Chief Justices] have to ensure that infrastructure is available," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13788 (set by KrisKross)



Across

- 1 Supporting married partner in a traditional manner (8)
- 5 Helps to catch very old ducks (6)
- 9 Magician's finale, with pigeons flying all around, entrances (8)
- 10 Machine design by engineer having no substance (6)
- 12 Principal and others welcoming the French folks (9)
- 13 Unacceptable, however you look at it (3,2)

CMYK

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



SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

JERUSALEM

Thousands march in Israel against Netanyahu govt's judicial overhaul



Thousands of Israelis protested outside Parliament on Monday ahead of a preliminary vote on a Bill that would give politicians greater power over appointing judges. The committee vote marked the opening salvo by Benjamin Netanyahu and his allies in a plan that has divided the country. AP

ISLAMABAD

Veteran Pakistani actor Zia Mohyeddin passes away in Karachi



Zia Mohyeddin, legendary thespian, director, TV host and the first Pakistani ever to work in Hollywood, passed away on Monday after a brief illness. He was 91. The veteran actor was admitted to a hospital in Karachi after complaining of abdominal pain and fever. He was later shifted to life support after a surgical procedure. PTI

MOSCOW

U.S. asks citizens in Russia to leave; says they face risk of harassment



The U.S. told its citizens to leave Russia immediately due to the war in Ukraine and the risk of arbitrary arrest or harassment by law enforcement agencies. "U.S. citizens residing or travelling in Russia should depart immediately," the embassy in Moscow said. "Exercise increased caution due to the risk of wrongful detentions." REUTERS

BEIJING

China's Wang Yi to attend Munich Security Conference, visit Russia



China's top diplomat Wang Yi will attend the Munich Security Conference this month and plans to visit Russia, the Foreign Ministry said on Monday. Mr. Wang, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, will also visit France, Italy and Hungary. REUTERS

U.S. sent over 10 balloons into our airspace: China

Beijing said its handling of the 'incursions' were 'responsible and professional'; the U.S. denied the accusation as 'false' and said it was the latest example of China scrambling to do damage control

Agence France-Presse

BEIJING

China on Monday accused the U.S. of flying balloons over its territory, hitting back against Washington's claims that Beijing has been operating a fleet of surveillance aircraft around the world.

Washington strenuously denied Beijing's charges as "false" and insisted it was China alone that has surreptitiously flown spy balloons, as tensions ramped up between the two superpowers.

The downing of an alleged Chinese airship off the coast of South Carolina earlier this month prompted a resolution in the U.S. Congress condemning Beijing, while subsequent downings of other unidentified objects over North America in recent days have sparked widespread jitters and speculation as to their origins.

Only the first object has



Tension simmering: The FBI released a photo of high-altitude Chinese balloon off the coast of South Carolina on Feb. 9. REUTERS

been officially attributed to China, with Beijing insisting it was a civilian craft that had blown off course.

On Monday, China sought to turn the tables on Washington, accusing it of having sent more than 10 balloons into Chinese airspace since January 2022. "It's not uncommon as well for the U.S. to illegally enter the airspace of other countries," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said during a briefing.

"Handling (of these incidents) was responsible and professional."

False claims

"If you want to know more about U.S. high-altitude balloons illegally entering China's airspace, I suggest

you refer to the U.S. side," he added.

The White House knocked back the allegation. "Any claim that the U.S. government operates surveillance balloons over the PRC is false," National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said on Twitter. "It is China that has a high-altitude surveillance balloon program for intelligence collection, that it has used to violate the sovereignty of the US and over 40 countries across 5 continents."

The State Department responded with a similar rejection. It called Beijing's accusation "the latest example of China scrambling to do damage control," and said the government "has failed to offer any credible explanations for its intrusion into our airspace."

Over the weekend, Chinese state-affiliated media reported that an unidentified flying object had been spotted off the country's east coast.

Truck drives into walkers in New York, injures many

Reuters

NEW YORK

The New York police took a driver into custody on Monday after he drove a truck into at least one pedestrian while attempting to evade officers during a traffic stop in the city's Brooklyn borough, the New York City Police Department said.

WABC-TV reported that at least four people were injured, citing law enforcement sources, including a man in his 30s who was taken to the hospital in critical condition after being struck by the U-Haul rental vehicle.

The driver also struck three men on mopeds who suffered minor injuries. The police said the suspect drove through three precincts.

Russia pushes advance on Bakhmut, bolsters defences

Associated Press

KYIV



damaged seven houses and a kindergarten.

"The shelling intensifies, and the Russians accumulate more forces for an attack on peaceful cities," Donetsk Governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

"We're seeing a very tough battle in which the Russians aren't sparing neither themselves, nor us."

In the neighbouring Luhansk region, Russian forces are bolstering defensive fortifications on the edge of the battlefield in southern Ukraine to protect their flank, despite their focus on the Donbas region.

steam," Luhansk Governor Serhii Haidai told Ukrainian television.

In the southern region of Kherson, artillery fire hit more than 20 cities and villages over the past 24 hours including the regional capital of the same name which was recaptured by Ukrainian forces in November. Two men were killed in one of the villages when their car ran over a landmine.

In the neighbouring Dnipropetrovsk region, Russian shelling of the city of Nikopol killed one person and wounded two others.

Meanwhile, the U.K. Defense Ministry said Russian forces are bolstering defensive fortifications on the edge of the battlefield in southern Ukraine to protect their flank, despite their focus on the Donbas region.

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BISWA BANGLA MELA PRANGAN

Kolkata, West Bengal

15th-17th February, 2023



Broke and ruined: A Syrian woman sitting with her grandchildren at her partially damaged house in Aleppo on Monday. REUTERS

Turkey, Syria quake toll crosses 35,000

Agence France-Presse

KAHRAMANMARAŞ

The toll from last week's earthquake in Turkey and Syria rose above 35,000 on Monday, as rescue teams started to wind down the search for survivors and the aid effort shifted to hundreds of thousands of people made homeless.

Eight days after the 7.8-magnitude tremor, Turkish media reported a handful of people were still being

pulled from the rubble.

The confirmed death toll rose to 35,224 as officials and medics said 31,643 people had died in Turkey and 3,581 in Syria after the February 6 earthquake. The UN has decried the failure to ship desperately needed aid to war-torn regions of Syria and warned that the toll is set to rise even higher as experts caution that hopes for finding people alive dim with each passing day.

Agence France-Presse

LISBON

Catholic clergy in Portugal have abused nearly 5,000 children since 1950, an independent commission said on Monday after hearing hundreds of victims' accounts. The Portuguese inquiry, commissioned by the Church in the staunchly Catholic country, published its findings after hearing from more than 500 victims last year.

"This testimony allows us to establish a much larger network of victims, at least 4,815," commission head Pedro Strecht said in Lisbon.

Mr. Strecht, a child psychiatrist, said it would be difficult now for Portugal to ignore the existence of child sex abuse or the trauma it caused.

The head of the Portuguese Episcopal Conference (CEP), Bishop Jose Ornelas, will respond to the findings later on Monday.

The country's bishops will convene in March to draw conclusions from the report and "rid the Church of this scourge as much as possible", Father Manuel Barbosa, a senior CEP member, said in January.

Faced with a multitude of clergy sex abuse cases that have come to light worldwide and the accusations of cover-ups, Pope Francis promised in 2019 to root out paedophilia within the Catholic Church. Inquiries have been launched in several countries in addition to Portugal, including Australia, France, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands.

Saudi Arabia to send its first woman to space

Agence France-Presse

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia will send its first-ever woman astronaut on a space mission later this year, state media has reported, in the move to revamp the kingdom's ultra-conservative image. Rayana Barnawi will join fellow Saudi male astronaut Ali Al-Qarni on a mis-



Rayana Barnawi

sion to the International Space Station "during the second quarter of 2023", the official *Saudi Press*

Agency said on Sunday.

The astronauts "will join the crew of the AX-2 space mission" and the space flight will "launch from the USA", it said. The oil-rich country will be following in the footsteps of the neighbouring United Arab Emirates which in 2019 became the first Arab nation to send one of its citizens into space.

At the time, astronaut

Hazzaa al-Mansoori spent eight days on the ISS. Another fellow Emirati, Sultan al-Neyadi, will also make a voyage this month. Nicknamed the "Sultan of Space", Mr. Neyadi will become the first Arab astronaut to spend six months in space when he blasts off for the ISS aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

IN BRIEF



Drone start-up Garuda Aerospace raises \$22 million

Drone maker Garuda Aerospace said it had raised \$22 million out of a targeted fund raise of \$30 million, in Series A funding to fuel growth. The round was led by venture capital firm SphitiCap which invested \$12 million. The funds will be used to scale up and expand operations, Founder and CEO Agnishwar Jayaprakash said. A part of the funds would be used for R&D, accelerating the development of building smart-drones with AI and ML technologies for the armed forces.

Kennametal Q2 net slides 28% to ₹21.9 cr, revenue rises 15%

Kennametal India said standalone net profit for the quarter ended December slid 28% to ₹21.9 crore from the year-earlier period. Revenue from operations grew 15% to ₹274.8 crore on account of a recovery in the automotive and core infrastructure sectors. The company also announced the inauguration of its metal cutting inserts unit. "This will augment our capabilities in meeting the needs of high-growth segments in India," said Vijaykrishnan Venkatesan, MD.

NCLT admits Zee Learn for resolution on Yes Bank plea

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has directed the initiation of insolvency proceedings against Zee Learn, following a petition filed by private sector lender Yes Bank Ltd. The bank had claimed a default of ₹468.99 crore by the Essel Group company. "It clearly shows that the corporate debtor (Zee Learn) is in default of a debt due and payable, and the default is in excess of the minimum amount stipulated under section 4(1) of the IBC," the tribunal said. PTI

PV dispatches rose 17% in Jan. on robust demand

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Passenger vehicle (PV) wholesales rose 17% in January to 2,98,093 units driven by a robust oftake of utility vehicles, including the fast-growing sports utility vehicles, SIAM said.

Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Vinod Agarwal noted better consumer sentiment was driving PV demand.

Total two-wheeler wholesales in January rose 4% to 11,84,379 units.

Renault-Nissan eyes Oragadam production at 80% of capacity

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt. Ltd. (RNAIPL) plans to ramp up production capacity of its Oragadam plant near Chennai to 80% over a period of time, said Ashwani Gupta, representative executive officer & COO, Nissan Motor Co.

"Currently, the plant is operating at 47% and we are looking at scaling it up to 80%. We started this alliance 15 years ago. Today, it is like rewriting a new chapter," Mr. Gupta said.

Mr. Gupta was here to announce a fresh investment of ₹5,300 crore in the country for higher capacity utilisation, introduction of six new products including two EVs, creation of new jobs, and upgradation of the Oragadam plant.

The first product will be rolled out by 2025. RNAIPL would also be developing a left-hand driven Magnite for the export market. "We believe electric cars will be competitive only if we are able to manage the vertical integration of the full supply chain," Mr. Gupta said.

"Therefore, we plan to kick-start the next phase of expansion of the multi-pur-

Chemplast Sanmar plans ₹680-cr. capex to expand Berigai facility

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd. has lined up a capex of ₹680 crore for the next phase of expansion of its custom manufacturing facility near Hosur.

"We recently received confirmation from one of our customers that we have been selected to supply an advanced intermediate for an already established generic active ingredient," said MD Ramkumar Shankar.

Revenue from operations rose to ₹630 crore from ₹517 crore.

Power and fuel cost expanded by ₹37 crore mainly due to an increase in coal, natural gas and superior kerosene prices.



installed capacity at Berigai near Hosur.

Phase 1 is slated to be completed by Q2 of FY24.

Chemplast Sanmar, meanwhile, reported a 60% decline in standalone net profit for the quarter ended December to ₹57 crore due to a fall in prices of finished goods, coupled with an increase in energy costs.

Revenue from operations rose to ₹630 crore from ₹517 crore.

Power and fuel cost expanded by ₹37 crore mainly due to an increase in coal, natural gas and superior kerosene prices.

Gold ETFs saw ₹199-crore outflow in January

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Gold exchange traded funds (ETFs) witnessed a net outflow of ₹199 crore in January, making it the third monthly withdrawal in a row, with investors preferring equities over other segments on buoyant record SIP flow.

Stocks of Adani group firms had lost billions of dollars in market value after short-seller Hindenburg Research in a report dated January 24 made a litany of allegations, including fraudulent transactions and share price manipulation at the group.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,432	-0.41
US Dollar	82.70	-0.20
Gold	56,982	0.40
Brent oil	85.67	-

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	1717.30	-129.30
Adani Ports	553.70	-30.25
Apollo Hosp.	4358.65	-57.60
Asian Paints	2790.75	-13.85
Axis Bank	859.10	-8.15
Bajaj Auto	3883.50	51.85
Bajaj FinServ	1388.55	-13.20
Bharti Airtel	768.60	-3.35
BPCL	334.90	0.90
Britannia Ind.	4588.00	-34.70
Cipla	1021.95	-11.25
Coal India	213.05	1.55
Divis Lab.	2773.20	-38.05
Dr Reddy's Lab.	4524.70	-25.10
Eicher Motors	3252.65	-40.30
Gasim Ind.	1622.30	-13.00
HCL Tech	1113.00	-2.65
HFDC	2699.85	11.15
HDFC Bank	1658.35	1.25
HDFC Life	514.50	-8.05
Hero MotoCorp	2561.55	-21.75
Hindalco	427.70	-5.45
Hindustan Unilever	2581.00	3.50
ICICI Bank	850.65	-3.20
IndusInd Bank	1157.35	-3.85
Infosys	1567.45	-41.10
ITC	374.20	2.85
JSW Steel	718.05	-0.90
Kotak Bank	1773.80	1.75
L&T	2203.30	39.45
M&M	1353.00	-12.45
Maruti Suzuki	8809.45	-1.90
NestleIndia	19026.80	2.95
NTPC	167.85	2.85
ONGC	148.15	1.45
PowerGrid Corp	216.00	1.90
Reliance Ind.	2323.35	-13.30
SBI Life	1179.10	-5.40
State Bank.	537.50	-15.55
Sun Pharma	1015.25	8.65
Tata Consumer Product	717.80	-8.80
Tata Motors	441.05	-4.80
Tata Steel	108.75	-0.05
TCS	3482.40	-55.15
Tech Mahindra	1002.50	-14.85
Titan	2519.05	50.55
UltraTech Cement	7179.25	-26.80
UPL	733.80	6.90
Wipro	400.60	-5.20

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.52	82.84
Euro	88.14	88.48
British Pound	99.34	99.73
Japanese Yen (100)	62.25	62.50
Chinese Yuan	12.09	12.14
Swiss Franc	89.39	89.75
Singapore Dollar	61.92	62.17
Canadian Dollar	61.74	61.99
Malaysian Ringgit	18.91	19.00
Australian Dollar	57.11	57.38

Source: Indian Bank



Boeing mulls \$24-mn India logistics centre

Reuters

BENGALURU

Boeing Co. plans to invest about \$24 million in India to set up a logistics centre for airplane parts, Salil Gupte, president of the local unit told Reuters on Monday, boosting its footprint in the country amid a large plane order.

India's former state-run carrier Air India, which is now owned by the Tata Group, is expected to announce a major deal this week for almost 500 jets, worth more than \$100 billion at list prices, split between Boeing and Airbus, Reuters has reported.

Boeing's share includes 220 planes split as 190 737 MAX narrowbody jets, 20 787 widebodies, and 10 777Xs. Mr. Gupte said India was the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world and would soon be number three internationally.

Nagal and Mukund make main draw; Digvijay falls short

CHENNAI OPEN



Nagal. R. RAGHU

India's Sumit Nagal and Mukund Sasikumar produced contrasting wins in their respective final-round qualifying matches to reach the main draw of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger 100 tournament.

The duo will join Ramkumar Ramanathan and Prajesh Gunnaneswaran, who had received wild cards, in the main draw. Nagal produced a clinical display to breeze past Ji Sung Nam 6-1, 6-3, while Mukund came back from a set behind to upset Jason Jung, the top seed in qual-

ified his nerve, saving six break points through the course of the set to stay ahead. The 25-year-old Indian sealed the match by breaking again with a forehand smash in the ninth game.

The third Indian in the final qualifying round, Digvijay Pratap Singh, went down fighting 2-6, 6-7 to James McCabe.

In the main draw, top seed Chun-Hsin Tseng survived a tough battle against Nino Serdarusic before prevailing 6-4, 7-6.

Important results: First round: Seong Chan Hong bt Sebastian Ofner 6-4, 6-3; Yasutaka Uchiyama bt Marc Polmans 6-4, 7-6; Nicolas Moreno de Alboran bt Frederico Ferreira Silva 6-3, 6-2; Arthur Cazaubon bt Hoang Nam Ly 6-3, 6-2.

Russia's Kachmazov and Ukraine's Orlov battle it out on a tennis court under palpable tension

S. Dipak Ragav

CHENNAI

On a typically sweltering day in Chennai, there was an intense battle on the outside courts of the SDAT Tennis Stadium during the Chennai Open ATP Challenger 100 event on Monday. It was not just another qualifying round match considering the protagonists' nationalities.

In a closely fought contest, Russian Alibek Kachmazov prevailed over Ukraine's Vladislav Orlov in straight sets 6-4, 7-6(4) to reach the main draw. Though not many words were exchanged, the tension was palpable considering the current geo-political climate following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Raine last year. To illustrate, the two players did not even have the customary post-match handshake at the nets. Despite the loss, being on the tennis court itself is a big deal for the Ukrainian player.

Hailing from Kharkiv, a city close to the Russian border, Orlov's house was damaged in the strikes last year. The 27-year-old said he was lucky to have left the country just a week before the war. Since then, he has managed to find a base in Germany and travel worldwide to play tennis.

When asked if he felt any extra pressure to do well, considering his opponent was Russian, Orlov played it down saying he focused on the ball more than the player. But prod him further on the conditions back home, and if he could see a Russian player as distinct from his government, Orlov did not hold back.

"I don't care. If it were up to me, of course, I would then ban these guys."

"I don't have a house now, why? I'm playing against a guy sponsored by some companies supporting the war. I don't know,

that's not fair for me, but I cannot influence this. So, my job is to go and play," said Orlov.

"I think all the Russian and Belarusian players should be banned until their countries stop invading other countries. In the 21st century, you cannot kill people or destroy houses and kindergartens," he added.

On the challenges of playing tennis with his country in turmoil, Orlov said, "tennis helps me take my mind away from it. It has motivated me."

"The army is fighting in tough conditions. So I must do the same here, whether it is hot or humid and win. It did not happen today, but I will try next week."

Sport



QUICK OFF THE BLOCKS

RCB breaks the bank for the first name on the list!



Royal Challengers Bangalore went all out to rope in Smriti Mandhana, who was the first name in the auction, for ₹3.4 crore. Two of the country's most loved players (Smriti and Kohli) who wear No. 18 on their jerseys play for the RCB – a development the team was quick to share with its fans.

BALANCED MIX

Mumbai Indians builds squad almost from bottom to top



Mumbai Indians now has both the men's and women's national team captains playing for their club franchises. MI built its squad almost from bottom to top, after losing out on Smriti Mandhana early on in the auction. The side has a formidable middle order and is all-rounder heavy.

DOMESTIC INSPIRATION

Gujarat franchise focuses on the Railways Giants



With Mithali Raj and Nooshin Al Khadeer in the think tank at the auction, Gujarat Giants drew inspiration and players from the most successful domestic women's side in India – the Railways. It signed the Railway players Sneha Rana, D. Hemalatha, S. Meghana and Sushma Verma.

THE LONG GAME

Delhi Capitals gets a unique blend of match-winners



Delhi Capitals channelled all their experience into playing the waiting game, springing to life when the specialist sets came on. The team has managed a unique blend of match-winners in its ranks with the likes of Meg Lanning, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, and Titas Sadhu.

METICULOUS APPROACH

UP Warriorz puts together formidable unit on paper



UP Warriorz had its day planned from start to finish, meticulously stacking players for its squad through the sets. Warriorz have struck a fine balance between homegrown and overseas talents, making them a formidable unit on paper.

Smriti shines brightest on a watershed day for the women cricketers

The Indian goes for a whopping ₹3.4 crore to Royal Challengers Bangalore; Australia's Gardner and England's Sciver-Brunt the big winners among the foreign players; India's Under-19 World Cup champions, too, among 87 players who make the cut for next month's inaugural edition



P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

Up went the paddle from a smiling Nita Ambani's right hand.

The player under the hammer was Smriti Mandhana. The price was ₹50 lakh. The auction for the inaugural Women's Premier League was underway at the Jio World Convention Centre here on a hot Monday afternoon.

Delhi Capitals made a bid for Smriti at ₹55 lakh. But it soon became an intense battle between Ms. Ambani's Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore. It ended with RCB winning Smriti for a whopping ₹3.4 crore.

When you consider the purse available to a franchise, that amount looks even bigger. What the RCB paid for ensuring those elegant drives on the off-side of Smriti was more than a quarter of the ₹12 core price.

The stylish left-handed Indian opener thus ensured that the WPL's maiden auction got off to a right start – brisk, frenzied. Her high price wasn't much of a surprise – she is the poster girl of Indian women's cricket, has a big following and is very much marketable.

Australia's Ashleigh Gardner getting richer by ₹3.2 crore may have surprised some. The all-rounder had only the other day said after taking five for 12 against New Zealand at the ongoing World Cup in South Africa that she had dreamt about the WPL auction. She has now got a dream paycheck, too, from Gujarat Giants.

England all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt was the only other player to go past the ₹3 crore mark. She was bagged by Mumbai Indians for ₹3.2 crore.

Four players went for ₹2 crore or more – all-rounder

The sizzle and the fizz

Big bucks

Smriti Mandhana (RCB) **₹3.4 crore** (base price 50 lakh)

Ashleigh Gardner (Gujarat Giants) **₹3.2 crore** (50 lakh)

Nat Sciver-Brunt (Mumbai Indians) **₹3.2 crore** (50 lakh)

Deepti Sharma (UP Warriorz) **₹2.6 crore** (50 lakh)

Jemimah Rodrigues (Delhi Capitals) **₹2.2 core** (50 lakhs)

Beth Mooney (Gujarat Giants) **₹2 crore** (40 lakhs)

Shafali Verma (Delhi Capitals) **₹2 crore** (50 lakhs)

India's crorepati club

Smriti Mandhana **₹3.4 crore**

Deepti Sharma **₹2.6 crore**

Jemimah Rodrigues **₹2.2 core**

Shafali Verma **₹2 crore**

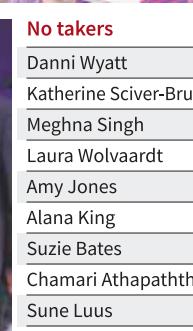
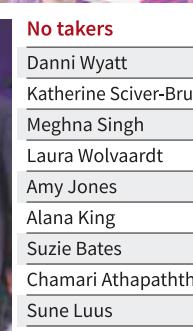
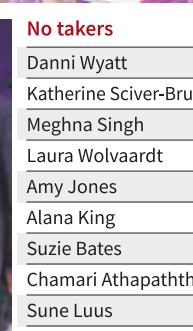
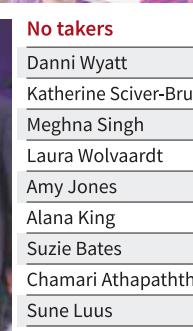
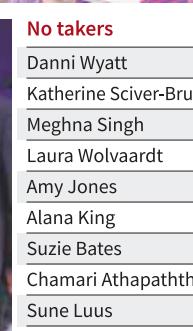
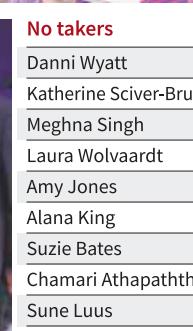
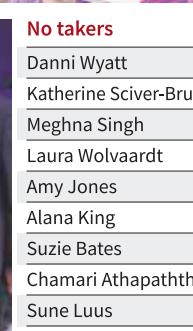
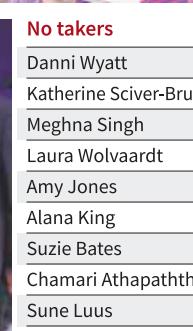
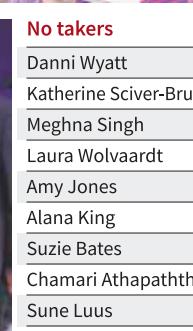
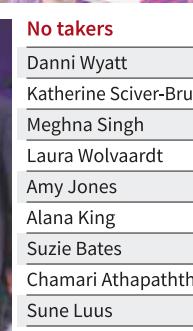
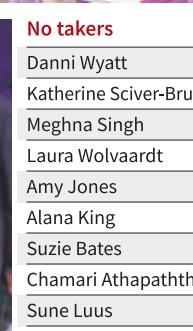
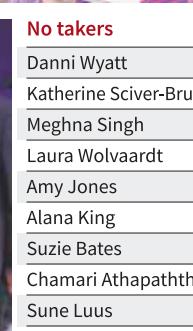
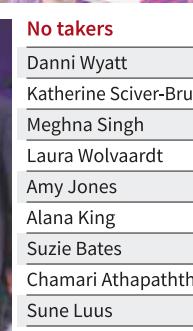
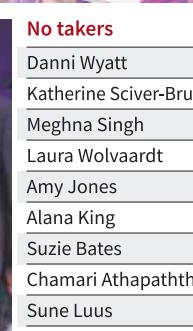
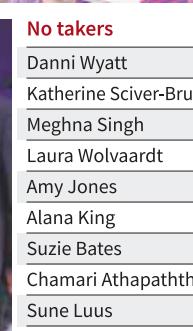
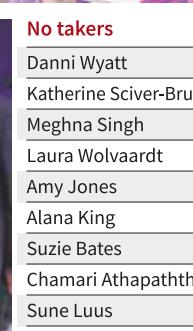
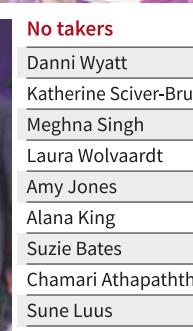
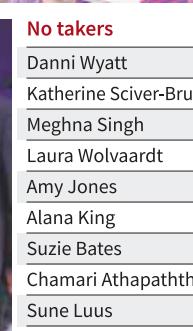
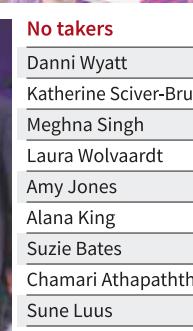
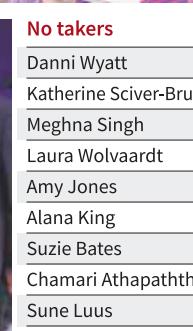
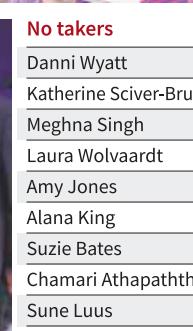
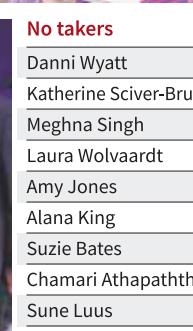
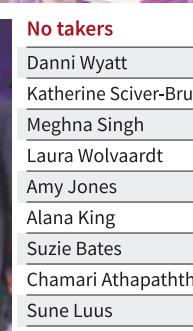
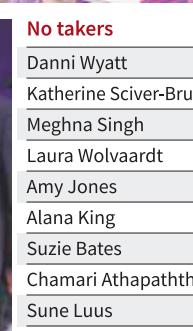
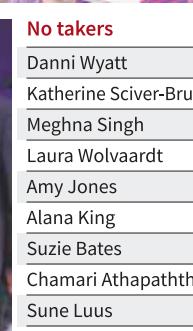
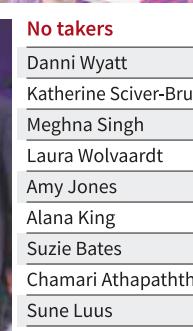
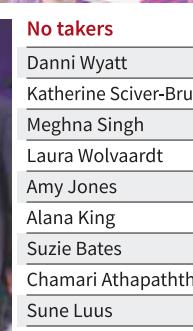
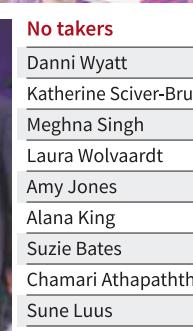
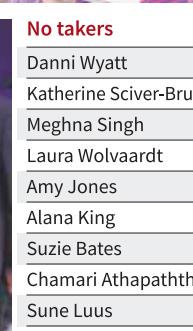
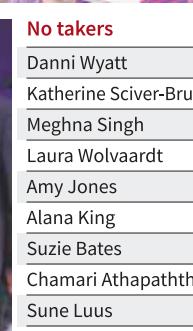
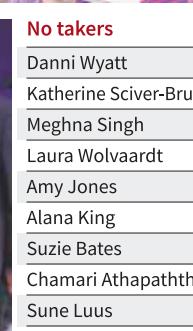
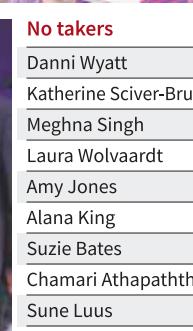
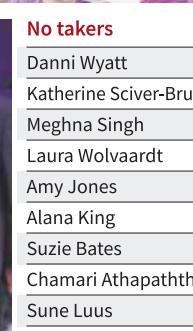
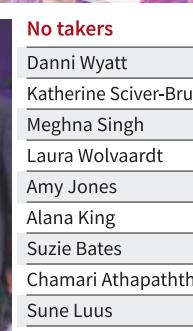
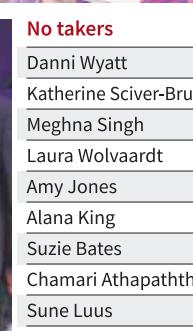
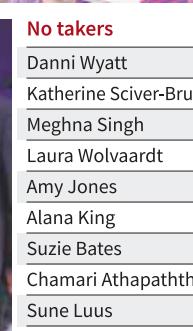
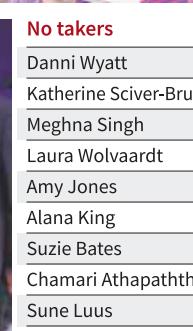
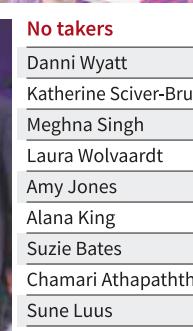
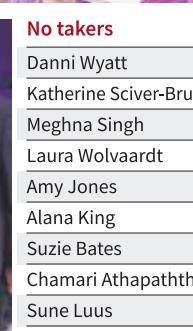
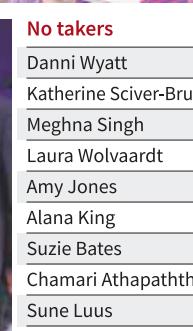
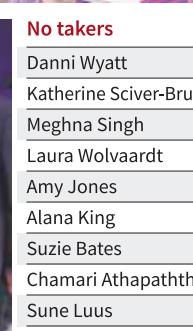
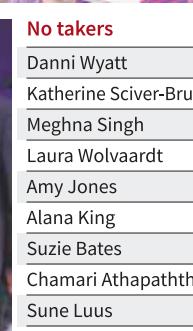
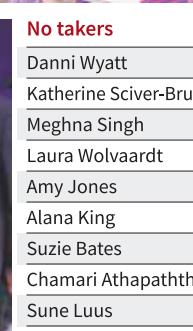
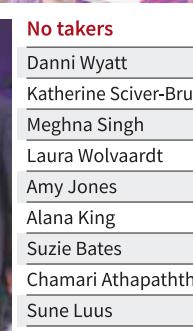
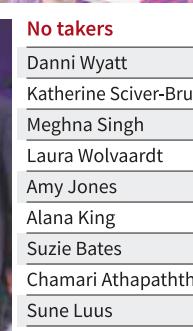
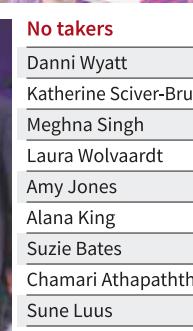
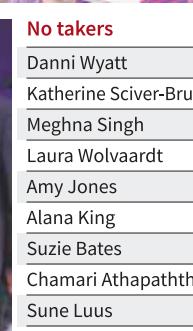
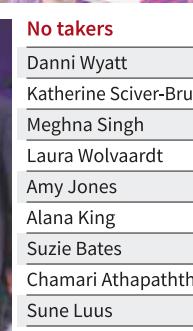
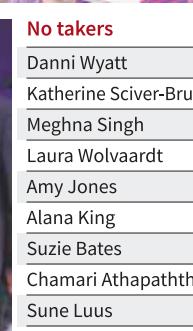
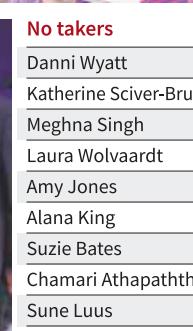
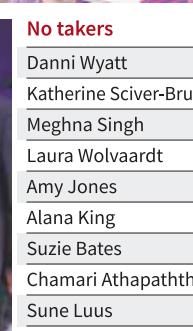
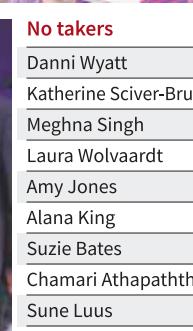
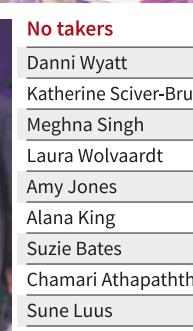
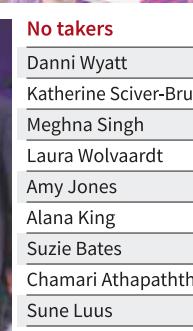
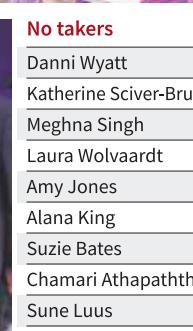
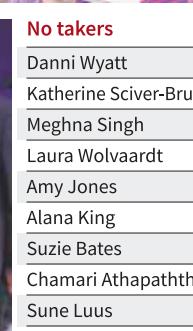
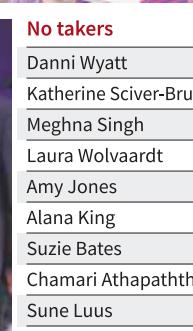
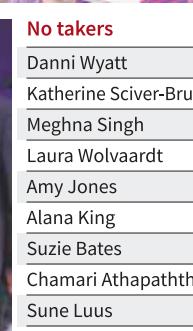
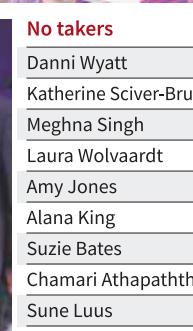
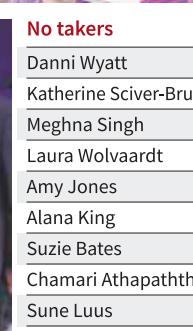
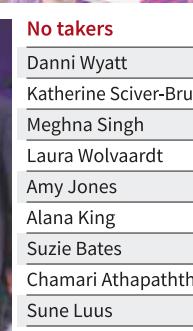
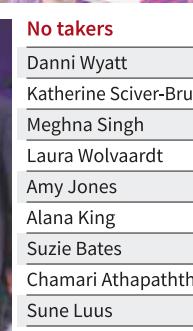
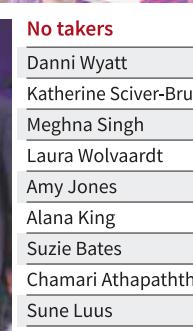
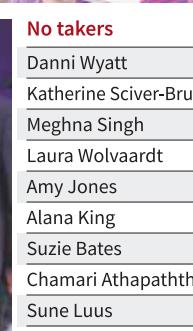
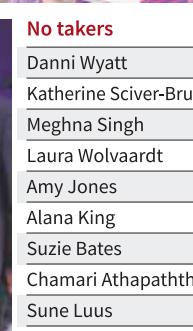
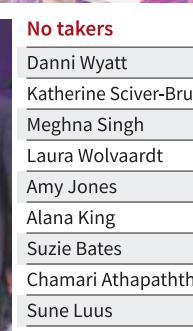
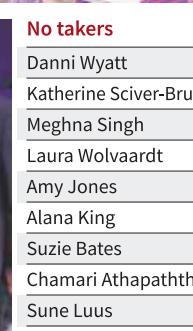
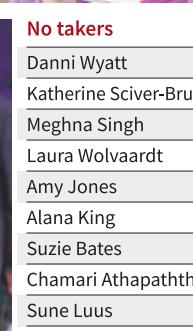
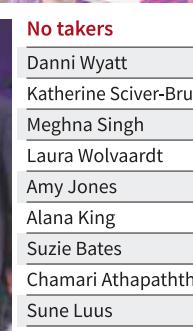
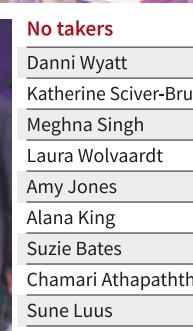
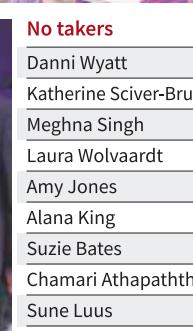
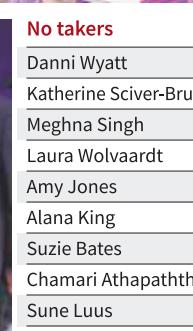
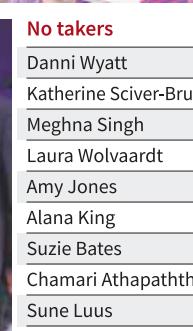
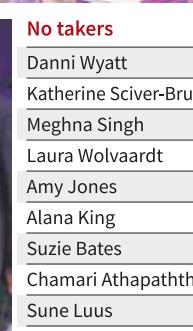
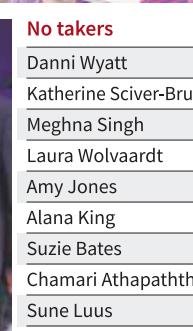
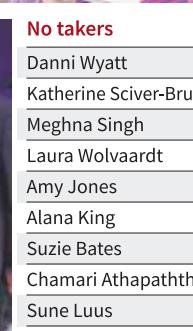
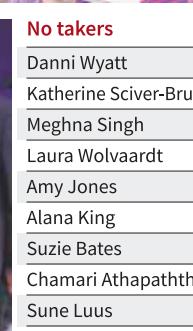
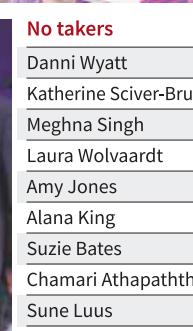
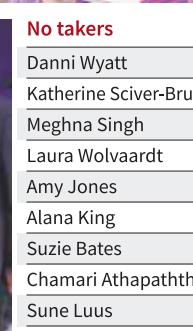
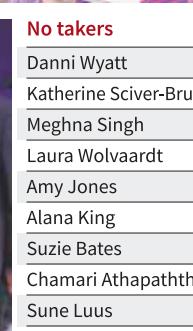
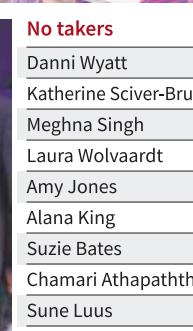
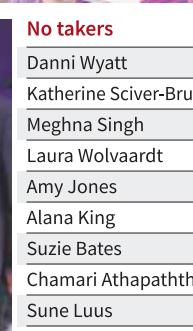
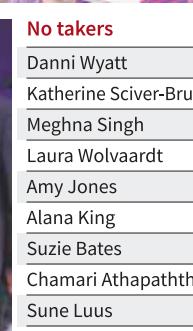
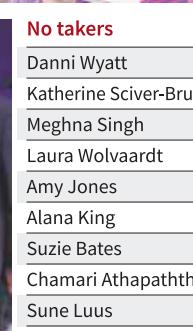
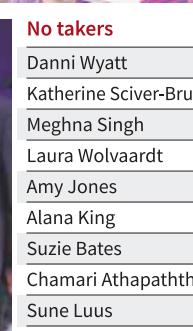
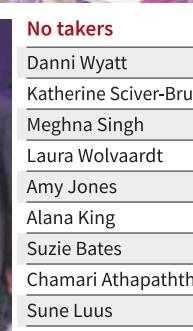
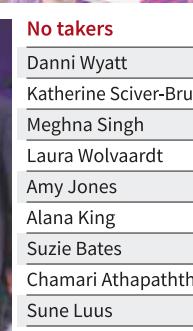
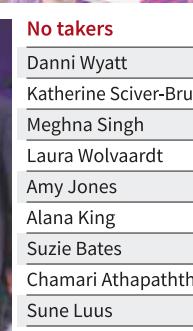
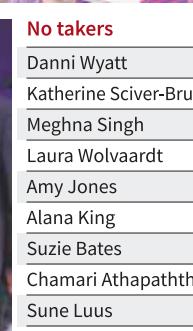
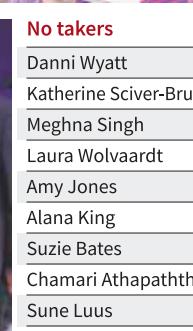
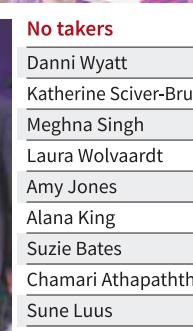
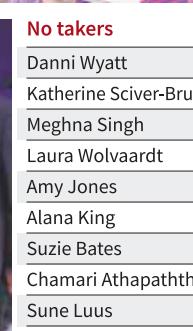
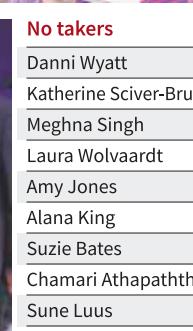
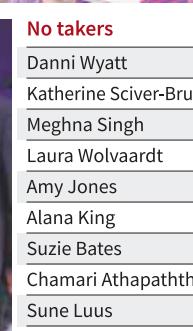
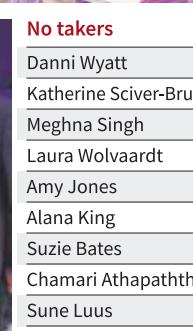
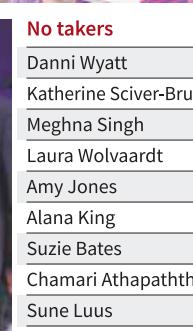
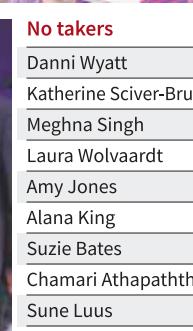
Richa (RCB) & Pooja (MI) **₹1.9 crore**

Harmanpreet Kaur (MI) **₹1.8 crore**

Renuka Singh (RCB) **₹1.5 crore**

Yastika Bhatia (MI) **₹1.5 crore**

Devika Vaidya (UP Warriorz) **₹1.4 crore**



IN BRIEF



Women's WC: Harshitha and Nilakshi steer Sri Lanka home

Harshitha Samarawickrama, in pic., and Nilakshi de Silva shared an unbeaten 100-run partnership as Sri Lanka defeated Bangladesh by seven wickets in a low-scoring match to register its second consecutive win in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Cape Town. Opting to bat on Sunday, Bangladesh posted 126 for eight, which Sri Lanka eclipsed in 18.2 overs by reaching 129 for three. Harshitha (69 not out) and Nilakshi (41 not out) were the architect of Sri Lanka's chase.

The scores:
Bangladesh 126/8 in 20 overs (Sobhana Mostary 29, Nigar Sultan 28, Oshadi Ranasinghe 3/23) lost to Sri Lanka 129/3 in 18.2 overs (Harshitha Samarawickrama 69 n.o., Nilakshi de Silva 41 n.o., Marufa Akter 3/23). **POm:** Harshitha Samarawickrama.
Ireland 105 in 18.2 overs (Gaby Lewis 36, Ecclestone 3/13) lost to England 107/6 in 14.2 overs (Alice Capsey 51, Cara Murray 3/15). **POm:** Alice Capsey.

Chase's half-century puts West Indies in command

Roston Chase made 70 on Monday, as the West Indies built a 175-run lead with two first-innings wickets standing against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo on a rain-affected second day of the second Test. An 85-run sixth-wicket partnership between Chase and Joshua da Silva helped the West Indies reach 290 for the loss of eight wickets with three days remaining.

The scores: Zimbabwe 115 in 40.5 overs vs West Indies 290/8 in 90.4 overs (Roston Chase 70, Raymon Reifer 53, Joshua da Silva 44; Nyauchi 3/56, Mavuta 3/73).



Eoin Morgan bids adieu to franchise cricket

Eoin Morgan, England's lone 50-over World Cup-winning captain, on Monday announced retirement from all short-format franchise cricket with immediate effect, less than a year after he quit the international game. "It is with great pride that I am announcing my retirement from all forms of cricket. After much deliberation, I believe that now is the right time to step away from the game that has given me so much over the years," Morgan said in a statement.

LIVE TELECAST

West Indies vs Zimbabwe: 2nd Test, day 3, FanCode, 1 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 10.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

RoundGlass Punjab gets the better of Aizawl

I-LEAGUE

Press Trust of India

AIZAWL

RoundGlass Punjab got back on level terms with leader Sreenidi Deccan in the I-League points table after it defeated Aizawl FC 1-0 here on Monday.

Solo run

Chencho Gyeltshen's solo run in the 53rd minute gave the win for RoundGlass Punjab.

RoundGlass has 37 points, the same as leader Sreenidi, which is currently on top due to better goal difference.

The results:

At Aizawl: Aizawl FC 0 lost to RoundGlass Punjab 1 (Gyeltshen 53).

At New Delhi: Sudeva Delhi 3 (Lalbiaklana 56, Seilenthang Lotjem 67, 77) bt Kenkre FC 1 (Samandar Ochilow 74).

Lagos claims the Kakatiya Million

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's mare Lagos, ridden by Suraj Narredu, won the Kakatiya Million, the main event of the Monday's (Feb. 13) races.

The winner is owned by Mr. S. Pathy & Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar.

Trainer S.S.F. Hassan saddled his 400th winner of his training career through Master Touch today.

I. KAMAREDDY CUP (DIV. I):

SOORYA VAHAN (P. Sai Kumar) 1,

Coming Home (D.S. Deora) 2, Pal Cha (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Indian King (Mukesh Kumar) 4. 1, Shd

and 1/2, Im 26, 46s. 180 (w), 23,

14 and 11 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 59,

SHW: 56 and 16, FP: 861, Q: 370,

Tanala: 1,597. Favourite: Indian King.

Owners: Mr. Satyanarayana Reddy Pannala & Mr. Rakesh Reddy Kondakalala. Trainer: Robin Reddy Kondakalala.

2. SEA BIRD PLATE: DETECTIVE (B. Nikhil) 1, Sangreal (Suraj Narredu) 2, Miss Maya (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Bash On Regardless (P. Ajeth Kumar) 4. 2-1/2, 2-1/2 and 2-1/4. Im 26. 14s. 350 (w), 13, 15 and 11 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 97, SHW: 28 and 12, FP: 199, Q: 79, Tanala: 534. Favourite: Miss Maya.

Owners: Kunwar Digvijay Singh Shekharwati, Mr. Cyrus F. Palia & Mrs. Freney C. Palia. Trainer: R.H. Sequira.

3. RISING STAR PLATE (DIV. II):

BLACK EAGLE (Akshay Kumar) 1, N R 1 Fantasy (Imran Chisty) 2,

Milton Keynes (Mukesh Kumar) 3

and Divine Connection (Aneel) 4.

OF BLISS (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Avancia (Mohit Singh) 2, Bangor On Dee (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Rising Queen (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 2-1/4, 1/2 and Shd. Im 11, 77s. 245 (w), 39, 60 and 14 (p). SHP: 254, THP: 45, SHW: 119 and 262, FP: 13,518, Q: 3,289, Tanala: 18,790. Favourite: Strauss.

Owner: Mr. K. Thiribhuvan Reddy. Trainer: N. Rawal.

7. KAKATIYA MILLION: LAGOS (Suraj Narredu) 1, Black Onyx (D.S. Deora) 2, De Villers (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Beauty Blaze (Santosh Raj) 4. 2-1/4, 1-1/4 and 5-3/4. Im 11, 65s. 314 (w), 12 and 13 (p). SHP: 19, THP: 22, SHW: 13 and 10, FP: 19, Q: 17, Tanala: 21. Favourite: Lagos.

Owners: Mr. S. Pathy & Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: D. Netto.

8. DREAM GIRL PLATE: WOT'S UP JAY (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Muaser (P. Ajeth Kumar) 2, Shubhrak (Rafique Sk.) 3 and Jack Daniel (R.S. Jodha) 4. Nk, 1/2 and 3/4. Im 26, 36s. 320 (w), 66, 23 and 22 (p). SHP: 79, THP: 81, SHW: 37 and 46, FP: 2,500, Q: 1,304, Tanala: 74,854. Favourite: Char Ek Char.

Owner: Mr. Seerama Suresh. Trainer: M.R. Chauhan.

6. TELANGANA RACE HORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION TROPHY: CITY

Pedri guides Barca past Villarreal to 11-point lead

Napoli continues its march towards a first Serie A title in over three decades with an easy win over rock-bottom Cremonese



The hero: Pedri caps a superb team move with a goal for Barcelona's winner. AFP

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
VILLARREAL

Pedri's strike earned Barcelona a battling 1-0 win over Villarreal on Sunday to move 11 points clear of second-placed Real Madrid at the top of LaLiga.

The champion, which won the Club World Cup on Saturday, faces Elche in midweek to try and bite back into the growing gap.

Barcelona rode its luck in a gripping clash at Estadio de la Ceramica but held off a Yellow Submarine onslaught to continue marching towards its goal of winning the title for the first time since 2019.

Defender Ronald Araujo in particular made a num-

ber of superb blocks and interceptions to help protect Barcelona's slim advantage until the end, locking in another clean sheet.

Robert Lewandowski missed a big chance in the opening stages, firing too close to veteran goalkeeper Pepe Reina when through on goal. However the Polish international, La Liga's top scorer, made up for it with a cushioned pass for Pedri to open the scoring after 18 minutes.

Barcelona fashioned a superb team move, finished off by the 20-year-old midfielder for his fourth goal in seven games across all competitions.

Napoli continued its march towards a first Serie A title in over three decades with Sunday's 3-0 win over

rock-bottom Cremonese which provisionally moved the runaway league leader 16 points clear.

Khichcha Kvaratskhelia and Victor Osimhen were the key men for Luciano Spalletti's flamboyant team.

Winger wizard Kvaratskhelia set Napoli on its way with a delightful individual effort in the 22nd minute on his 22nd birthday before Osimhen's league-leading 17th goal of the season midway through the second half and an Eljif Elmas strike 11 minutes from the end.

The results: LaLiga: Real Valladolid 0 drew with Osasuna 0; Villarreal 0 lost to Barcelona 1 (Pedri 18).

Serie A: Juventus 1 (Rabiot 34) bt Fiorentina 0; Napoli 3 (Kvaratskhelia 21, Osimhen 65, Elmas 79) bt Cremonese 0.

PSG vs Bayern headlines Champions League return

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Kylian Mbappe has been named in Paris Saint-Germain's squad for its Champions League last 16 first leg against Bayern Munich on Tuesday after making a faster-than-expected return to training following a thigh injury.

After Mbappe suffered the injury against Montpellier on February 1, the French champion said he would be out for three weeks.

On Saturday, coach Christophe Galtier said he did not think Mbappe would play on Tuesday.

But his name featured in

The fixtures
AC Milan vs Tottenham Hotspur, 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)
Paris Saint-Germain vs Bayern Munich 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

the squad of 22 players announced by PSG on Monday, along with Lionel Messi and Marco Verratti, both of whom sat out the Monaco game due to injury.

Meanwhile, Stefano Pioli is hoping that AC Milan has pulled out of its damaging downward spiral as his team prepares for its first Champions League knockout tie in nearly a decade.

Milan hosts Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday night having snapped a seven-match winless streak.

Gill, Scrivens win ICC POTM awards

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

India batter Shubman Gill was on Monday named ICC Men's Player of the Month for January following a series of impressive innings in the ODI format, while England U-19 skipper Grace Scrivens became the youngest to be named for the women's honour.

Gill enjoyed a record-breaking month in white-ball cricket in January. Scrivens bagged the award after her all-round brilliance in the ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup. Equally, the England captain excelled in her leadership role, guiding her side to the final.

Bengal bt Himachal Pradesh 3-1; West Bengal bt Odisha 3-0.

Group B: Uttar Pradesh bt Daman & Diu 3-0; Uttar Pradesh bt Madhya Pradesh 3-1.

Group C: Delhi bt Andhra Pradesh 3-0; Delhi bt Chandigarh 3-0.

Group D: Maharashtra bt Jharkhand 3-0; Maharashtra bt Punjab 3-0.

Group E: PSPB bt Haryana 3-1; Manipur bt Bihar 3-1; Manipur bt Haryana 3-2; PSPB bt Bihar.

Group F: Tamil Nadu bt Chhattisgarh 3-0; Kerala bt Uttarakhand 3-0; Tamil Nadu bt Chhattisgarh 3-0; Kerala bt Uttarakhand 3-0.

Group G: Telangana bt J & K 3-0; Assam bt Pondicherry 3-1; J & K bt Pondicherry 3-0; Telangana bt Assam 3-1.

Group H: Karnataka bt Goa 3-1; Gujarat bt Rajasthan 3-1; Karnataka bt Gujarat 3-0; Rajasthan bt Goa 3-1.

TN youth boys inch closer to knockouts

TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Drawn in Group F, the Tamil Nadu youth (u-19) boys' team inched closer to the knockouts with two identical wins of 3-0, first against Chhattisgarh and then against Kerala, to take the top position in the UTT-84th inter-State National youth and junior table tennis championships here on Monday.

In Group A, B, C and D, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Manipur have ensured their entry into the second stage.

The results: Group Results (Rounds 1 & 2): Group A: West

gears to help ATKMB win more games in the business-end of the League.

"If we can play tomorrow, it will be a great success to finish in the 2nd position in the league table," said HFC head coach Manolo Marquez.

"If we can play to our strengths, we are very difficult to beat. But like against Odisha, it will be a tough game where the opponents have to win but we will try our best to take all three points," he said.

Match starts at 7.30 pm.

Hyderabad FC will be keen to regain momentum against ATK MB

ISL-9

V. V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Defending champion Hyderabad FC, which suffered a reverse when it lost to Odisha FC in its previous away-game, should be keen to regain the momentum when it takes on ATK Mohun Bagan in the Indian Super League at the GMC Balayogi Stadium here on Tuesday night.

And, as always Gurmeet Singh, who has been consistent right through under the bar, will need to be at

second on the points' table with 36 points from 17 games while ATK Mohun Bagan has 28 points from a similar number of games.

Not surprisingly HFC fortunes continue to hinge on the skills of the likes of Bartholomew Ogbeche, Javier Siverio and Joel Chianese with Mohammad Yasir and Halicharan Narzary supporting them right through the season.

And, as always Gurmeet Singh, who has been consistent right through under the bar, will need to be at

his best.

ATK Mohun Bagan recorded three wins in the last nine games and needs more points on the board to seal qualification to the play-offs.

Consistent performers
Dimitri Petratos in attack and Vishal Kaith in goal at the back have been the most consistent performers for the Mariners this season.