



Clinical show: Rohit's men proved too strong for Zimbabwe and booked a semifinal meeting with England. GETTY IMAGES

## India tops Group 2 with emphatic win

K.C. Vijaya Kumar  
MELBOURNE

A packed Melbourne Cricket Ground witnessed an Indian triumph on Sunday. India's 71-run victory over Zimbabwe sealed a semifinal berth for the Men in Blue in the ICC Twenty20 World Cup.

A fortnight after the thriller against Pakistan, Rohit Sharma's men were back at the same venue but saddled with a bigger task of entering the last-four stage. After South Africa's

exit and Pakistan's semifinal entry, India was assured of its semifinal spot but topping the league is always a confidence-booster.

Suryakumar Yadav (61 n.o) and R. Ashwin (three for 22) shone as India's 186 for five proved steep for Zimbabwe, which finished with 115. Having topped Group 2, India will take on England in Thursday's semifinal at Adelaide.

FULL REPORT ON  
» PAGE 13

T.N. monitors its borders as Kerala begins digital re-survey

Dennis S. Jesudasan  
CHENNAI

In view of neighbouring Kerala launching what it calls the digital re-survey of its land on November 1, the Tamil Nadu government has asked its officials in the Departments of Revenue and Forest to monitor the developments in areas along the inter-State borders.

The digital re-survey in Kerala assumes significance since a few claims over land remain unsettled both ways over the years and some areas in Neyyar and Shenbagavalli and structures like the Mullai-periyar dam within Kerala are under the control of the Tamil Nadu government.

"We have alerted our Revenue and Forest Department officers...," an official said.

## TRS wins Munugode, BJP bags Adampur in bypolls

Results on expected lines; saffron party retains three seats; Congress pushed to the third slot in high-voltage Telangana contest; RJD keeps Mokama seat in first polls after Bihar realignment

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The BJP won four of the seven Assembly byelections held in six States on Thursday, as the results were declared on Sunday.

The party lost to the Telangana Rashtra Samithi in Munugode of Telangana, but managed to get over 39% of the votes, pushing the Congress to the third position.

The other constituencies that went to the polls were Mokama and Gopalganj in Bihar, Andheri East in Maharashtra, Adampur in Haryana, Gola Gokaran Nath in Uttar Pradesh, and Dhamnagar in Odisha.

Of the four seats the BJP won, three were already held by the party. The only

### Bypoll battle

The table shows the results of seven Assembly constituencies that went to the polls on November 3. The BJP won four seats

#### State Legislative Assembly byelection results

State	Constituency	Winning party
Bihar	Gopalganj	BJP
Bihar	Mokama	RJD
Haryana	Adampur	BJP
Maharashtra	Andheri East	Shiv Sena (Uddhav)
Odisha	Dhamnagar	BJP
Telangana	Munugode	TRS
Uttar Pradesh	Gola Gokaran Nath	BJP



Flashing victory: BJP candidate Kusum Devi after winning the Gopalganj seat. PTI

new addition was Adampur in Haryana, where Bhavya Bishnoi, grandson of former Chief Minister Bhajan Lal, emerged victorious. The byelection was held here as his father, Kuldeep Bishnoi, defected

from the Congress to the BJP. The Bhajan Lal family has never lost an election here since 1966. The high-voltage campaign was pitted as a battle between Congress satrap Bhupinder Singh Hooda and the Bish-

nois. The Aam Aadmi Party got less than 3% of the votes. In Bihar, Rashtriya Janata Dal retained Mokama and the BJP Gopalganj.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 8

### NEARBY



#### Coca-Cola's role in COP-27 flayed

PALAKKAD People staged a protest in front of Coca-Cola's defunct plant at Plachimada against the MNC's involvement in COP-27, a UN meet on climate change, being held in Egypt from Sunday. » Page 4

#### Curbing anaemia in State's women

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Kerala is launching a major initiative to tackle iron-deficiency anaemia in women. As per the data in the National Family Health Survey (2019-21), 36% of women in Kerala are anaemic, a 2% increase from the data of 2015-16. » Page 4

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 5

### Here comes the harvest



Time to reap: Farmers carry harvested paddy in Nihangdikchak village on the outskirts of Guwahati on Sunday. Assam's nearly two-month-long harvest season, which usually concludes by December-end, is off to a good start. RITU RAJ KONWAR

## Mayor denies writing letter seeking 'priority list' for jobs, calls for probe

The Hindu Bureau  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Categorically stating she has not "directly or indirectly" sent the alleged letter to Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] district secretary Anavoor Nagappan asking him for a "priority list" of applicants for temporary posts in the health wing of the City Corporation, Thiruvananthapuram Mayor Arya Rajendran has said the original copy of this letter.

"I have not directly or indirectly signed or prepared such a letter. There is no precedent of sending such letters in the CPI(M). No one has seen the original copy of this letter. I have seen only what seems to be an edited version. It is my need to that this is investigated properly. I don't suspect anyone in the office. Several days back, the Corporation had published advertisements for posts that were mentioned in the

letter. She was speaking to presspersons at her house on Sunday, after meeting Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and handing over a complaint demanding an inquiry to trace the origins of the letter.

"I have not directly or indirectly signed or prepared such a letter. There is no precedent of sending such letters in the CPI(M). No one has seen the original copy of this letter. I have seen only what seems to be an edited version. It is my need to that this is investigated properly. I don't suspect anyone in the office. Several days back, the Corporation had published advertisements for posts that were mentioned in the

alleged letter. So, there is nothing new in the content either," she said.

She said she had left for Delhi on October 31 and returned to Kerala on November 4. The officials in the Mayor's office had said that they had not initiated any such letters. Only once in the past had she signed a document which was mailed to her, when she was away from the city, said Ms. Rajendran.

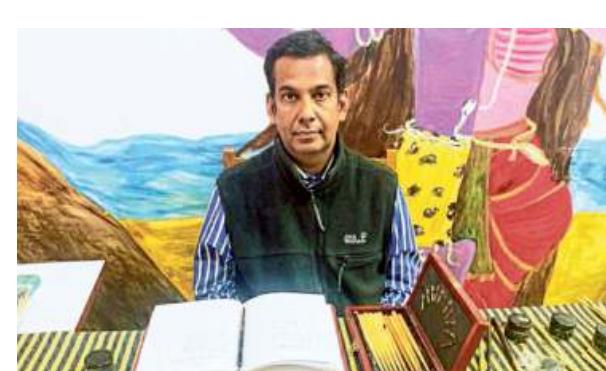
#### CPI(M) support

CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan also extended support to the Mayor and said that the Left Democratic Front (LDF) did not believe in back-door appointments. Temporary

appointments were made everywhere through employment exchanges, he said.

Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State president K. Surendran said the Mayor's claim that she had not written such a letter only increased the concern of the general public, as it showed that the Mayor's office was in disarray. BJP district president V.V. Rajesh will meet Governor Arif Mohammed Khan with BJP councillors on Monday in an effort to get him to intervene in the issue. The United Democratic Front (UDF) has also stepped up its attacks against the Mayor and the ruling LDF.

## Royal black: Pink City's indelible *kali syahi* has written reams of history, is a flowing tradition



A legacy of art: Lokesh Bomb with the black ink prepared by him at his ancestral shop in Jaipur. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### SPECIAL

Mohammed Iqbal  
JAIPUR

Keeping alive a tradition dating back to the reign of the Kachhwaha rulers, a family in Jaipur makes an indelible black ink, or *kali syahi*, used 250 years ago for writing royal *firms* (decrees) and ledgers. The fourth generation of the family now produces the ink every Deepavali.

While the erstwhile royal family used the ink for official transactions, the businessmen of the princely State used it to write their accounts. Even universities established after Independence awarded

nominal price. The shop, now divided within the family, still exists with a descriptive name, *Kali Syahi Ki Dukaan*.

The great-grandson of Hari Narayan Bomb of Sanganaer who received the patronage of the royals is Lokesh Bomb, a jeweller now settled in Idar-Oberstein in Germany. However, he still comes to Jaipur on Deepavali and makes the ink at the shop. Mr. Bomb sells the ink to Marwari businessmen who then start their accounts with the ink after Lakshmi Puja.

The ink was made of natural ingredients using a procedure handed down from generations. "The black ink is prepared on a no-moon night with the

chanting of mantras. It is made of *kaajal* (homemade mascara), *gondh* (edible gum) and a few locally sourced herbal ingredients," he said. The youngest of three brothers, Mr. Bomb learned the ink-making process from his mother. The ink has medicinal properties, as some of its ingredients were earlier used in Ayurveda.

Mr. Bomb, who has completed a course in entrepreneurship from the London School of Economics and Political Science, said he intended to promote the ink in Europe. "Though there is hardly any demand for ink now, I have kept the tradition going by collecting the ingredients patiently," he said.

"The RSS-BJP combine is attempting to destroy the democratic values and

## Govt. will decide on Chancellor post of Governor: Govindan

The Hindu Bureau  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) government would explore options on removal of the Governor from the Chancellor's position, CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan has said. The government and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] will fight legally as well as constitutionally. Governor Arif Mohammed Khan's 'attempts' to implement the Sangh Parivar's agenda in universities in Kerala, he said at a press conference after chairing a three-day conclave of the party State leadership at AKG Centre here.

"The RSS-BJP combine is attempting to destroy the democratic values and

secular nature of Kerala's universities and create communal polarisation through the Governor's interventions at a time when the LDF government is forging ahead with a plan to create a knowledge economy.

The CPI(M) State committee has decided to resist these moves constitutionally and legally, while politically exposing these moves. We will go to any extent to resist these attempts," he said.

Mr. Govindan said the LDF would organise house visits, campus protests, and district conventions on the issue, culminating with a march of one lakh people to Raj Bhavan, which will be inaugurated by CPI(M) general secre-

tary Sitaram Yechury. Also present would be Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP Tiruchi Siva from Tamil Nadu, where too the government is at loggerheads with the Governor.

'Cong. aiding BJP' He accused the Congress of helping the BJP implement its agenda in the State as part of a wider common platform, which also includes communal forces. Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran and Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan had been siding with the Governor at a time when the Congress central leadership was strongly opposing the ongoing attacks against non-BJP State governments.

**Kick it like Pele**

World cup football fever has gripped many parts of the coastal areas in the city. A scene from Vettukad in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday shows youths practising for a tournament being organised by Youth Congress workers.S. MAHINSHA

## East Gopuram of Vadakkunnathan temple in dangerous condition

**The Hindu Bureau**

THRISSUR

East Gopuram, one of the four monumental towers of the Sree Vadakkunnathan temple, Thrissur, is in a dangerous condition.

The temple, known for its architectural excellence, rare temple murals and wood carvings, has been declared as a National Monument under the AMASR Act. The famous Thrissur Pooram is conducted here.

There are four gopurams (towers), facing four cardinal directions of the temple. People enter the temple through the East and West Gopurams. The temple is maintained by the Cochin Devaswom Board and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

"The roof of the three-storey East Gopuram has been in a dilapidated condition and is now slanted towards one side. Termites are eating away the precious wood carvings of historical importance. The gopuram is now supported with steel poles. The wooden beams on the third floor is likely to collapse



**Picture of neglect:** The East Gopuram of the Sree Vadakkunnathan temple has been supported with steel structure.

any time. Water enters the gopuram when it rains," says T.R. Hariharan, secretary, Temple Advisory Committee.

According to temple sources, repair work has been delayed as permission has not been received from the ASI yet. "Following a request from the temple management committee, the Cochin Devaswom Board had long ago requested the ASI to undertake the repair works. But permission has not been

accorded. The TVS Group, which had done restoration work on the temple earlier, is willing to undertake the work," the secretary added. If the repair was delayed further, it would cause permanent damage to the structure, said the temple sources. They said the ASI had not undertaken any repair work for the past 3-4 years.

The conservation work on the temple won UNESCO Award of Excellence in 2015.

**Timings**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

MONDAY, NOV. 07

RISE 06:12 SET 17:59

RISE 17:15 SET 05:04

TUESDAY, NOV. 08

RISE 06:12 SET 17:59

RISE 17:58 SET 05:54

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 09

RISE 06:13 SET 17:59

RISE 18:43 SET 06:44

## A fest that reimagines palm leaf umbrellas

**Priyadershini S.**  
KOCCHI

sits homes. "The Panan community, known for the Thuyilunarthu patti (songs related to the ritual dance), carried the olakkuda," says Jayarajan.

The palm leaf umbrella is used in Kuchelavritham Kathakali and folk performances such as Aati Kalinja of Kasargod district (a ritual dance that brings prosperity during aadai months) and the Porattu natakam prevalent in Palakkad and Thrissur districts (a folk theatre).

Though the umbrella is made by several communities, the Ganakan or Kani-san is the most prominent as they offer olakkuda to temples and kavus. Jayarajan rues the fact that the olakkuda is no longer used as a shield against inclement weather but points out that "there are 1,000s of Theyya kavus (Theyyam shrines) where the olakkuda is required." The umbrella is made using dried palm leaves, bamboo, and cane, and comes in various shapes, sizes, and designs. "The Theyyakkuda," says Jayarajan, "comes in beautiful designs and shapes, as it is meant for the oracle's use." On November 8, there will be a workshop on the craft.

There were also umbrellas that were designed for Onam like the mavelikkudda that protects Thrikkakara appan and the one used by Onappottan when he vi-

## Cycle deejaying to promote indie music fete organised

Nearly 150 cyclists and roller skaters participate in the event. The music festival will be held at the Kerala Arts and Crafts Village from November 9 to 13.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

DJs are very popular these days, but the city witnessed a novel cycle deejaying event at Manaveeyam Veedhi on Sunday to promote the upcoming International Indie Music Festival (IIMF) at Kovalam.

Nearly 150 cyclists and roller skaters participated in the event held at 6.30 a.m. The IIMF will be held at the Kerala Arts and Crafts Village from November 9 to 13.

DJ Rahul mixed tracks perched on a bicycle at the event, flagged off by city Bicycle Mayor Prakash P. Gopinath. Roller skaters danced along with the cyclists.

At the flag-off ceremony, Government Higher Secondary School for Girls, Cotton Hill, Standard VIII student S. Ardra Suresh was



City Bicycle Mayor Prakash P. Gopinath flagging off a cycle deejaying event in connection with the upcoming International Indie Music Festival at Kovalam.

gifted a bicycle by the Crafts Village.

**Seven bands**  
The IIMF is Kerala's international indie music festival. Along with seven bands and singers from outside India, 14 prominent bands from India too will perform.

Popular bands and sin-

gers like Wil Johns from the U.K., popular American hard rock singer Sami Chohfi, British band Rame, Sithara Krishnamurari's Project Malabaricus, Oorali, Job Kurian, Chaos, Lazie J, Chandana Rajesh, Thamarasay Churam, Inner Sanctum, and Devan Ekambaran are among the Indian bands participating in the festival.

Mumbai's Sherise,

Sharon case: accused taken for evidence collection

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The police on Sunday took S.S. Greeshma, the prime accused in the murder of Parassala native Sharon Raj, to her house at Ramavarmachirai in Kanniyakumari district, as part of evidence collection. A vessel, which is suspected to have been used for making the Ayurvedic concoction spiked with a lethal pesticide, as well as traces of a pesticide, were recovered. Only after a forensic examination can it be ascertained whether it is the same pesticide used for making the concoction that allegedly caused Sharon's death. The lock on the front door of the house, sealed after Greeshma was arrested having allegedly confessed to the crime, was found broken into on Saturday morning. The break-in a day ahead of the scheduled evidence collection had raised suspicion of attempts to tamper with the evidence.

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	Palakkad District	Palakkad	14	Palakkad		
	Malappuram District	Malappuram	14	Malappuram	Darsan S. Area Sales Manager, Muth +919940222244	
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## Strip-search of son at airport: Abdul Wahab writes to Union Minister

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Enraged by the strip search by Customs officials at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, Rajya Sabha MP, P. V. Abdul Wahab, has written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman seeking action against Customs officials who allegedly humiliated his son Javed Abdul Wahab on his way to Kerala from UAE at the airport on November 1.

In the letter dated November 3, Mr. Abdul Wa-

hab alleged that his son was intercepted by Customs at the international airport and strip-searched without following the due procedure, despite he cooperating with all their instructions. The Assistant Commissioner of Customs in charge at the Airport subjected him to humiliation beyond measure to which no citizen of this country should be treated with, he said in the letter.

A man of clean antecedents and who has never been involved or accused

of any wrongdoing throughout his lifetime, Javed, a frequent flyer and a businessman, was subjected to stripping off his clothes and an X-ray of his stomach and private area, citing a vague and bogus lookout order. The officer was also very abusive, which left an irreversible trauma on his psyche, said the letter.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Abdul Wahab said "I believe inexperience was the reason for the hasty decision of the Customs offic-

er, which could have been avoided." A senior Customs officer said, there was an unprecedented rise in the smuggling of gold through the airports concealed in body cavities. To avoid a delay, the passenger was subjected to X-ray screening and he was let off soon. The incident came to light when Mr. Wahab spoke about it during a speech at an event. He said his son's appearance may have aroused the suspicion of the Customs as he sported a beard.

## Tobacco products seized

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KOLLAM

Kollam Excise special squad on Sunday seized banned tobacco products worth ₹5 lakh during an inspection held in the Karunagappally range.

A case was registered against Nizam, a 48-year-old Kulasekharapuram resident, under Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), after the squad recovered 15,000 packets of tobacco products from his house in Adinad north.

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## Kitchen garden in all schools soon: Minister

It should be set up in all schools by November 30. Objective is to make farming a part of children's life.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

**K**itchen gardens should be set up in available space in all schools coming under the mid-day meal scheme so as to make pesticide-free vegetables available on the lunch menu, Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty has said.

At a recent meeting of 163 mid-day meal officers and 14 supervisors, the Minister directed them to ensure that kitchen gardens were coming up in all

schools by November 30.

Another objective of setting up the kitchen gardens, with the support of the Agriculture Department, was to teach children to make farming a part of their life.

### Breakfast

Students in nearly 2,200 schools were being provided breakfast under the supervision of local bodies and school parent-teacher associations.

Mid-day meal officers and supervisors should take the lead to expand the breakfast initiative to more

schools, he said. The government, he said, had taken steps for microbiological/chemical examination of food samples from all schools under the mid-day scheme in NABL accredited laboratories and testing drinking water in Kerala Water Authority's laboratories.

The Minister said the government was considering providing 100gm peanut candy once a week to children coming under the scheme in Wayanad and Idukki districts and tribal areas of Palakkad using the scheme's flexi fund.

## IN BRIEF

Nominations invited for award for best college teacher

St. Berchmans College, Changanassery, has invited nominations/applications for the Berchmans Best Teacher Award. Teachers serving under government or aided arts and sciences colleges affiliated to universities in Kerala with 14 years of experience are eligible to apply. The award has been instituted by the Kuwait chapter of the college alumni. The application form can be downloaded from the website ([www.sbcollage.ac.in](http://www.sbcollage.ac.in)). For details, the applicants could call 9447249214 or mail to [berchmansaward@sbcollage.ac.in](mailto:berchmansaward@sbcollage.ac.in)

### Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper ([thehindu.com](http://thehindu.com)) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (November 7, Monday), the following explainer is available:

■ The Uniform Civil Code [bit.ly/uniformcivilcodeucc](http://bit.ly/uniformcivilcodeucc)

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CONCEPT

**FIVE-STAR BUSINESS FINANCE LIMITED** is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed a draft red herring prospectus dated November 9, 2021 read along with the addendum dated June 8, 2022 (the "DRHP") and has filed the RHP with the RoC and thereafter with Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") and the Stock Exchanges. The RHP shall be available on the website of the SEBI at [www.sebi.gov.in](http://www.sebi.gov.in) as well as on the websites of the BRLMs i.e., ICICI Securities Limited at [www.icicisecurities.com](http://www.icicisecurities.com), Edelweiss Financial Services Limited at [www.edelweissfin.com](http://www.edelweissfin.com), Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at [https://investmentbank.kotak.com/](http://investmentbank.kotak.com/) and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at [www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html](http://www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html), the website of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited at [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and the website of the BSE Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), respectively. Any potential investor should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risks, see "Risk Factors" beginning on page 22 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP for any investment decision.

The Equity Shares offered in the Offer have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") or any state law of the United States and, unless so registered, may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold (i) within the United States only to persons reasonably believed to be "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the Securities Act) under Section 4(a) of the Securities Act, and (ii) outside the United States in "offshore transactions" as defined in and in compliance with Regulation S under the Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdictions where those offers and sales are made. There will be no public offering of the Equity Shares in the United States.

## IN BRIEF



## Three youth killed in road accident at Aroor

Three persons in their early twenties were killed when a motorcycle they were riding rammed a stationary school bus from behind at Aroor in Alappuzha in the early hours of Sunday. The deceased were identified as K.V. Abijith, 23, Bejoy Varghese, 21, and Alvin, 21, all from Aroor. The trio were reportedly returning after attending a friend's house-warming party when they met with the accident near Keltron Junction.

## Woman doctor files sexual assault complaint in Idukki

The Thodupuzha police have contacted the Museum police in Thiruvananthapuram to ascertain whether Santhosh, an accused in a sexual assault case in the capital, was connected with a similar incident in Idukki. A medical doctor in Idukki lodged a complaint that she had been assaulted by a stranger on December 6, 2021. As per the complaint, the masked stranger assaulted the woman doctor on an isolated road near the temple.

## Plachimada panel stages protest against Coca-Cola's involvement in UN summit on climate change

The Hindu Bureau  
PALAKKAD

Anti-Coca-Cola protesters on Sunday staged a protest in front of the multinational beverage company's defunct plant at Plachimada here on Sunday, condemning its involvement in hosting the 27th Conference of Parties (COP-27) of the United Nations Climate Change Conference being held in Egypt from Sunday.

The protesters demanded that the company be removed from the sponsorship of the COP-27. A bicycle rally was also taken out from Palakkad town to Plachimada in the morning.

Although Coca-Cola stopped its operations in Plachimada in 2005 following a series of agitations, the firm refused to pay any compensation to the victims even though a high-level committee, headed by former Chief Secretary K. Jayakumar, had recommended a compensation of ₹216.26 crore to be paid to them.

During investigation, the panel had found that



Anti-Coca-Cola protest in front of the company's defunct plant at Plachimada in Palakkad on Sunday.

the company caused extensive damage to people and their land at Plachimada.

Inaugurating the protest, environmentalist C.R. Neelakandan demanded that the United Nations should intervene to seek damages from Coca-Cola for the victims of Plachimada.

He said that the decision to allow the firm, which dumps crores of plastic bottles as waste every day, to sponsor the climate change conference was unfair.

**'Compensation denied'**

Presiding over the function, Plachimada Anti-Coca-Cola Struggle Committee chairman Vilayodi Venugopal said that they

would expose the true nature of Coca-Cola by joining hands with other environmental groups from different parts of the world. "Coca-Cola cheated the people of Plachimada by denying compensation to them," he said.

Others, including K.V. Biju, N. Subramanian, Sarath Cheloor, addressed the gathering.

## New book throws light on life and achievements of E. K. Janaki Ammal

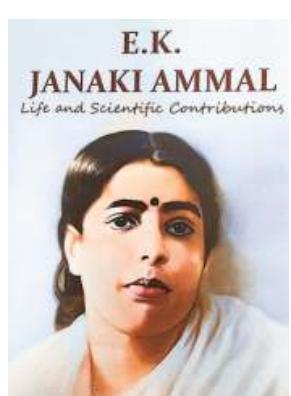
It describes how the scientist, often described as India's first woman botanist, fulfilled her professional dreams, in spite of the gender and caste barriers of her time; Nirmala James, the author, pieces together information from official records, family members and the scientific community to detail her struggles and breakthroughs

Tiki Rajwi  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The life and remarkable achievements of E. K. Janaki Ammal, the Kerala-born scientist often described as India's first woman botanist, have now been detailed in a 400-page book written by a former school teacher.

Born on November 4, 1897, in Thalassery, Edavallath Kakkatt Janaki Ammal is highly regarded by the scientific world, having done notable work in the areas of cytogenetics and plant breeding. Yet, even today, this eminent scientist remains relatively unknown in her home state.

The book in English by Nirmala James, *E. K. Janaki*



Front cover of the book *E. K. Janaki Ammal: Life and Scientific Contributions* by Nirmala James

two were in Malayalam – a children's book (2018) published by the State Institute of Children's Literature, and a bigger work

published by the State Institute of Languages in 2019.

"*E. K. Janaki Ammal: Life and Scientific Contributions*" is the third book by Ms. James, a resident of Kattayikonam in Thiruvananthapuram district, on Dr. Janaki Ammal. The first

published by the State Institute of Languages in 2019.

She received the Padma Shri in 1977. Despite all her achievements, it is sad that she is not well known in her home State as she should be

**A. GANGAPRASAD**

CBC director

wild relatives," notes A. Gangaprasad, CBC director and Professor, Department of Botany, University of Kerala. "It should be remembered that she accomplished all this in an era when women's education was not considered important. She received the Padma Shri in 1977. Despite all that, it is sad that she is not well known in her home state as she should be," Dr. Gangaprasad adds.

And there lies the significance of Ms. James' work. But gathering information about Dr. Janaki Ammal was not an easy task, says Ms. James.

A botany graduate herself, Ms. James says she never heard Dr. Janaki Ammal being mentioned dur-

ing her own college days. She first came to know of the scientist when she began collecting material for a book on prominent women from Kerala. Later, when she attempted to write books on Dr. Janaki Ammal, she struggled to find literature on her.

"There were many books and articles on her male contemporaries, but nothing on her," Ms. James, who holds a Master's in Sociology and B. Ed., said.

But she did not drop her quest. Piece by piece, she put together a picture of Dr. Janaki Ammal, drawing information from official records and with help from the scientist's family members, and the scientific community.

Dr. Janaki Ammal spent much of her life outside Kerala. Perhaps that is one reason she is not well known here, says Ms. James. Her book throws light on little-known facets of Dr. Janaki Ammal's life.

In the 1930s, she had taught botany in Thiruvananthapuram (the Maharaja's College of Science). "At the time, she was appointed a member of the Travancore Public Recruitment Committee. She strongly raised her voice for women, arguing that married women should not be disqualified from entering or continuing in service," says Ms. James.

Nirmala James is the author of 25 books including books for children.



## Ombudsman ruling forbade local body administrators from selecting employees

As per the order issued by ombudsman Justice K. Gopinathan in February 2022, equal opportunity shall be provided to all the qualified candidates and reservation norms followed

**K.S. Sudhi**  
KOCHI

The appointment of employees of personal choice of administrators and civic authorities in local bodies amounts to nepotism and maladministration, the Ombudsman for Local Bodies ruled early this year.

The order issued by ombudsman Justice K. Gopinathan in February this year on a petition filed by a public interest litigant Ravi Ulleyeri attains significance in the wake of the controversy over the alleged letter penned by Thiruvananthapuram Mayor Arya Rajendran to CPI(M) district secretary Anavoor Nagappan seeking a priority list of persons to be appointed in the local body on contract.

Though Ms. Rajendran had denied writing such a letter and Mr. Nagappan stated that he had not received it, the issue has put the CPI(M) on the back foot. Ms. Rajendran said she had taken up the issue with the Chief Minister and sought an inquiry into the whole episode.

The party State secretary M. V. Govindan maintained that the CPI(M) stood for fairness and transparency in appointments and added that the Mayor had indicated that she would seek legal recourse in the issue.

**Govt. responds**  
Earlier, in an apparent face-saving effort for the party and the government, M.B. Rajesh, the Minister for Local Self-Government, came forward with a state-

newing the contract and allowing the employees to continue in service even after the expiry of the contract is illegal. Once the contract expires, a new list of persons shall be sought from the employment exchange and appointments made from it, ordered Mr. Gopinathan in the case of appointments made in Thalakkulathur, Chakkatapara village panchayats in Kozhikode district.

He also ordered that equal opportunity shall be provided to all the qualified candidates and reservation norms followed. The extension of service beyond the contract period by arguing that the appointments are not made to permanent posts is illegal and amounts to corruption

**JUSTICE K. GOPINATHAN**  
Ombudsman

ment that all the appointments to the local body will be made from the employment exchange. Incidentally, calling for transparency and equity in the appointments, the ombudsman had directed that the temporary employees and those on contract shall be recruited only through employment exchange. Re-

ruitment agencies held two weeks ago in Kochi has decided to profile drug abusers and circulate details of the blacklisted people in order to prevent their entry to the DJ parties. Also, DJs and organisers with a history of drug abuse will not be hired by hoteliers," Mr. Joy said.

Apart from drug abusers, those with a background of misbehaving with women and those involved in other serious crimes would be barred. The first phase would be piloted in Kochi and extended to other parts of the State in phases. Further, as part of an anti-drug awareness campaign, the enforcement agencies and AOP would join hands with Kerala Blasters to provide free football coaching to students and youth in 14 districts from next summer vacation. A painting competition titled 'Awake' will be conducted at IMA House in Kochi on November 13 for students.

## Bar on youth with history of drug abuse in DJ parties

**Dhinesh Kallungal**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Though night parties are means for many to unwind after a hectic week or a day's work, youth having a background of drug abuse either during rave parties or at any point of time in their public life will soon find it difficult to get an entry to DJ parties in the State. The Central and State enforcement agencies, including the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCCB), Kerala Police, and State Excise, have decided to block the entry of drug abusers into DJ parties by blacklisting them, in association with the Association of Organisers and Performers

O(AOP) and the Hoteliers Association. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Lijo Joy, chairman of AOP, said a meeting of representatives of Disc Jockeys (DJs), party organisers, and central and state enforce-

## State plans major steps to tackle iron-deficiency anaemia in women

**C. Maya**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala is launching a major initiative to tackle iron-deficiency anaemia in women, which has remained a chronic and underrated issue affecting the health of women in the State.

Anaemia is a more sensitive indicator of women's health than any other and according to the data in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019-21), 36% of women in Kerala are anaemic, a 2% increase from the data of 2015-16.

The State Planning Board, after several consultations, has now asked the Health, Women and Child Development, and the Local Self-Government departments to devise suitable strategies to create awareness about the impact of anaemia on health and to formulate a plan of action to treat anaemia and help women sustain haemoglobin levels in blood at 12mg/dl through their lifetime.

**First phase**

"In the first phase, we are focussing on anaemia in women in the 15-59 years age group. Mild anaemia is difficult to detect just by checking the pallor. Hence we have insisted on universal testing of women for Hb levels, including opportunistic screening of all women in the 15-59 years group coming to health institutions. Women should be made aware that Hb levels have to be maintained at 12 mg/dl for optimum health," says P.K. Jameela, former Director of Health Services and member, State Planning Board.

Anaemia is a condition wherein the body does not have enough haemoglobin in the red blood cells. Haemoglobin is an iron-rich protein which enables red blood cells to carry oxygen to various organs. Though there are many forms of anaemia, iron-deficiency is the commonest cause of anaemia in our population.

Low Hb levels can lead to fatigue and chronic tiredness, breathlessness, arrhythmias and complications in pregnancy. Anaemia in children is a major cause of poor scholastic performance and low IQ.

"Somehow, anaemia is totally disregarded as a health issue by people be-

cause it does not manifest with overt symptoms. We cannot detect anaemia unless we check the Hb levels and unfortunately, this testing happens only when the woman is pregnant or has to undergo some surgery," Dr. Jameela says. The Health department is devising the awareness campaign and the "test, treat and talk" strategy so that undetected mild to moderate anaemia in women can be diagnosed and reversed through iron supplementation and iron-rich diet.

**In Kathirur**  
The Kathirur grama panchayat in Kannur district has already initiated an experiment on tackling anaemia, which the Planning Board is now showcasing. "Last year, a few apparently healthy women from Kathirur grama panchayat had volunteered to be blood donors at a medical camp. However, much to our dismay, none of these women could donate blood because their Hb levels were below 10mg/dl. This meant that a good proportion of "healthy" women in the community could be suffering from mild anaemia," says Sahina A.K., medical officer of Kathirur Family Health Centre.

"We are now in the second phase of a major campaign, 'Kathirur to 12' to create awareness on the need to keep Hb levels at 12, as part of which all women will be tested and treated. The stress is on persuading women to consume iron-rich food and doing moderate exercises to improve Hb level. We also introduced the concept of iron-rich kitchen garden, encouraging women to grow and consume green leafy vegetables at their homes," Dr. Sahina says.

"We are now in the second phase of a major campaign, 'Kathirur to 12' to create awareness on the need to keep Hb levels at 12, as part of which all women will be tested and treated. The stress is on persuading women to consume iron-rich food and doing moderate exercises to improve Hb level. We also introduced the concept of iron-rich kitchen garden, encouraging women to grow and consume green leafy vegetables at their homes," Dr. Sahina says.

## OBITUARY &amp; REMEMBRANCE

## DEATH

## SAD DEMISE



Smt. JAMUNA RAMANI  
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Vijay K. Ramani, Sumathi, Janani, Family & Friends

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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# Indian black honeybee is a Western Ghats discovery

**SPECIAL****Roshni R.K.**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A new species of endemic honeybee has been discovered in the Western Ghats. The new species has been named *Apis karinjodian* and given the common name Indian black honeybee.

The finding has been published in the September issue of *Entomol*, a peer-reviewed journal brought out by the Association for Advancement of Entomology.

**Taste of honey:** *Apis karinjodian* is found from the central to southern Western Ghats.

The research team behind the discovery comprised Shanas S. from Kerala Agricultural University's Integrated Farming Systems Research Station, Karamana, here; Anju Krishnan G., a Ph.D. research scholar from the Zoology Department of S.N. College, Cherthala (affiliated to the University of Kerala); and Mashhoor K. from the EMEA College of Arts and Science, Malappuram. It is after a gap of more than 200 years that a

new species of honeybee has been spotted in the Western Ghats. The last honeybee described from India was *Apis indica* in 1798 by Fabricius. Although Fabricius named the Indian bee *Apis indica*, it was not considered a valid species till now. The research team

restored the status of *Apis indica* based on a new measure for species discrimination in honeybees termed 'Radio-Medical Index (RMI)'.

They obtained high-resolution photographs of the type specimen from the Natural History Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark, to prove the distinct identity of *Apis indica*, which led to the discovery of *Apis karinjodian*.

*Apis karinjodian* has evolved from *Apis cerana* morphotypes that got acclimated to the hot and

humid environment of the Western Ghats. Molecular analysis of mitochondrial DNA was also carried out and molecular sequence data available in the public open database NCBI-GenBank also helped confirm the species status of the new honeybee. The research work took more than three years.

The distribution of *Apis karinjodian* ranges from the central Western Ghats and Nilgiris to the southern Western Ghats, covering the States of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Coimbatore blast: 2 ACPS of intel wing transferred

**Wilson Thomas**  
COIMBATORE

After a terror plot was unearthed following the October 23 car explosion in Coimbatore, two Assistant Commissioners of Police in the intelligence wing of the city police have been transferred. The functioning of the SIC and the Special Intelligence Unit (SIU) came under criticism after the blast in front of the Sangameswarar temple.

It was alleged that these units failed to keep a watch on Jameesha Mubin, the suspected key conspirator of the blast, who was questioned by the NIA in 2019.

An alert that was issued on July 19 also had Mubin's name among the 96 persons who had to be monitored.

## 'Munugode preferred development, self-respect over BJP's arrogance'

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao terms the victory a slap on BJP leadership's face; acknowledges support and hard work extended by the Left parties in the intense byelection, thanks the people of the constituency for belief in the party

**The Hindu Bureau**  
HYDERABAD

**T**he ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) has gone into a celebratory mode following the victory of the party candidate Kusunkunta Prabhakar Reddy at the Munugode byelections defeating BJP candidate Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy. The BJP while conceding defeat prefers to portray itself as the main opposition to the TRS.

On the other hand, the Congress which held the seat before the incumbent MLA quit the party and the seat leading to the byelection is left disappointed with its candidate failing to

**Different perspectives**

Speaking on Sunday evening after participating in the victory celebrations at Telangana Bhavan, the headquarters of TRS, Mr. Rama Rao pointed out that the win of TRS in the byelection had ensured that all



K.T. Rama Rao addressing presspersons after the party's victory in the Munugode Assembly byelection on Sunday. G. RAMAKRISHNA

even secure her deposit. TRS working president K. Taraka Rama Rao thanked the people of Munugode constituency for reposing their confidence in the party and attributed the success to the support extended by two Left parties and the hard work put in by the party's rank and file to ensure success in the high-voltage byelection.

**Congress** speaking after the victory, said that the TRS won the Munugode bypoll only because of the support ex-

tended by the Left parties.

The BJP, although visibly disappointed with the bypoll result, claimed that it has now emerged as the main alternative political force in Telangana to take on the ruling TRS in the next Assembly and Lok

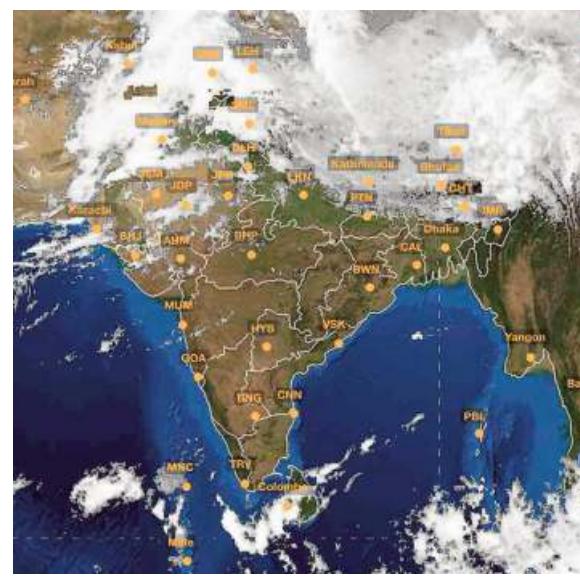
Sabha elections and is more gleeful over the Congress losing the sitting seat and even the deposit.

Disappointment has engulfed the Congress after the loss of Munugode, where it failed to even retain its deposit. Though it never expected to win the seat, given the large-scale defection of its local leadership to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) along with Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy, the least it was expecting was to leave some impression on the result landscape.

Congress candidate Palavi Sravanti could not even secure the votes she had secured as an independent candidate in 2014.

## WEATHER WATCH

Rainfall, temperature &amp; air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Monday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.9	22.4	Kozhikode	9.0	33.6	24.5
Ahmedabad	—	36.5	20.6	Lucknow	—	33.8	22.9
Aizawl	—	36.5	19.7	Madurai	—	31.4	23.0
Allahabad	—	31.6	18.4	Mangaluru	—	32.8	24.5
Bengaluru	—	27.8	19.1	Bhopal	—	34.6	23.5
Bhubaneswar	—	32.6	21.6	Mysuru	—	29.5	21.4
Chandigarh	—	30.5	16.6	New Delhi	—	31.1	17.8
Chennai	—	34.5	24.1	Patna	—	30.0	18.5
Coimbatore	—	28.9	22.2	Port Blair	—	30.6	26.6
Dehradun	—	28.5	13.8	Puducherry	22.2	32.3	22.2
Gangtok	—	19.5	11.0	Pune	—	31.3	15.0
Goa	—	34.0	24.2	Raipur	—	33.5	17.0
Guwahati	—	31.5	19.6	Ranchi	—	28.2	16.6
Hubballi	—	29.0	19.0	Shillong	—	23.1	12.9
Hyderabad	—	30.5	16.1	Shimla	—	20.4	11.5
Imphal	—	28.8	14.0	Srinagar	—	26.0	12.7
Jaipur	—	34.3	19.4	Thiruvananthapuram	5.0	31.8	23.1
Kochi	—	2.0	30.4	Tiruchi	—	30.4	24.0
Kohima	—	—	23.4	Vijayawada	—	31.2	23.2
Kolkatta	—	17	32.8	Visakhapatnam	—	33.0	24.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	.82	131	.9	164	.203	■
Bengaluru	.8	16	62	81	86	■
Chennai	.21	8	—	54	71	■
Delhi	.14	.56	78	367	.308	■
Hyderabad	.44	37	41	164	.137	■
Kolkata	.17	.32	.8	223	.166	■
Lucknow	.12	118	23	327	.194	■
Mumbai	.26	131	39	274	.112	■
Pune	—	—	—	—	—	■
Visakhapatnam	.36	.60	24	155	.177	■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor   ■ Moderate   ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO<sub>2</sub>: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult such as at statues and monuments.NO<sub>2</sub>: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 22.

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## High stakes

Gujarat holds an outsized importance in the BJP's calculations

**B**eing the launchpad of the prevailing model of the politics of the BJP and of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gujarat has a special place in Indian politics. With the emergence of AAP as a serious contender for power, the Assembly election scheduled for December 1 and 5 is going to be a triangular one, in which the incumbent BJP appears to have a clear edge. The Congress, which came close to defeating the BJP in 2017, has been sliding since then, and has shown no will to fight so far. AAP's enthusiasm is in stark contrast with the inexplicable indifference of the Congress. The collapse of a suspension bridge in Morbi and deaths, weakened the claim of the BJP regarding its governance track record, but any organic link between performance and voting preference is rather weak among the party's supporters. The State's politics is driven by deep Hindu symbolism, and often outright communal polarisation. AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal is trying to adopt this tested formula by promising Gujaratis free pilgrimage to Ayodhya and challenging the BJP to implement a Uniform Civil Code across the country. AAP has no game on the ground in terms of organisation or personnel, and its successes have come from the mass appeal of Mr. Kejriwal, leading to automatic voter mobilisation. The party is hoping that the situation in Punjab, which it won in March, will be replicated in Gujarat – enough people looking for an alternative to the two key national parties.

The BJP may not be facing any intense voter antipathy, going by the CSDS opinion poll conducted before the Morbi tragedy. More than 70% of the people were favourable towards the BJP; it remained popular even among those who noted that price rise was a concern. Compared to 2017, the BJP has improved its acceptance among most Hindus and tribal sections. The BJP calculates, with good reason, that AAP will split the votes opposed to it, and its pathway to victory would be easier than in 2017. That claim apart, the party is sparing no effort to retain its citadel. In quick succession, two big private industrial projects were announced, in a controversial demonstration of the benefits of a 'double engine' government – the same party being in power at the Centre and State. The investors were allegedly forced to change their original plans to locate in Maharashtra. The central investigative agencies are active against AAP leaders, very conveniently for the BJP. Despite its comfortable position, the BJP remains restless as the stakes are high. In the BJP's perception, it is much more than a State election.

## Democratic deficit

Early election is the only prudent way forward for Pakistan

**T**he habitual turbulence of Pakistani politics took a decidedly dangerous turn last week, with an assassination attempt on its former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was ousted seven months ago. Mr. Khan escaped with leg injuries after a gunman opened fire. In a press conference a day later, Mr. Khan blamed the government and the military for plotting to kill him. Mr. Khan, who had earlier invoked comparisons between himself and former PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, hanged in 1979 – of a popular leader whose mandate is being thwarted by the establishment – even brought in the example of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh. Both PM Sharif and the Army have denied Mr. Khan's allegations but it is harder to deny the growing problem that he now poses. Since April, when he was forced to step down following a confidence vote in parliament, and losing all court appeals, he has taken to the streets, demanding a general election immediately. He has grown vocal about the political role of the military, accusing "Dirty Harrys" of imprisoning and torturing his supporters in the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) Party, and mocking Army Chief General Bajwa, whose tenure ends this month, for suggesting that the military would maintain a "neutral" role. There have been repercussions. In September, he was indicted in a contempt of court case for impugning the High Court judiciary, and although terror charges were dropped against him, he faces criminal charges for threatening to sue government officials. In October, the Election Commission held him guilty in a case involving undeclared official gifts and disqualified him from holding public office; he could face a legal challenge to his seat in Parliament for defaming the judiciary and armed forces.

For the Sharif government that is already beleaguered by the devastating floods, a security crisis emanating from Afghanistan, the burgeoning economic crisis, and continued bad relations with India which has stopped much-needed trade revenues, Mr. Khan's challenge could not have come at a worse time. Mr. Sharif, who has been making many foreign visits, must focus on the domestic situation, and investigate the attack on Mr. Khan in a convincing way if he intends to shore up his credibility. Despite the many setbacks, Mr. Khan's popularity remains strong; he won six out of eight by-elections last month. In the aftermath of the assassination attempt, PTI protesters have held marches in Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Quetta, and Karachi. The biggest worry for the government is maintaining law and order if the impasse continues. In that case, elections at an early date may prove the only prudent way to move forward, in a country that has always suffered from a deficit in democracy.

## An electoral pivot that restores Brazil's democracy

**I**n the presidential election in Brazil, on October 30 (the second round), the two-time former President, and leader of the leftist Worker's Party (PT), Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva – universally known as Lula – defeated the far-right incumbent president, Jair Bolsonaro. The election could not have been more pivotal or more consequential; nothing less than a referendum on democracy itself. Mr. Lula's win brings to an end the reign of a right-wing populist who has relentlessly attacked democratic institutions, revelled in misogyny and homophobia, celebrated the gun culture, demonised Brazil's slum dwellers as criminals and drug traffickers, and accelerated the burning of the Amazon. There is little doubt that a second-term Bolsonaro would have accentuated the authoritarian turn, with a deepening reliance on the military to run the government, the ongoing politicisation of Brazil's once robust federal bureaucracy, the packing of the Supreme Court, and the erosion of civil liberties at the hands of a federal police force beholden to Mr. Bolsonaro.

**What Lula da Silva's return means**  
The electoral pivot brings back a centre-left party that presided over an era of dramatic poverty-reduction and expanded social rights from 2003-2014. It brings back a coalition of Brazil's large and disproportionately black class of the labouring poor (the social class that gave Mr. Lula the most support), women who supported Mr. Lula overwhelmingly in what is still a deeply patriarchal society and progressive elements of the middle class. It promises to usher back in policies that favour moderate redistribution and a commitment to deepening social rights and environmental protection, including slowing the world-catastrophic destruction of the Amazon. But maybe, most decisively, Mr. Lula's return brings back a leader and a party that played a historic role in consolidating Brazil's democracy, and that when in power, have pioneered some of the boldest and most effective efforts to promote participatory democracy anywhere in the democratic world.

Mr. Lula's victory margin was narrow, 51.9% to Bolsonaro's 48.1%, the narrowest in Brazil's presidential history. Given Mr. Bolsonaro's disastrous management of the COVID-19 crisis, his constant attacks on democratic institutions and basic science, his habit of appointing unqualified sycophants (often military generals) as Ministers, and an almost continuous stream of scandals, polls and pundits alike had just a few months ago predicted a runaway Lula victory.

The first round of the election, which took



**Patrick Heller**  
is Professor of Sociology and International and Public Affairs, Brown University

place October 2, revealed a deep reservoir of conservatism in Brazil as well as a very effective reactionary coalition. Not only did Mr. Bolsonaro do better than predicted, but his right-wing allies in congressional and gubernatorial elections outperformed all other parties. The conservatism is rooted in Mr. Bolsonaro's alliance with Evangelical churches, a rapidly growing demographic that now accounts for a third of Brazil and favours traditional family values which include opposing gay marriage and abortion.

**In Bolsonaro, a reactionary mode of politics**  
But it was also reactionary, in the sense of a concerted effort to roll back social achievements of the previous PT governments, reign in the independence of liberal institutions such as the judiciary and the bureaucracy, unleash police forces and allied militias in fighting criminality – which more often than not means a war on *favela* (slum) populations – and give free reign to sectoral interests such as agro-business and its anti-environmental agenda.

The reactionary mode of politics was in full display during the campaign. There was an escalation of political violence, most of it fuelled by Mr. Bolsonaro's supporters. Social media disinformation reached new heights, with WhatsApp groups spewing an endless stream of conspiracy theories and vitriol, including claims that Mr. Lula had a pact with Satan to close churches if he came to power. Evangelical preachers openly campaigned for Mr. Bolsonaro. Militias that have ties to Mr. Bolsonaro, the federal police and right-wing businesses, were all mobilised.

Mr. Lula's victory was initially met by protests from Mr. Bolsonaro's supporters and calls for the military to intervene. But Brazil's institutions have held fast and most of Mr. Bolsonaro's political allies have publicly accepted the outcome. Mr. Lula's return to power – his presidency begins on January 1 – bodes well for democracy. With Mr. Bolsonaro gone, the public sphere will now be spared his constant "*discurso de ódio*" (hate speech) and may actually get back to debates about social policies, the economy, and protecting the Amazon. Despite an adverse economic environment and a Congress and Senate that have strong representation of extreme right-wing groups, Mr. Lula will have a lot of room for manoeuvre. To begin with, he will be able to build back some of the impressive bureaucratic capacity that was built in the earlier PT period, but subverted by Mr. Bolsonaro. This will be especially critical in reinvigorating the capacity of the health and social welfare bureaucracies as well as the environmental protection agency.

Ironically, Mr. Lula will also be able to capitalise on some of Mr. Bolsonaro's own initiatives. Though ideologically hostile to state welfare, the COVID-19 pandemic forced Mr. Bolsonaro's hand as he ended up injecting more cash into Brazil's cash transfer programme (*Bolsa Família*), Mr. Lula's signature achievement in his previous two terms in office. Mr. Lula will now be able to build it out again. As conservative as Brazil is, there is, as in India, broad-based support for expanding welfare measures. The difference is that while Mr. Bolsonaro tried to patronise welfare, that is create direct ties between himself and beneficiaries, a PT government will push to link welfare to basic social rights, and possibly even broaden the criteria of inclusion.

### An institution man

So what does this all mean? First, this is the most decisive reversal of the great wave that I have called an "Age of Reaction" – a wave that has seen reactionary regimes come to power across a range of electoral democracies, including western Europe (most recently, Italy), eastern Europe, the United States (Trumpism, which is set to make a comeback this week in the U.S. congressional elections), India and the Philippines. As in all these regimes, Mr. Bolsonaro weaponised the classic conservative call to reinvigorate church, family and nation, into a sense of existential cultural threat from various "others", including assorted communists, secularists, human rights activists and immigrants, or in the case of India and Brazil religious or racial groups.

Second, Mr. Lula's victory reverses the growing narrative that the checks-and-balance liberal institutions of democracy are ineffective and elite-dominated, and should be replaced by direct support for the great leader. For all his personal popularity and charisma, Mr. Lula has always been an institution man: first as a union leader, then as a builder of a party that has a strong internal democratic culture, and finally as President who has been steadfast in his support for democratic norms and practices. Third, what the PT's return to power demonstrates is the possibility, even in a world of increasing precarity and inequality, of building a broad coalition of the poor and progressive elements of the middle class. Right-wing populists have long derided issues such as gender rights, fighting climate change, cultural pluralism and racial inclusion as the foibles of a politically correct cultural elite. Mr. Lula's social base and his track record show that these are and must be universal concerns and that the pursuit of social justice and social equality begins with a commitment to inclusive democracy.

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's win is the most decisive reversal of a great wave called an Age of Reaction – a wave that has seen reactionary regimes come to power across a range of electoral democracies

## Architecture, the profession, needs strengthening

**I**t is 50 years since the Architects Act (1972) was passed to help build the modern profession of architecture. Architects have made steady progress since then, established contemporary design's value and expanded their professional base. There are now about 1,26,000 registered architects, with around 10,000 new registrations every year. However, instead of effusing confidence and success, architects seem to be facing the same dilemmas they confronted 50 years ago: the profession has yet to be recognised in its own right, there is bitter rivalry with its engineering cousins, low professional fee structures, poor protection from market forces and confusion about the road ahead. Equally perplexing are the solutions proposed and charting a path. There are many who want to seek the legal route, amend the Act and demand that the state protect the profession further.

### A legal route is futile

If history has any lessons to offer, it is the opposite. Acts do not guarantee excellence. Choking regulations are counterproductive; market forces are powerful and can countervail barriers to competition. In this context, pursuing a legal route to take on multitudinous challenges will be unproductive and futile. Instead, architects can do better if they abandon archaic notions of 'profession' built on narrow jurisdictional boundaries and focus on broad-basing practice, investing in internal cohesion, and improving professional ethics and quality of services. The path to securing a professional Act in architecture was not easy. Architecture emerged as a distinct profession and formed an influential association in the 19th century in the United Kingdom, but that was not the case in India. There were not enough architects or institutions to ensure parallel development. The first national-level association of architects was formed in 1929 with 158 members, many of whom were in Bombay. When professionalisation picked up momentum after Independence, and professional legislation such



**A. Srivathsan**  
is a professor at CEPT University, Ahmedabad

as the Dentists Act in 1948 and Indian Medical Council Act in 1956 were passed, it encouraged architects to revive their demands and struggle; they finally got their Act in 1972.

The Act was seen by architects as essential to separate them from those offering vocational services and also engineers. However, the government was unwilling to accept their demands and refused to make rendering architectural services exclusive to architects as it found many building services to be overlapping with those of engineers. The government only conceded to protect the title 'architect', which only qualified and registered professionals can use. Architects have had complaints since then.

Professionalisation is a monopoly of services given to those who acquire specialised knowledge. Eliot Freidson's definitive work on professionalism justifies this as an organising principle of division of labour and argues that such monopoly is required since professionals acquire, govern and develop a special knowledge that society needs. Architects who enthusiastically subscribe to this ideal view overlook three key facts. First, a profession has no intrinsic privileges but is secured only through state-supported legislation. Second, in the Indian context, the profession was not formed free of contestations, and the debates have not ceased. Third, more importantly, the ground conditions have altered over the last three decades, and as an extensive consumer of professional services, the market has established itself as the lead patron. It now wields power to bulldoze any barrier to competitive procurement of services.

### The state view

State support for professions, which is critical to legitimise claims of a monopoly of services, has also been neither unconditional nor stable. Its view of what constitutes public good has changed and is currently aligned with the market economy. Large corporates and the building industry seek competition and lower fees. As patrons and powerful clients, they can ignore

provisions of the Architects Act and the protocols that flow from here. Further, they prefer handing over projects to consultancy firms that offer full services, that include design and construction.

More than in any profession, the dependency on the market and state has split architects into unequal groups. Using the categories described by Michael Reed, a scholar of organisational analysis, one can identify a minority group of influential elites and their larger firms on one side and a predominant group of independent architects with medium and small firms on the other. Elites view the market economy to their advantage and support competitive demands. They flourish when steep entry barriers, such as high turnover requirements imposed by the state and private firms, keep out many small and medium firms. This disparity cannot be addressed through legislation but can be engaged only through the professional collective.

### A blueprint

The profession can strengthen itself in three ways. To begin with, it should quickly abandon the 19th and 20th-century definitions of the profession that relies on carving out exclusive jurisdictions. Architects should reimagine their profession as part of a system of practices that draws strength from related building services such as building science and project management. It would serve better to build an alliance of building professionals, increase their collective relevance and enhance bargaining power. The second aspect is to help smaller and medium firms by lobbying to remove severe entry barriers that deny them projects. Equally important is the third way. Strengthening what Freidson calls the 'soul of the profession' by focusing on 'practice and institutional ethics', thereby, enhancing the quality of services. If any amendment to the Act is taken up, it should acknowledge the changed conditions of practice and enable alliances between professions.

*The views expressed are personal*

Instead of effusing confidence and success 50 years after the Architects Act was passed, architects seem to be facing the same dilemmas they confronted in the past

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Musk-owned Twitter

Elon Musk has caused a flutter in his taking over Twitter. An Ivy school product, he has thrived immensely in the pursuit of radical paths. Self belief and genius are what have made him famous and rich. But what he has missed is the approach to managing human resource/s, where his record has been

questionable. If Rubik designed his cube to proceed from chaos to order, Elon Musk revels in the reverse. What he would have in store for a purely digital socio-political platform could turn Orwellian in an attempt at controlling thought. Given such wide ramifications, Twitter may either be transformed in the hands of

### a genius or afflicted by a maverick.

**R. Narayanan,**  
Navi Mumbai

While Tesla and SpaceX are industry leaders in their segments, Elon Musk has his task cut out to ensure that the issues of hate speech and disinformation afflicting Twitter – one of the most influential social

media platforms where views are disseminated to diverse groups inhabiting the earth – are now addressed with an alacrity they deserve. A main concern about Twitter is the lack of accountability and transparency in its decision-making process. It is hoped that Mr. Musk will usher in measures to make Twitter a responsible social

media platform while not riding roughshod over free speech.

**M. Jayaram,**  
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

### A book in hand

No amount of digital technology can replace the comfort and the pleasure of reading a printed book ('Open' page, November 6). As far as used-book stalls

are concerned, how can one forget the erstwhile Moore Market, in Chennai?

**A. Jainulabdeen,**  
Chennai



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

# The continuing stalemate in Myanmar

**T**wenty-one months after a military coup, which derailed a decade-old experiment with limited democracy, Myanmar is struggling to cope with the consequences. People are suffering, authorities and opposition forces are locked in a cycle of violent clashes, the economy is deteriorating, and ASEAN's mission to produce a solution has failed.

## Internal scene

When the Tatmadaw (military), unhappy with the victory of the Aung San Suu Kyi-led National League for Democracy in the November 2020 elections, chose to violate the constitution, it acted in the belief that the people would accept its dictat, as they had done in previous decades. Clearly, it underestimated public anger and their commitment to freedom and democracy. Even after killing over 2,300 people and imprisoning thousands, including Ms. Suu Kyi, the military still faces a rebellion. Its plan to hold an election next year stands jeopardised.

With two key dimensions, the opposition has prevented the military from having its way. First, the parallel National Unity Government (NUG) may not be recognised by any state, but it continues to receive political and financial support from abroad. It has effectively channelled popular indignation against military rule, while still being vulnerable due to the paucity of resources and the absence of a visible leader. Second, the about 20 ethnic armed organisations (EAOs), located in the east, north and west of Myanmar's periphery, have divergent approaches towards the post-coup conflict. Many view it as an intra-Bamar contestation, an issue of limited concern to them. Some like the Karen and Kachins support the NUG, while others, especially those controlled or supported by China, remain aloof. Those operating in the Chin and Rakhine states are engaged in a fierce armed conflict with the military and have enfeebled it. But



**Rajiv Bhatia**  
is Distinguished Fellow at Gateway House. A former Ambassador to Myanmar, he is the author of *India-Myanmar Relations: Changing Contours*

overall, due to their divergences and relative weaknesses, the EAOs are unlikely to defeat the military.

Thus, while the opposition has performed well, it is unable to turn the tide in its favour, without a nationwide front against the Tatmadaw. National reconciliation between the military and civilian forces, and ethnic reconciliation between the majority Bamar and ethnic minorities, have been put on hold. Ms. Suu Kyi, 77, the most popular leader, has been sentenced to 26 years of imprisonment in multiple cases on apparently trumped-up charges.

Besides, 1.1 million Rohingya, driven by military oppression to seek shelter in Bangladesh in 2017, continue to languish there. Dhaka's efforts to arrange their safe return have failed. Armed clashes between the military and their ethnic opponents in the border region are having a spillover effect in Bangladesh. Dhaka continues to show restraint and a preference for diplomacy to manage the situation.

## International dimensions

The UN has been forthright in criticising the coup. It has expressed concern over continuing violence, support for a 'democratic transition', a release of all political prisoners and dialogue among the parties concerned. However, the UN Secretary General's special envoy has had little success in promoting peace. The UN's failure lies in the sharp divisions within the international community on how to deal with this vexed issue.

The western powers have been severely critical of the military. They have put in place several restrictive measures and imposed more sanctions. They have extended support to the NUG. On the other hand, Russia has given considerable backing to the military regime, seeing in its own isolation an opportunity to strengthen bilateral cooperation in defence and energy supplies. China is keeping a door open to democratic forces even while

doing business with the regime and exploiting every opportunity to ensure progress on the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor. ASEAN is divided in three ways: Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore are pro-democracy; Thailand and Laos are pro-military; and Vietnam and the Philippines are ambivalent. This disunity and the Tatmadaw's refusal to cooperate with ASEAN have led to the non-implementation of the Five-Point Consensus. The upcoming ASEAN summit may provide clues on whether the grouping can forge a united stand and devise something that works better. India is concerned as the post-coup conditions have adversely impacted its interests and hampered bilateral cooperation. Mega projects stand delayed. Some 50,000 refugees, as per unofficial estimates, have been camping in Mizoram.

Meanwhile, there is an erroneous perception that India has abandoned the Myanmar people. The reality is that India proactively advocates an early restoration of democracy, the release of prisoners, and internal dialogue. Can India do more? It can explore the possibility of a combined mediatory role with ASEAN and like-minded neighbours. Will China have a role in such a group? India-China relations preclude that possibility.

Through greater unity, external players can help Myanmar in creating a suitable environment for dialogue on a political settlement. Distant countries such as Norway and Japan can play a helpful role as catalysts. But the principal responsibility to construct a solution must rest with the Myanmar elite and leadership of both camps. Through resilience and pragmatism, they crafted a way out in 2011-21. They must recreate that spirit. 'The Golden Land', where Lord Buddha is revered, needs to be re-inspired by his teachings. Else, a prolonged, contested military rule or a failed state seems a distinct possibility.

The principal responsibility to construct a solution must rest with the Myanmar elite and leadership of both camps

# Madrasas face an existential crisis

With funds drying up, they are struggling to feed the hungry and impart literacy

## STATE OF PLAY

**Ziya Us Salam**  
ziya.salam@thehindu.co.in



**T**here has been a lot of unhappiness about the Yogi Adityanath government's decision to conduct a survey of unrecognised madrasas in Uttar Pradesh. The government's claim – of the survey being an exercise to help the madrasas and their students – has been less than convincing. In the past, the government has called into question the patriotism of madrasa students by asking their management to hoist the national flag on Independence Day, record the proceedings, and submit the same to the local magistrate.

Yet, the fact remains that unrecognised, irregular madrasas could do with some help. Most are floundering for lack of direction. Many impart elementary theological instruction through semi-educated teachers. If at all there, secular education is, at best, piecemeal. Madrasas depend almost fully on community funding. And with the economic downturn – first post-demonetisation and then post-COVID-19 – that funding has reduced to a trickle. Under normal circumstances, an institute pressed for funds cuts down on expansion plans or puts new courses on hold. Here, it has become an existential crisis for tens of thousands of students. The dwindling community sponsorship has translated into less food to eat and no warm clothes for them. If that makes it seem as though the madrasas' prime purpose is to feed and clothe the needy, the reality is not entirely different. Most students are first-generation learners. Many of them are sent by pa-

rents with the idea that there will be one less mouth to feed at home. For poverty-stricken parents, the madrasas' free boarding and lodging is a blessing. The education is often considered a bonus. The much-maligned madrasas feed the hungry and impart literacy.

Today, it is becoming challenging to operate madrasas in Uttar Pradesh. For instance, Jamiatul HAMD in Gautam Buddha Nagar district is a rare madrasa which encouraged its students to take the Central Board of Secondary Education exams alongside learning to be Hafiz-e-Quran (one who has memorised the Quran).

The madrasa is so short of funds that the management does not know where the next meal for the students will come from. In the past, Good Samaritans sent packs of rice, lentils, wheat flour and cooking oil. Such sponsorship has come down drastically, leaving the students with the prospect of going to bed hungry. Most of them also do not have blankets to cover themselves in the coming winter. Also, 40% of the students in this madrasa who went back home during the COVID-19 pandemic did not return.

The scene is not too different at the Jamia Mahad-e-Noor madrasa in Dadri, where 30% of the students dropped out after COVID-19. Day scholars face an uncertain future.

Some teachers could not be retained due to paucity of funds.

Meanwhile, the cash-strapped Jamia Naseeriyah in Ghaziabad closed down its wing for outstation students. In mosques across Uttar Pradesh, community aid is sought for unrecognised madrasas after daily prayers. In almost every madrasa, there are lingering apprehensions about their fate after the survey. Many packed off their outstation students in panic when the survey started. The students may never return.

Incidentally, these schools had also sent back their outstation students after the nationwide lockdown was imposed in March 2020. Many students did not return as their parents got them employed as either farm labourers or at sundry tea shops or eateries. A student who may have at one time dreamed of becoming a scholar of Islam is now a menial worker.

Most madrasas stayed shut for more than 18 months during the pandemic. But unlike public schools, they imparted no online instruction as most children studying in these madrasas had no access to smartphones at home. Even a seminary like Darul Uloom, Deoband could not continue online instruction for this reason.

The fear of the survey has only made things worse. Students of madrasas which do not have an electricity connection and use just a hand-pump to provide water are particularly vulnerable. Ownership documents are not exactly foolproof. As more and more parents withdraw their children from madrasas, and many seminaries send back outstation students, learning may come to a full stop for thousands of youngsters.

# Helicopter accidents in October point to broader concerns

India scores poorly in licensing regime and organisational processes and over 40% of helicopter accidents have been due to pilot errors

## DATA POINT

**Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Rebecca Rose Varghese**

In October, 13 people were killed in three accidents in India involving helicopters. On October 5, an Army aviation pilot was killed after a Cheetah helicopter crashed near Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. On October 18, a commercial chopper ferrying pilgrims from Kedarnath crashed, killing all seven on board. On October 21, a military helicopter crashed, killing all the five personnel on board, in the Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Over the years, there have been many such incidents resulting in hundreds of fatalities. Uttarakhand, where the latest accident involving a commercial copter took place, is a hotbed for chopper accidents. A conservative estimate based on incident reports by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) shows that at least nine helicopters, many of them ferrying pilgrims inside the State, met with accidents between 1990 and 2019. Map 1 shows the approximate take-off spots and intended landing spots of 72 commercial helicopters involved in accidents in that period. A high number of accidents was recorded in the Northeast too.

More than 150 people, including pilots, the crew and passengers, lost their lives in accidents involving commercial helicopters between 1998 and 2021 (Chart 2A). Between 1998 and 2021, 124 military personnel were killed in accidents involving defence helicopters (Chart 2B).

Over 40% of commercial helicopter accidents were due to pilot error (Chart 3). Harsh weather, the suspected reason behind the October 18 accident, was the reason for 19% of the accidents. About 9% were attributed to 'cable hit' (where a helicopter gets entangled in wires/cables used by locals in

mountainous regions to transport goods). These cables are often not marked with warning signs and are not visible from a distance, especially when the weather is poor. Close to 85% of the fatalities due to commercial helicopter accidents happened in broad daylight, 54% while the copters were cruising, and 37% when the copters were landing. Take-off seems to be the safest part of the flight, causing the least number of deaths in the 1990-2019 period.

An analysis of accidents involving commercial airplanes in the 1990-2019 period shows that there were 999 fatalities across India. However when analysed temporally, the number of accidents involving both helicopters and flights has reduced in the last decade compared to earlier periods.

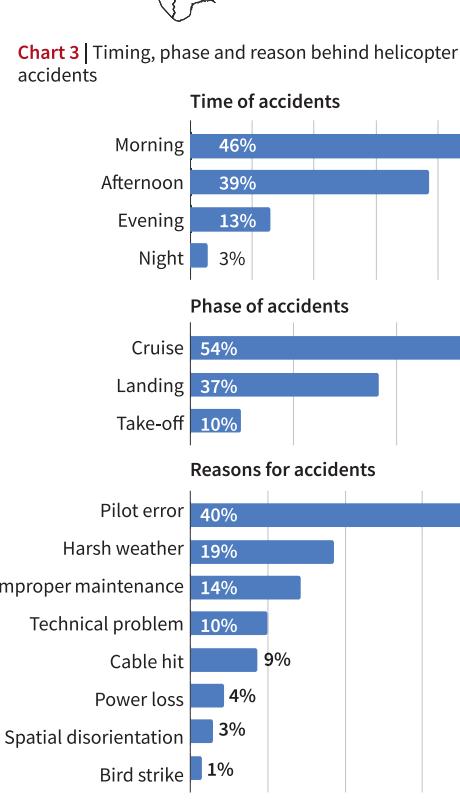
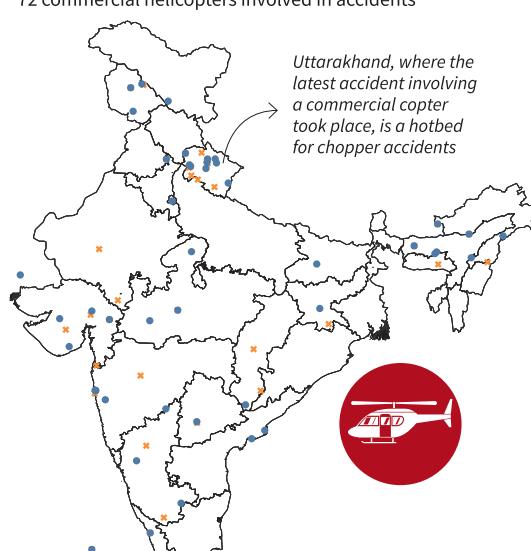
While the reasons for individual accidents vary, an analysis of the International Civil Aviation Organization's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme shows some broader concerns with Indian aviation standards. The audit was conducted between 2016 and 2018 across eight broad areas (Chart 4). A country's score in each area is then compared to the world average, to arrive at deficient sectors. India scored well above the world average in six of the eight parameters but lagged behind in two – personnel licensing and training, and civil aviation organisation.

These two areas broadly deal with the establishment of relevant aviation agencies by the state, supported by sufficient and qualified personnel and adequate financial resources. They also involve the implementation of documented processes and procedures to ensure that personnel and organisations meet the established requirements before they are licensed to fly. A poor score in licensing regime and organisational processes, when read along with the fact that over 40% of helicopter accidents were due to pilot errors, point to a deeper problem behind these accidents.

## Crash analysis

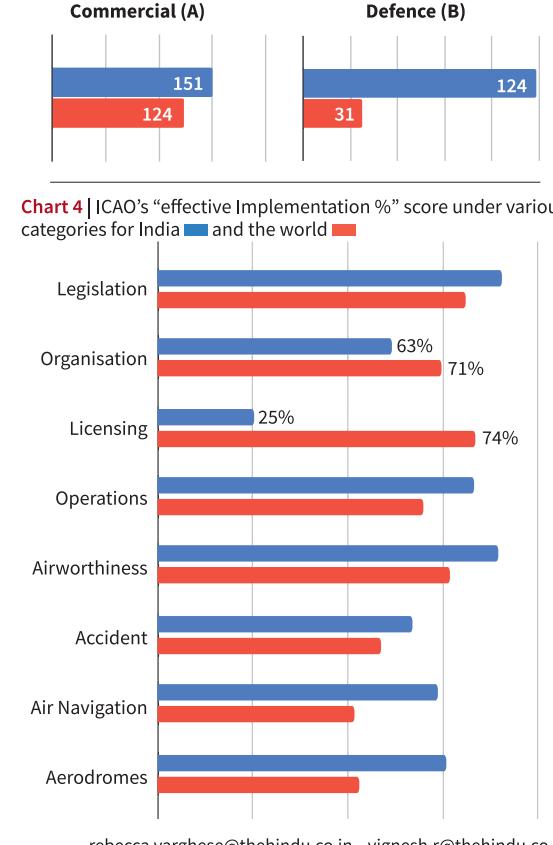
As many DGCA reports on accidents are pending release, the accident sites and number of fatalities are conservative estimates. The timing, phase of operation and reason behind these accidents were collated from the DGCA's accident reports. Chart 4 has been sourced from the International Civil Aviation Organization's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme

Map 1 | Take-off ● and intended landing spots ✕ of 72 commercial helicopters involved in accidents



ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

Chart 2 | Fatalities ■ and injuries □ in accidents involving commercial and defence helicopters between 1990 and 2019. The numbers for defence helicopters are based on Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha answers and are therefore conservative estimates



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

**The Hindu**

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 7, 1972

## Suggestions to speed up Sanskrit dictionary project

New Delhi, Nov. 6: The Government-aided Sanskrit Dictionary Project should be converted into an agency under the Union Education Ministry, according to a Review Committee appointed to probe into its working. The eight-member committee, headed by Dr. S. Bhattacharya, head of the Sanskrit Department of the Banaras Hindu University, in its report submitted to the Union Government has suggested that the project should not work as a university department or as a part of an institution. The 30-year-old project, started in 1942 and at present being executed by the Deccan College, Poona, with annual grants from the Union Education Ministry, had been having fluctuating fortunes for the past some time. The committee has recommended the appointment of a board of management for the overall control of the various aspects of the project, and a general editor and a managing secretary to speed up its working. In 1942, when the project was undertaken, it was envisaged to be a mere dictionary of inscriptionsal Sanskrit but later on works on Sanskrit lexicography were also included to make it a comprehensive dictionary, based on the traditional lexicons. A series of 17 lexicons, edited by the staff of the project, were also published as a preparatory work for the dictionary. In 1948, Dr. Renou, a visiting scholar at the Poona College, had, with the help of a committee, prepared a more comprehensive plan of the dictionary of historical principles and had drawn a list of about 2,000 words, excepting the slips from the various branches of Sanskrit, for the dictionary. Government, since then, has appointed three review committees to look into the progress of the project. The present committee, the third, set up in February this year, has found that the first phase of the dictionary relating to the extraction of vocables – about nine million – from the Sanskrit texts has been almost completed and is expected to be ready by October 1974.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 7, 1922

## Bombay tram strike

Bombay, Nov. 5: The strike in the Bombay Electric Tramway Company has ended, the President of the Tramway Union having called off the strike and men having resumed work unconditionally.

## From Page One



All jubilant: BJP cadre celebrate the victory of their candidate in the Dhamnagar byelection on Sunday. PTI

## TRS wins Munugode, BJP bags Adampur

In Gopalganj, the polls were necessitated by the death of Subash Singh, MLA. The BJP fielded his widow. This is the first election in the State since the political realignment when the Janata Dal (U), its ally of almost two decades, left it for the RJD.

In Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party fell short of posting a credible challenge to the BJP in the Gola Gokaran Nath constituency, with its candidate losing by a margin of over 35,000 votes.

## Retained Odisha seat

The BJP fielded 26-year-old Aman Giri, son of Arvind Giri, whose death led to the byelection. The Samajwadi Party repeated Vinay Tiwari, who lost bids for the seat in the 2017 and 2022 Assembly elections. The BJP also retained the Dhamnagar seat in Odisha.

## Significant performance

More than these victories, however, the Munugode result gave the BJP a reason to rejoice. Though the party was defeated there by a margin of more than 10,000 votes, this was its second significant electoral performance in Telangana after its November 2021 victory in the Huzurabad Assembly constituency, where TRS rebel Eatala Rajendran won.

The results should surely worry the Congress, which currently is the key Opposition party in the State.

The Andheri (East) Assembly seat went to Uday Thackeray faction of Shiv Sena. This was the first electoral test after the split in the party. The Thackeray faction fielded Rutu Latke, the widow of the Sena legislator whose death created the vacancy. The BJP candidate supported by the Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena withdrew from the contest, giving Ms. Latke a walkover.

## Vision for urban transportation headlines mobility conference

## Latin Anand

KOCHI

Transportation bodies from Navi Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, and Delhi bagged an award each for 'Excellence in Urban Transport' at the 15th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference and Expo which concluded in Kochi on Sunday. The three-day event was organised to discuss the way forward regarding urban transportation in the country.

The last day of the event saw a panel discussion on the vision for urban transportation in India by the year 2047. The panel also discussed issues related to urban mobility over the next 25 years.

While Ahmedabad was awarded for being the city with the most sustainable transport system for its Ahmedabad Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS), Navi Mumbai bagged the award for the city with the best public transport system for

## Online gaming fraud: ED pursuing China link

## Devesh K. Pandey

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is investigating multiple cases of online gaming fraud, including those against companies run by some China-based entities through dummy Indian directors, involving transactions worth about ₹4,000 crore.

In the case pertaining to Chinese entities, the agency is pursuing the money trails of 1,815 suspect accounts. It alleges that two companies named Linky-

un Technology Private Ltd. and Dokypay Technology Private Ltd. were involved in duping the users to the tune of ₹1,146 crore.

According to the ED, the initial capital in these firms was brought in the form of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from China. The Indian companies acted as payment collectors for multiple mobile applications which were banned from Google Play Store for malpractices, as alleged.

The ED alleges to have found that those behind the scam used various pay-

ment gateways for receiving domestic revenues and for carrying out international "hawala" transactions. Following a trail involving ₹263 crore, the ED found that ₹106 crore was sent to Singapore and ₹100 crore to Hong Kong using multiple shell companies.

About ₹57 crore was routed through a cryptocurrency exchange.

The agency also zeroed in on five domestic entities that had opened accounts with a public sector bank in Mumbai. Subsequent investigations led to the de-

tention of 49 more accounts with a private bank and overseas transfer of about ₹723 crore. Another account with a Korean bank's Gurugram branch was used to send ₹42 crore.

Based on the findings, the ED has so far made several arrests, including that of Chinese national Yan Hao, crypto trader Naisar Shailesh Kothari, an Indian director named Dhiraj Sarkar and Deepak Nayyar. Following Mr. Nayyar's arrest in May, the agency had alleged that the funds were laundered to Hong Kong

## SC to pronounce EWS quota verdict today

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit is scheduled to pronounce judgment on Monday on the challenge to the validity of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment which provides 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions to the 'economically weaker sections [EWS] of the society' but excludes the 'poorest of poor' among Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes from its ambit.

The other judges on the Bench are Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S. Ravinder Bhat, Bela M. Trivedi and J.B. Pardiwala. November 7 is the last working day of Chief Justice Lalit.

## Vital issues

The Bench had heard marathon arguments for seven days before reserving the case for judgment on September 27.

## Centre issues alert on illegal stay of Bangladeshi nationals in the country

## S. Vijay Kumar

CHENNAI

The Union government has issued an alert on the illegal stay of Bangladeshi nationals in India. The Directors-General of Police of the States and Union Territories have been told to take appropriate action on the illegal immigrants who sneaked into the country along the Bangladesh border in West Bengal and settled across the country, sources said on Sunday.

Security agencies were informed of a well-connected network of local people and agents in West Bengal that was facilitating the foreign nationals to gain entry, obtain original documents with the help of fake addresses, identities, and so on. The illegal immigrants who initially obtained Aadhaar cards moved to different parts of the country to get employment and settled there. Some managed to get other proof of address or identity such as bank passbook, voter identity card and



Wide network: The police said agents were facilitating the foreign nationals to gain entry and obtain documents with fake identities.

PAN card, the sources said. "These documents help them establish a fake identity at a given address and get employment. Many are using them to get passports to travel abroad. Since the documents, including the passport, are issued by the competent authority, the accused persons travel without being suspected or caught," a senior police official told *The Hindu*.

## Aadhaar cards

The Centre's alert said some people in West Bengal were acting as agents by

providing fraudulently obtained Indian identity documents, particularly Aadhaar cards, for a fee. The foreigners posing as Indian nationals used the documents for various purposes across India, the official quoted the advisory as saying and added that the accused foreign nationals were settled in several States, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

During the pandemic lockdown when a few lakhs of migrant workers left for their respective home States, the Bangladeshi workers stayed on. Some of them indulged in activities such as drug peddling during the period, the sources added.

## '30% of enemy property in U.P. illegally occupied'

## Mayank Kumar

LUCKNOW

As the Uttar Pradesh government gears up for a Statewide drive to clear encroachments on 'enemy property' across the State, government data accessed by *The Hindu* show that about 30% of such properties are under illegal occupation.

'Enemy property' refers to those left behind by people who migrated to Pakistan or other countries with whom India has had hostilities. According to the State government, nearly 1,467

such properties have been occupied by the mafia and others, while around 369 are occupied by co-occupiers and 424 by tenants who have taken the properties for rent at nominal rates during the tenure of previous State governments. Overall, about 2,250 of the 5,936 existing properties in the State are occupied.

The data show that the most number of 'enemy property' under occupation is in Shamli district, where 268 of the total 482 are under illegal possession.



Pranav is 6 years old male child suffering from B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. His family is extremely poor and cannot afford the chemotherapy for 3 years at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. He needs your blessings and support. Donations sent by Ch.D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai, will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch.D.D.NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No.GF 1, Cordel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600066. Ph: 044-42137401/2/28353247/7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

www

## Madrasa survey is for betterment of Islamic institutions: Minister

## The Hindu Bureau

LUCKNOW



As the deadline for the madrasa survey draws closer in Uttar Pradesh, Danish Ansari, the junior Minority Welfare Minister in the State government, on Sunday reiterated that the aim was to "collect data so that better education and other required facilities could be provided to these Islamic institutions".

"All the hue and cry regarding the madrasa survey is far from reality and the Uttar Pradesh government wants to provide better facilities to students studying in these Islamic institutions," Mr. Ansari said. "Hence this survey was necessary. We are not going to take actions."

The districts are receiving data from the departments concerned and the report is likely to be submitted to the government by November 15. "The government will take positive steps. Our intention is for betterment of those studying [in madrasas]," Mr. Ansari added.

The madrasa survey, which is almost complete, started on September 10, with teams of officials gathering information on 12 points, including infrastructure, staff, source of funding, and facilities available at the Islamic institutions in all 75 districts. So far, more than 8,000 madrasas have been found to be running without recognition in the State.

Since the announcement of the survey, the ruling BJP has been criticised by the Opposition parties and Muslim groups, who have alleged that the Yogi Adityanath government was trying to terrorise the Muslim community and that the survey was a "malicious" move to disparage the madrasa system.

BSP chief Mayawati said, "The attempts to interfere in the private madrasas, which are run on donations by the Muslim community, in the name of a survey, is inappropriate."

A TV-TVE

# One-all in Bihar: RJD retains Mokama, BJP keeps Gopalganj

Neelam Devi of RJD defeats Sonam Devi of BJP to win Mokama seat; Kusum Devi of saffron party secures victory over RJD candidate in Gopalganj by a margin of fewer than 2,000 votes, with AIMIM spoiling the latter's winning chances

**Amaranath Tewary**

PATNA

The ruling Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) retained the Mokama Assembly seat and the Bharatiya Janata Party kept Gopalganj in the byelections in Bihar, as results were declared on Sunday.

In Mokama, Neelam Devi defeated Sonam Devi by over 16,000 votes. The RJD candidate polled 79,646 votes against 62,939 of the BJP.

Ms. Neelam Devi is the wife of an imprisoned *bahubali* (strongman), Anant Singh. Ms. Sonam Devi is the wife of BJP leader Nalinji Ranjan Singh, alias Laljan Singh. Both are from the upper caste Bhumihar community.

In Gopalganj, Kusum Devi defeated Mohan Prasad Gupta by a slender margin of 1,794 votes. Ms. Kusum Devi is the wife of former BJP MLA and Minister Subhas Singh. She received 70,053 votes, while Mr. Gupta got 68,259.

The byelection in Moka-



**Strong show:** Rashtriya Janata Dal candidate Neelam Devi showing the victory sign after the results of the Mokama byelection were declared on Sunday. PTI

ma was necessitated after RJD MLA Anant Singh, alias *Chhote Sarkar*, was convicted in an arms seizure case and sentenced to 10 years in prison. Singh has been representing the seat since 2005.

"In Mokama, it was an election based on personalities instead of parties. The comfortable win of Ms. Neelam Devi was a fo-

regone conclusion, as Anant Singh has become a more popular personality in the area in terms of muscle power and easy accessibility to the residents than others," journalist Biren Kumar told *The Hindu*.

In Gopalganj, the by-election was held after BJP legislator Subhash Singh died after a prolonged illness.

It is said that the presence of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimineen (AIMIM) candidate Abdul Salam, alias Aslam Mukhia, in the fray made victory possible for the BJP candidate. Mr. Salam polled a total of 12,214 votes.

It was for the first time that AIMIM had fielded a candidate in Gopalganj after winning five seats in the

Seemandhal (border) districts of northeast Bihar in the 2020 Assembly election in the State.

However, four of the five AIMIM MLAs later joined the RJD.

Anirudh Prasad Yadav, alias Sadhu Yadav, who is the brother-in-law of RJD chief Lalu Prasad, too had fielded his wife, Indira Devi, on Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) ticket and is said to have spoilt the chances of the RJD candidate by courting its traditional Yadav vote bank. Ms. Indira Devi received 8,854 votes.

"Both Ms. Indira Devi and the AIMIM candidate split votes and helped in the victory of the BJP candidate from Gopalganj where the byelection was keenly fought," a local senior journalist told *The Hindu*.

In Gopalganj, Muslims have the most votes (65,000), followed by the upper caste Rajputs, Vaishya and Brahmin voters. The Other Backward Class (OBC) Yadav voters too are in sizeable number.

# Uddhav faction's Rutuja coasts to expected victory, NOTA bags second spot

**Shoumojit Banerjee**

PUNE

In a foregone conclusion, Rutuja Latke, the nominee of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance, coasted to an expected victory in the Andheri East Assembly by-election on Sunday.

The contest, necessitated by the death of Sena MLA Ramesh Latke in May, had witnessed a high-voltage build-up, with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) first announcing its candidate, Murji Patel, against Ms. Latke, only to withdraw him from the fray later as a gesture of "magnanimity".

While Ms. Latke polled 66,530 votes, a whopping 12,776 votes (14.79%), the second-highest count, were registered under the 'none of the above' (NOTA) category, leading the Uddhav faction to accuse the EC of a double-faced campaign against Ms. Latke, wherein it pulled back its candidate on the one hand while actively influencing voters to select the NOTA option in a bid to undercut



**Victory lap:** Supporters of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) celebrating after Rutuja Latke's victory on Sunday. PTI

the MVA nominee on the other.

**'No secret'**

Mr. Uddhav Thackeray said "there was no secret" behind the high votes polled under the NOTA category, quipping that had the BJP contested, it would have garnered the same number of votes.

"This was the first election after the 'betrayal' [of Eknath Shinde and other Sena leaders] and following the EC's freezing of the Shiv Sena's party name and its 'bow and arrow' symbol ... After the results, I am not worried about future electoral fights," the former Chief Minister said.

A sombre Ms. Latke said

the victory belonged to the memory of her late husband. "The voters have returned the goodwill ... I am thankful to all the MVA constituents and the workers who have striven tirelessly for my win," she said.

Responding to the accusations, the BJP's Mumbai city president, Ashish Shelar, said Ms. Latke's win was only possible due to the BJP's "help".

"Had the BJP fielded its candidate and contested the poll, then Ms. Latke's defeat was certain," Mr. Shelar said in a tweet.

He added that the voting had been low despite the combined strength of the Congress, the NCP and the Left parties.

# Akhilesh says election was rigged as Adityanath hails people's confidence in BJP

**The Hindu Bureau**

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday congratulated voters and BJP workers for the emphatic victory in the Gola Gokaran Nath Assembly byelection.

BJP candidate Aman Giri defeated his nearest rival and Samajwadi Party (SP) nominee Vinay Tiwari by over 34,000 votes.

"This emphatic victory symbolises people's confidence in the pro-development policies of the BJP's double-engine government,"

ment," Mr. Adityanath said in a tweet.

The Gola Gokaran Nath byelection was necessitated by the death of sitting BJP MLA Arvind Giri.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said the election was rigged and district officials had worked as BJP workers. "The State government has undermined democracy in the byelection in Lakhimpur Kheri district. The election was rigged step-by-step. The BJP had claimed to have won the election before the result was out. Voters were not allowed to vote

independently," he said.

"The SP workers were tortured in various ways on the day of polling. Incidents such as lathi charge, driving away polling agents, especially harassing Muslims, SP supporters and booths in-charge... it was clear that the BJP would do anything to win..." he added.

He questioned the Election Commission's ability to ensure transparency and fairness during the byelection. "Why could the EC not ensure transparency and fairness during the bypoll?" he said.

# No surprise in Bhajan Lal's pocket borough, grandson wins Adampur bypoll comfortably

**Ashok Kumar**  
GURUGRAM

Holding on to his family bastion of more than five decades, BJP candidate Bhavya Bishnoi, grandson of the late Bhajan Lal, former Chief Minister, registered a comfortable victory in the Adampur by-election in Haryana, defeating his nearest rival and Congress candidate, Jai Prakash, by 15,740 votes.

While Mr. Bhavya polled 67,492 votes – 51.32% of the total votes cast – Mr. Jai Prakash secured 51,752 votes. Satinder Singh of the Aam Aadmi Party finished fourth with 3,420



**Home run:** The BJP's Bhavya Bishnoi receives the 'Certificate of Election' after winning the Adampur seat in Haryana. PTI

votes. Of the 22 candidates in the fray, 11 finished behind the "none of the above" (NOTA) option, which polled 237 votes. Indian National Lok Dal can-

didate Kurda Ram Namdar finished third with 5,248 votes.

The Assembly constituency was earlier held by Mr. Bhavya's father, Kuldeep Bishnoi, who quit the Congress to join the BJP in August. He was miffed over being ignored for the post of Congress State president. Adampur has been represented by Bhajan Lal's family since 1968.

The margin of victory for Mr. Bhavya, however, reduced by almost half since the Assembly election in 2019, when his father defeated the late Sonali Phogat of the BJP by nearly 30,000 votes. BJP State chief O.P. Dhankar said the victory was "encouraging" for the party workers and an approval of the party's "good governance", "organisational skills" and "election management".

Congress Rajya Sabha member Deepender Hooda said the reduced margin of victory for the BJP had made him "hopeful" for the future.

He added that the electorate in Adampur had rejected the Janmaya Janata Party, the AAP and the INLD, making it clear that the Assembly election in 2024 would be a direct contest between the BJP and the Congress.

The AAP's Haryana in-charge Sushil Gupta said his party was known for bringing a change in the system and, therefore, the electorate did not find the politics of bypolls appropriate for the party.

Bharat Jodo Yatra to enter Maharashtra today

**The Hindu Bureau**

MUMBAI

After traversing through the five southern States for exactly two months, the Bharat Jodo Yatra, spearheaded by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, will enter Maharashtra on Monday evening at Madnur Naka in Deglur of Nanded district exiting Telangana from Kamareddy district.

The State unit has made elaborate arrangements and a massive turnout of cadre is expected to greet the *yatra* as it crosses the inter-State boundary to reach Madnur Naka.

During his 14-day journey in the State, Mr. Gandhi will walk 381 km through 15 Assembly and six Lok Sabha constituencies.

State Congress chief Nana Patole told *The Hindu* that the likelihood of Nationalist Congress Party supremo Sharad Pawar joining the *yatra* on November 8 was very thin, given his health condition. Shiv Seva chief Uddhav Thackeray is yet to confirm his schedule but is likely to join Mr. Gandhi in Akola district.

# Came here to beat all records, Modi says at Gujarat election rally

**The Hindu Bureau**  
AHMEDABAD



Narendra Modi

Kicking off the BJP campaign following the announcement of Assembly election dates in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday came up with a new slogan in Gujarati, "Aa Gujarat, mai bnavyu che" (I have made this Gujarat), while addressing a rally at Mota Pondha, a tribal pocket in south Gujarat.

"Every Gujarati, be it an aboriginal or a fisherman, be it a villager or an urban dweller, is full of confidence today. That is why every Gujarati says, 'I have made this Gujarat.' People have built this State with their hard work," Mr. Modi said.

Addressing the party's poll campaign at the tribal-dominated Nana Pondha in Kaprada taluk of Valsad district, Mr. Modi called for people to defeat those defaming the State for 20 years.

According to party sources, Mr. Modi is likely to address some 20 rallies across the State this month

# BJP promises Uniform Civil Code in Himachal if voted to power, releases manifesto

**The Hindu Bureau**  
SHIMLA

With the aim to repeat its government in Himachal Pradesh, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday released the party's manifesto ahead of the Assembly election, promising implementation of a Uniform Civil Code in the State and extending commitments surrounding jobs for youth and women welfare.

BJP president J.P. Nadda released the party's manifesto in Shimla, saying that commitment made in the party's *Sankalp Patra* would go a long way in bringing uniformity in society and empowering farmers-horticulturist, the youth, and the women.

The election in the State is scheduled for November 12.

Mr. Nadda said, "A committee will be set up surrounding the Uniform Civil Code and based on the committee report it will be implemented."

Elaborating on the ma-

doubled in all Assembly constituencies. Also, all type of discrepancies in remuneration of government employees will be removed," Mr. Nadda added.

Mr. Nadda said the BJP would conduct a survey of Wakf properties under the law and set up a judicial commission to investigate the illegal usage of such properties.

Asserting that special focus had been given to women's welfare, Mr. Nadda said the party would provide bicycles for schoolgirls from Classes 6 to 12 and mopeds for girls pursuing higher education.

Responding to a question surrounding "freebies", Mr. Nadda said, "There is a very thin line between empowerment and allure... All our commitments in the *Sankalp Patra* are for empowerment – be it the women, the youth, the farmers-horticulturist, employees... We are against allure and for empowerment," the BJP leader said.

"A start-up scheme with a corpus of ₹900 crore will be created for job creation for the youth. The number of mobile clinics will be

# PM 'pressuring' BJP rebel candidate in Himachal, says Cong.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Congress is likely to move the Election Commission against the BJP, citing a video clip in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is allegedly heard pressuring a BJP rebel candidate to withdraw from the Himachal Pradesh Assembly election.

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi accused Mr. Modi of "misusing his power" to influence the election results. In the video that has gone viral on social media platforms, the Congress said, Mr. Modi is heard speaking to BJP rebel Kripal Parmar. Mr. Singhvi said Mr. Modi is heard trying to "pressure" and "emotionally blackmail" Mr. Parmar into not

contesting as an independent from the Fatehpur Assembly constituency.

"The Prime Minister is misusing his power to influence free and fair elections. This would be clear electoral malpractice if not a corrupt electoral practice," Mr. Singhvi said.

He added that the Congress would complain to the commission. "The BJP is losing ground in Himachal Pradesh and is going to be defeated. Such actions and words reflect its fear, frustration and insecurity," he said.

Such exercises, Mr. Singhvi said, indicates the "distorted priorities" of the BJP government. "Not governance but electioneering is the favourite job of the BJP government and its chief executive," he said.



For details, visit <https://wbtenders.gov.in> and [www.wbsecl.in](http://www.wbsecl.in)

ICA-T 18909 (4)/2022

Extension of Time

Ref. Original NIT No.: PSPD/2/R4/TURGA-PROJECT ROAD & MAT/03/2022-23, Dt.: 31.08.2022 of the Chief Engineer (PSPD). Bid Submission Date extended up to 16.11.2022 (15:00 hrs).

For details, visit <https://wbtenders.gov.in> and [www.wbsecl.in](http://www.wbsecl.in)

(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)

CIN: U40109WB2007SC13473, www.wbsecl.in

## IN BRIEF

**'Sugar export may increase after production assessment'**

The government, which has allowed export of six million tonnes of sugar till May 31 for the ongoing 2022-23 season, on Sunday said it could consider allowing more exports after periodic assessment of domestic production. A Food Ministry notification issued on Saturday said export quota of six million tonnes had been permitted from November 1 to May 31, 2023, with an option for millers to export on their own or through exporters or swap with domestic sale quota. In a statement issued on Sunday, the Ministry said the export quota has been fixed based on the available initial estimates of sugar cane production in the country. PTI

**Russia becomes India's top crude oil supplier in October**

Russia has become India's top oil supplier in October, surpassing traditional sellers Saudi Arabia and Iraq, according to data from energy cargo tracker Vortexa. Russia, which made up for just 0.2% of all oil imported by India till March 31, 2022, supplied 9,35,556 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil to India in October – the highest ever. It now makes up for 22% of India's total crude imports, ahead of Iraq's 20.5% and Saudi Arabia's 16%. India's appetite for Russian oil swelled ever since it started trading on discount as the West shunned it to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine. PTI

**EC for reducing candidates' cash expenditure to ₹2,000**

The Election Commission has proposed reducing the amount a candidate contesting polls can pay in cash for campaign-related expenditure from the existing ₹10,000 to ₹2,000 to make their transactions more transparent, sources said. In the proposal submitted to the government recently, the poll panel recommended that the Conduct of Election Rules should be amended to ensure that all cash payments in excess of ₹2,000 made to a person or entity for election-related expenses are made either through account payee cheques or online. This, the sources said, is part of efforts to bring greater transparency in the expenditure by individual candidates. PTI

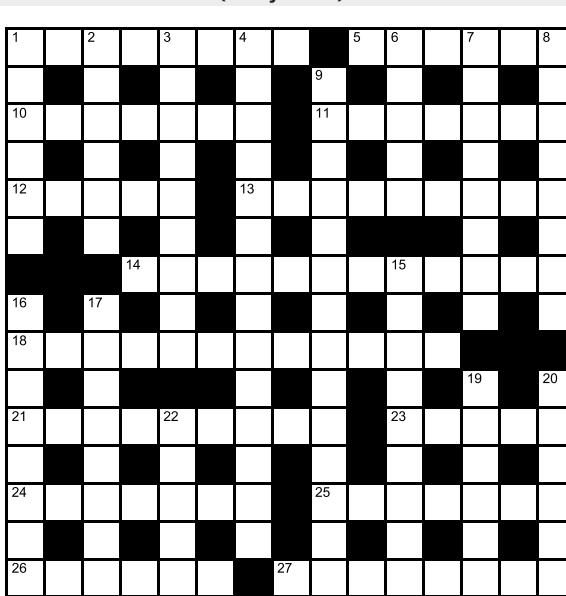
**15-year-old arrested for killing four of his family members**

In a horrific incident, a 15-year-old boy hacked to death three members of his family and a neighbour in Kamalpur of Tripura's Dhalai district on Saturday night. The culprit was nabbed at Halahali on Sunday and taken to Kamalpur police station. He will be shifted to a remand home. The police, based on initial investigation, said the boy was a drug addict and could be suffering from a mental disorder. He played loud music while attacking his prey with a machete. "After murdering his mother, younger sister, grandfather and a neighbour who happened to be present there, the assailant buried them in the courtyard," Dhalai district Superintendent of Police Ramesh Yadav said.

**TH CROSSWORD** (set by Arden)

13704

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

**Across**

- Opportunity for half of those watching the game (8)
- Go with arms, transport coming (6)
- Cashier will insult girl (7)
- Systematic plan to keep a soldier among other soldiers (7)
- Bit of war enacted in the battle ground (5)
- Stoned to death — after drink I'd embraced my girlfriend (9)

# Favourable wind conditions improve Delhi's air quality

Emergency measures such as the ban on entry of trucks and plying of non-BS VI diesel-run light motor vehicles under stage four of the Graded Response Action Plan have been revoked

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Sunday revoked its November 3 order which called for emergency measures such as a ban on entry of trucks into the capital and plying of non-BS VI diesel-run light motor vehicles imposed under stage four of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

This was done as the air quality improved with favorable meteorological conditions.

The decision to shut primary schools was a measure taken at the discretion of the Delhi government as an emergency measure till Tuesday.

According to the forecast in a bulletin by the Union government-run monitoring agency SAFAR (System of Air Quality and



**Lung space:** The air quality improved to the lower end of the "very poor" category on Sunday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Weather Forecasting and Research) on Sunday, the air quality in the capital improved due to the change in wind flow from stubble-burning areas leading to prevention of inflow of pollutants.

After two days of "severe" air pollution, the air quality of the national cap-

ital improved slightly to the upper end "very poor" category on Saturday, and improved further to the lower end of the "very poor" category on Sunday, as per the data by Central Pollution Control Board.

The forecast reads "air quality is likely to improve further but remain within

"very poor" or "upper end of poor" till November 8. Stubble emissions from neighbouring States with a fire count of 3,100 contributed to 18% to PM2.5 level – a chief pollutant – in Delhi on Sunday.

**No steep degradation**

"As the present Air Quality Index (AQI) level of Delhi is around 339 which is about 111 AQI points below the threshold for invoking the GRAP Stage-IV actions (Delhi AQI > 450) and preventive/ mitigative/ restrictive actions under all stages up to Stage-IV are under way, there is a likelihood of sustaining the improvement in AQI. The forecast also does not indicate any steep degradation further," an order from the Commission for Air Quality Management read.

A higher value of AQI means an increase in air pollution.

# Chargeable blue tick to roll out in India in a month: Elon Musk

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

Twitter's chargeable blue tick verification service is expected to roll out in India in "less than a month", the microblogging platform's new owner, billionaire Elon Musk has said.

Earlier this month, Mr. Musk announced that the verification blue tick in front of a user's name that authenticates an account would be charged \$8 a month.

Twitter's strategy to introduce a monthly charge for the verified badge has polarised users globally.

Mr. Musk, the CEO of electric car maker Tesla Inc, completed his \$44-billion takeover of Twitter in October-end, placing the world's richest man at the helm of one of the most influential social media apps in the world.

**Mass layoffs**  
He also fired the social media company's four top ex-



ecutives, including CEO Parag Agrawal and legal executive Vijaya Gadde.

Twitter then proceeded to fire a majority of its over 200 employees in India as part of mass layoffs across the globe, ordered by Mr. Musk who is looking to make the blockbuster acquisition work.

"Power to the people! Blue for \$8/month," Mr. Musk tweeted on November 1, and added that the price was adjusted by the country, proportionate to the purchasing power parity.

# Mountaineers could be in China, fear families

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

Everest conqueror Tapi Mra and his aide Niku Dao, missing from an expedition to Arunachal Pradesh's highest snow-capped mountain since August, could be in captivity in China, members of their families fear.

The All Tagin Students' Union (ATSU) has aired a similar apprehension as the 6,900-metre Khyarii Satam is almost on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The members of the families of Mr. Mra and Mr. Dao, staging a dharna in State capital Itanagar's Indira Gandhi Park for the seventh day on Nov. 6, lamented the "indifference" of the Arunachal Pradesh Government to the demands for bringing them back – dead or alive.

Mr. Mra and Mr. Dao left for Khyarii Satam with seven porters on July 27 from Sario-Saria, a Puroik community village in the Sawa circle of East Kameng district.

The porters returned but the two mountaineers went missing on August 17.

# AnSI builds tribal hut replicas to help preserve, promote unique heritage

**Shiv Sahay Singh**  
KOLKATA



Visitors at the Nicobarese tribal hut which is made using thin stems of local cane covered by thick dry grasses.

From a distinctive beehive-shaped hut of the Jarawa tribe to a Shompen hut crafted with leaves of *jungle supari* with a cage for wild pigs built beneath it, and a Nicobarese hut made using the thin stems of local cane covered by thick dry grasses – each offers a peek into the lives of tribal communities that most Indians will never see.

In a first-of-its-kind bid to showcase the heritage of tribal communities, especially those of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) has recreated the huts of several communities at its different regional centres.

The effort has drawn praise from several quarters, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Laudable effort, which will spread awareness of India's glorious tribal culture and traditions," Mr. Modi said on November 3, commenting on a tweet by the Ministry of Culture,

which said the initiative would help promote "cultural heritage and optimise unused spaces".

These huts have come up outside five regional centres of the AnSI in consultation with the local communities.

M. Sasikumar, Joint Director, AnSI, told *The Hindu*, adding that researchers and scientists have worked on constructing them during the entire month of October.

**Authentic design**  
Mr. Sasikumar said that the huts are not only authentic in design, and built using the same materials used by the tribal people, but also

contains artefacts which they use, thus offering a rare glimpse into the lives of these communities who reside in locations which are not easily accessible to others.

For instance, the traditional Jarawa hut, called a *chadda*, has traditional baskets, bows and arrows, and other artefacts used by the community.

"The zonal anthropological museums of AnSI are important tourist destinations and the construction of these tribal huts and a monolith within the premises will help increase interest of visitors," Mr. Sasikumar said.

# SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

**Solution to previous puzzle**

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

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

# FAITH

## Nine steps of devotion

Often, people seek peace of mind and a trouble-free life. Eons ago, people undertook yagnas and other elaborate rituals to attain the same. In Kali Yuga, devotion is the most practical way of realising God. Unless one follows the nine-fold path, as laid out by scriptures such as the Bhagavata Purana, one cannot develop devotion, said Dhamal Ramakrishnan in a discourse.

The nine steps are fairly easy to follow. The starting point is shravana or listening to good things. In Tamil there is a proverb, 'Katalin kettrale nanru' (listening to good things is better than reading about it). Even as a babe in his mother's womb, Prahlada was blessed to hear discourses on dharma, righteousness and the import of good over evil. The next step is Kirtana. One does not have to be a trained musician to praise God. Mere chanting is also enough. The third step is smaranam or thinking of God as done by the Gopikas in Brindavan. They always greeted each other thus: 'Krishna, how are you? Krishna, do you want curd?' Pada seva, the next step is best exemplified by none other than Goddess Mahalakshmi, who is always seated at Vishnu's feet. Archana or uttering God's many names is the next step in the right direction. Vandana or prostrating at the feet of the Lord, like Akroora, gets a devotee a step closer to God. Dasym is another step that one has to climb. This is nothing but staying in the service of God, as shown by Hanuman. One should also befriend God – Sakhyam is personified by Arjuna and Kuchela's relationship with Krishna. Lastly, atma nivedhanam, or offering oneself in total surrender, is the final step in realising God.

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# MONEYWISE

## ASKUS

Bhavana Acharya

**Q** I want to invest ₹1 lakh for 5 years in a low-risk or no-risk mutual fund. Please guide me.

ARUN MOODI

**A** There are no zero-risk mutual funds (MFs). For low-risk MFs, the ideal options are debt funds from the short or very short-term duration categories. For a little higher return without too much risk, you can consider hybrid funds such as equity savings funds and conservatively managed balanced advantage funds. These funds will see higher volatility in the 1-1.5-year period, but this reduces if you hold beyond this period. They are also more tax-efficient than debt funds. You can go for a combination of these options or only debt funds. About three funds will be sufficient.

**Q** I want to know how I can start investing in cryptocurrency.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN

**A** Investment instruments generally follow the rule that when something is riskier, the potential reward (returns) is also higher. However, when it comes to cryptocurrency, especially in the current situation, this rule seems to be falling apart.

There are several high-magnitude risks associated with cryptos and it is hard to see potential returns commensurate with such risks. One, volatility risk – prices have dropped over 50% in the past year; they also oscillate wildly and unpredictably. Two, taxation risk, especially in India. Three, regulatory risk where one cannot chart the future of the legality of such currencies. Four, the high risk of fraud. With all these risks, investing in crypto seems inadvisable now. If you still insist, there are a handful of exchanges operating in India that would allow you to indulge your cravings.

**Q** I'm 21. I plan to invest in REITs as stocks and cryptocurrencies are correcting. Is this the right time?

SANJAY SHIVAKUMAR

**A** You can invest in REITs, as they are a good way to play the real estate space. However, for wealth creation, stocks (or equity MFs) are by far superior. Correcting markets are not bad. Market corrections are, in fact, the best time to invest as it allows you to buy at cheaper levels. The key is to stay invested for the long term to let the market cycles to play out.

**Q** I am a gynaecologist (41) and a member of the Indian Medical Association which runs a pension scheme. I can deposit any amount monthly until age 60. The corpus will be kept as an FD at 7.5%. At 60, I can opt for a monthly pension or retain part of it as corpus. If I invest ₹20,000 a month till 60, would this give me better returns or an investment in a MF?

SUSHANTH Y.S.

**A** We are not aware of the finer details of the pension scheme, including how returns are generated, corpus managed, and taxation. This makes it hard to compare with other investment products. Second, there are a wide range of MFs, and returns would depend on which fund you went for, how aggressive the fund is, and so on. For example, if you invested in equity-oriented MFs, it is more than likely to generate better returns than the pension scheme (assuming the scheme invests only in debt-based instruments) over a nearly 20-year period. You can simply stick to index-based funds.

Third, the decision will also depend on your other investments. NPS is a good option to build up retirement corpus and may also be more tax-efficient than the pension scheme. To make the right decision, work out the extent of risk you are willing to take which will help you narrow down the funds to invest in. Understand where the pension scheme will invest and how returns will pan out. See how you can allocate among funds, scheme, and NPS. You can always do a combination of these; it does not have to be one or the other. (The writer is co-founder, Primeinvestor.in)

**Send queries** on personal finance and investing to the [moneywise@thehindu.co.in](http://moneywise@thehindu.co.in). ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.



**Take your pick:** When it comes to investing, your choice should be more about suitability, and return expectations. Gettyimages/istock

## How to buy financial investment products

**It is vital for you to understand that when you are investing your hard-earned money, it is not about what seems attractive to you. It is about what is good for you.**

### RIGHT CHOICE

**Joydeep Sen**

**T**here are broadly two approaches to buying a product or service. One, your own taste or preference. Second, reviewing suitability, which may need professional advice.

The biggest mistake people make is with purchase investment products as in the first category. It is vital for you to understand that when you invest your hard-earned money, it is not about what seems attractive to you. It is about what is good for you.

#### Choosing MFs

If you understand what is good for you when it comes to investment products, that too is 'good' for you. However, here also you have to distinguish between whether you really understand the product, or you think you understand it. For example, before choosing a mutual



While deciding on which mutual funds to invest in, Googling for the last 1-year or 5-year returns does not amount to an in-depth study

fund to invest in, you Google for the last 1-year or 5-year returns; but this doesn't give you in-depth information. If you are choosing MF products on the basis of such returns, you are not aware of the fund strategy and what is likely to happen during your investment tenure.

This is where you need professional inputs.

Consider this: even for a small, one-time transport service, people look at so many aspects apart from expenses. If cost were the only factor, you would travel by public bus! The analogy is, when you take a decision, it is not just the end result that matters, but the journey as well.

What should you consider before buying financial investment products?

(1) Suitability: any product, be it equity or debt

If you want a reasonably good journey with good end result, you would choose equity products. If you want a smooth journey with some compromise on the end result, you would want debt products.

In case you prefer a roller coaster and do not care about the end result, then cryptocurrency is the instrument for you. When investing hard-earned money, it should be more about suitability, followed by return expectations.

When the equity market is in a bull run, it attracts investors; low inflation may prompt the RBI to reduce interest rates which makes debt funds look better.

A PMS provider may give returns higher than his peers in a particular time frame. These are immediate attractions that you have to consider and understand what suits you.

What should you consider before buying financial investment products?

(1) Suitability: any product, be it equity or debt

or hybrid, has to be allocated in your portfolio, in a ratio that is appropriate for your investment objectives, your investment horizon, your appetite for digesting volatility, and the historical volatility of the investment asset. It is better to have a financial adviser for guidance.

(2) Return volatility: you have to account for historical or expected maximum downside on an extreme adverse market event.

(3) Risk profile: You have to gauge if you would lose sleep when your portfolio temporarily drops by 5% or by 25%.

(4) Investment horizon: history shows us that over an appropriate horizon, market cycles play out and interim volatility evens out. Your horizon should be adequately long to tide over such phases.

(5) Liquidity: Some investments are relatively more liquid, others require a longer holding period before you sell off.

(The writer is a corporate trainer and author)

## Firm U.S. dollar saps gold, silver prices

**B. Krishnakumar**

Precious metals remained weak in October and closed lower for the seventh successive month. The sentiment was weighed down by a stronger dollar and elevated U.S. bond yields.

Comex gold closed 1.9% lower to close at \$1,640.7 at the end of October. Comex silver, however, closed al-

most unchanged at \$19.12.

In the domestic market, MCX gold closed marginally higher ₹50,322 per 10 gm while MCX silver gained 1.4% to ₹57,678 kg.

The short-term outlook for Comex gold is positive and the price could head to the \$1,725-1,730 range. A move above \$1,688 would strengthen the case for a rise to the target zone. A close below \$1,620 would

push the gold price to lower levels and invalidate the short-term positive outlook.

In the domestic market, MCX gold, too, reached the ₹51,500-52,000 target. In the short-term, the price of MCX gold is likely to head higher to the target zone of ₹52,200-53,000. A move above ₹51,300 would confirm this positive outlook while a fall below ₹49,800

would invalidate it.

To summarise, the short-term outlook for precious metals is positive in the short term. The medium-term outlook remains weak, and the downtrend is likely to resume on the completion of the anticipated short-term rise.

(The writer is a Chennai based analyst / trader. This is not meant to be trading or investment advice)

### Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh	Loan amount 1 lakh	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Citi Bank	10.50% onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 2.75%
ICICI Bank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.20 - 17.55	10,673-12,575	2,135-2,515	Up to 2% (Min. Rs 1,000, Max. Rs 10,000)
State Bank of India	10.55 - 15.05	10,759-11,908	2,152-2,382	Up to 1.50% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	9.75 - 14.25	10,562-11,699	2,112-2,340	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	12.10-15.80	11,148-12,106	2,230-2,421	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	9.80-16.35	10,574-12,252	2,115-2,450	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.25-15.50	10,440-12,027	2,088-2,405	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	10.49-17.99	10,744-12,694	2,149-2,539	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	10.80-14.90	10,821-11,869	2,164-2,374	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	13.00 onwards	11,377 onwards	2,275 onwards	Up to 4%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.55-12.15	10,759-11,160	2,152-2,232	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.25-20.00	11,185-13,247	2,237-2,649	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	11.95-12.35	11,110-11,211	2,222-2,242	Up to 1%
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	8.90-14.70	10,673-11,816	2,135-2,363	Up to 1%
Indian Overseas Bank*	11.90-12.90	11,097-11,351	2,219-2,270	Up to 0.75%
Karnataka Bank	13.18	11,423	2,285	Up to 0.25% (Minimum Rs 250)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

\*1.00% Special Interest Concession to Borrowers with CIC Score of 800 and above

### Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.40-10.20	10,234-10,673	Up to Rs. 1,000
Bank of Baroda	8.45-11.75	10,246-11,059	Up to 0.50% (Rs 2,500 - Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	8.80-11.50	10,331-10,996	NIL till 31st December 2022
Bank of India	8.30-10.25	10,210-10,685	NIL
UCO Bank	8.80-10.05	10,331-10,636	1% (Upto Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India	8.30-9.10	10,210-10,403	NIL
IDBI Bank	8.75 - 11.10	10,319-10,896	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.70-12.20	10,307-11,173	NIL
Indian Overseas Bank**	9.45	10,489	NIL till 31st December 2022
ICICI Bank	8.25 onwards	10,198 onwards	Rs 5,500-Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.35 onwards	10,222 onwards	Up to 0.50% (Rs 3,500-Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.69-10.74	10,304-10,806	Up to 0.60% (Rs 2,500-Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	10.40	10,722	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Axis Bank	8.40-13.05	10,234-11,389	Rs 3,500-Rs 5,500
South Indian Bank	11.05-12.50	10,884-11,249	1% (Max: Rs. 10,000)
City Union Bank	18.00-18.25	12,697-12,765	1% (Min: Rs 250)

\*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders. 0.05% interest rate concession to women & armed

**KAFR JALES**

Three children among 10 killed in rocket strike by Syrian regime



A rocket fire by the Syrian regime on Sunday killed ten persons including three children at makeshift camps for displaced people in the country's last major rebel-held bastion. Another 77 people were wounded when more than 30 rockets exploded in several areas, including the camps, west of the city of Idlib northwest Syria. AP

**BEIJING**

Marathon returns after a two-year hiatus with COVID-19 rules in force



About 30,000 runners, some wearing face masks, took part in the first Beijing Marathon since 2019 after COVID cancelled previous races. The event happened on Sunday as China continues to adhere to a strict zero-COVID policy, with harsh lockdowns and testing regimens imposed after even the smallest outbreaks. GETTY IMAGES

**NAIROBI**

Kenya Airways pilots extend strike despite disciplinary action threats



Kenya Airways pilots on Sunday extended their strike demanding the reinstatement of contribution to a provident fund and payment of salaries stopped during COVID-19, as the carrier's deadline for disciplinary action lapsed. The strike has thrown over 9,000 passengers' plans into disarray. REUTERS

**CATANIA**

Italy stops 35 migrants from getting off rescue ship in port



Italian authorities prevented 35 migrants they did not deem vulnerable from getting off a humanitarian rescue ship in Sicily on Sunday as Italy's new far-right government takes a hard line against charity maritime rescue ships operating in Italian waters. The procedure was part of directives by the new Interior Minister. AFP

# COP-27 puts climate compensation on agenda for first time

**This won't guarantee compensation or necessarily acknowledge liability, but is intended to lead to a conclusive decision no later than 2024'**

Reuters

SHARM EL-SHEIKH

Dlegates at the COP-27 climate summit in Egypt agreed after late-night talks to put the delicate issue of whether rich nations should compensate poor countries most vulnerable to climate change on the formal agenda for the first time.

For more than a decade, wealthy nations have rejected official discussions on what is referred to as loss and damage, or funds they provide to help poor countries cope with the consequences of global warming.

COP-27 President Sameh Shoukry told the plenary that opens this year's two-week United Nations conference attended by more than 190 countries the decision created "an institutionally stable space" for discussion of "the pressing issue of funding arrangements".

At COP-26 last year in Glasgow, high-income nations blocked a proposal for a loss and damage financing body, instead supporting a three-year dialogue for funding discussions.

**No guarantee**

The loss and damage discussions now on the COP-27 agenda will not guarantee compensation or necessarily acknowledge liability, but are in-



**Future proofing:** Delegates attending the opening ceremony of the COP-27 meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt on Sunday. AFP

tended to lead to a conclusive decision "no later than 2024", Mr. Shoukry said.

The issue could generate even more tension than at previous conferences this year as the Ukraine war, a surge in energy prices and the risk of economic recession have at once added to governments' reluctance to promise funds and poor nations' need for them.

Negotiations on Saturday night before the agenda's adoption "were extremely challenging," Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy at the non-profit Climate Action Network International, said. "Rich countries in the first place never wanted loss and damage to be on the agenda."

Some criticised the dismissive language on liability, but although weaker than hoped, getting the issue formally on the agenda will oblige wealthier na-

tions to engage on the topic.

"They rightly expect more solidarity from the rich countries, and Germany is ready for this, both in climate financing and in dealing with damage and losses," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said in a statement.

**Protective shield**  
Germany wants to launch a "protective shield against climate risks" at the conference, an initiative it has been working on with vulnerable states such as Bangladesh and Ghana.

Bangladeshi-based environmental research body, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development said it was "good news" loss and damage was officially on the agenda.

"Now the real work begins to make finance a reality," Salmeel Huq, director of the centre, said.

Singer-rapper Aaron Carter dies at age 34 in California

**Associated Press**  
LOS ANGELES

Aaron Carter, the singer-rapper who began performing as a child and had hit albums starting in his teen years, was found dead on Saturday at his home in Southern California. He was 34.

Carter, the younger brother of Nick Carter of the Backstreet Boys, performed as an opening act for Britney Spears as well as his brother's boy band, and recorded several hits including "Aaron's Party (Come Get It)" and "I Want Candy."

Officials found Carter in the bathtub at his home and resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.

# 19 killed as plane crashes into Tanzania lake

**Agence France-Presse**

LAKE VICTORIA

Nineteen persons died in a plane crash in Lake Victoria in Tanzania on Sunday, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said, after the Precision Air flight with dozens of passengers aboard plunged into water while approaching the north-western city of Bukoba in the country.

"All Tanzanians are with you in mourning the 19 people who lost lives during this accident," Mr. Majaliwa told a crowd after arriving at Bukoba airport, where the flight had been scheduled to land from financial capital Dar es Salaam.

Regional authorities and the airline earlier said that



**Collective effort:** Rescuers trying to recover the passenger plane that crashed into Lake Victoria in Tanzania on Sunday. REUTERS

26 survivors out of the 43 people on board flight PW 494 had been pulled to safety and taken to hospital in the lakeside city in Kagera region.

But Precision Air, a publicly-listed company which is Tanzania's largest

private carrier, said in a statement that 24 people had survived the accident, with an airline official telling AFP that the other two hospitalised patients were not aboard the plane to begin with.

"There are two people

who were injured during rescue efforts who have been counted as survivors but they were not passengers," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The airline said it had dispatched rescuers and investigators to the scene and expressed its "deepest sympathies" over the accident, which occurred at around 8.53 a.m. (0123 IMT) on Sunday.

**Infant on board**

The company said the aircraft was an ATR 42-500, manufactured by Toulouse-based Franco-Italian firm ATR, and had 39 passengers - including an infant - and four crew members on board.

Video footage broadcast on local media showed the

plane largely submerged as rescuers, including fishermen, waded through water to bring people to safety.

Emergency workers attempted to lift the aircraft out of the water using ropes, assisted by cranes as residents also sought to help us.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan expressed her condolences to those affected by the accident, saying: "We pray to god to help us."

The disaster ranks among the deadliest plane crashes in the East African nation's history.

The accident comes five years after 11 persons died when a plane belonging to safari company Coastal Aviation crashed in northern Tanzania.

# Air strikes cut off electricity, water supply in Ukraine's occupied city of Kherson

**Agence France-Presse**  
MOSCOW

Ukraine's Russian-occupied city of Kherson was cut off from water and electricity supplies on Sunday after an air strike and a key dam in the region was also damaged, local officials said.

It is the first time that Kherson - which fell to Moscow's forces within days of their offensive - has seen such a power cut.

In Kherson and a number of other areas in the region, there is temporarily no electricity or water supply," the city's Moscow-installed administration said on Telegram.

**Russian officials said**  
**Kakhovka dam in**  
**Kherson was**  
**'damaged' by**  
**Ukrainian strike**

HIMARS rockets. Air defence units shot down five missiles, one hit a lock of the Kakhovka dam, which was damaged," Russian news agencies quoted local emergency services as saying.

A local Moscow-backed official said the damage was not "critical".

Ukraine in recent weeks warned that Moscow's forces intended to blow up the strategic facility to cause flooding.

The Kakhovka hydroelectric dam in southern Ukraine was captured by Moscow's forces at the start of their offensive. It supplies Russian-annexed Crimea with water.

Imran Khan's march will resume from spot of attack

**Press Trust of India**  
LAHORE

Imran Khan on Sunday announced that his party will resume the march to Islamabad from the same spot where he survived an assassination attempt but sustained bullet injuries during a rally in Punjab province, saying he prefers "death instead of living the life of a slave".

"We have decided that our march will resume on Tuesday from the same [point] in Wazirabad where I and 11 others were shot," Mr. Khan said.

The PTI chief and former premier said that once the march reaches Rawalpindi, he would then join it and lead it himself.

# Sport

## Arsenal pips Chelsea in London derby; Salah stars for Liverpool

**EURO LEAGUES**

**Agence France-Presse**  
LONDON

Arsenal beat Chelsea 1-0 to dispel doubts over its Premier League title credentials and go top of the table on Sunday as Manchester United was blown away 1-3 by an inspired Aston Villa on Unai Emery's bow as boss.

United is now three points off the top four after Newcastle continued its fine form with a 4-1 win at Southampton to go third.

Mohamed Salah scored twice as Liverpool beat Tottenham 2-1 and returned to winning ways after two



**Goalmouth scramble:** Gabriel, third from right, bundles in Arsenal's winner off a corner against Chelsea. AFP

11, Ramsey 49) bt Manchester United 1 (Ramsey 45+og); Southampton 1 (Perraud 89) lost to Newcastle 4 (Almiron 35, Wood 58, Wilcock 62, Guimaraes 90+1); West Ham 1 (Benrahma 20) lost to Crystal Palace 2 (Zaha 41, Olise 90+4); Tottenham 1 (Kane 70) lost to Liverpool 2 (Salah 11 & 40).

**LaLiga:** Atletico Madrid 1 (Felix 78) drew with Espanyol 1 (Darder 62).

**Bundesliga:** Union Berlin 0 lost to Bayer Leverkusen 5 (Andrich 46, Diaby 56 & 58, Hlozey 68, Bakker 76)

**On Saturday: Premier League:** Everton 0 lost to Leicester 2 (Telemans 45, Barnes 86).

**LaLiga:** Barcelona 2 (Dembele 48, De Jong 62) bt Almeria 0.

**Serie A:** Atalanta 1 (Lookman 19) lost to Napoli 2 (Osimhen 23, Elmas 35); AC Milan 2 (Hernandez 21, Giroud 89) bt Spezia 1 (Maldini 59).

beat Almeria 2-0 to move top of LaLiga, despite missing several clear chances on Saturday.

**The results: Premier League:** Chelsea 0 lost to Arsenal 1 (Gabriel 63); Aston Villa 3 (Bailey 7, Digne

## McHugh saves ATK MB the blushes

**Sports Bureau**



**Going all out:** It was an intense battle between Mumbai City and ATK MB before the teams shared the honours. EMMANUEL YOGINI

leashing a ferocious shot.

The Mariners levelled early on in the second half. Rahul Bheke intercepted Boumous' cross, but it fell to Manvir, who squared it to Joni Kauko. The Finnish midfielder's strike went in the 89th minute.

Both sides were unchanged and it was the Islanders who started on the front foot. Chhangte put the hosts in front after just four minutes, cutting in from the left flank and un-

above goal. Griffiths beat Kaith to the ball and nodded home in the 72nd.

The Mariners restored parity in the 89th when Dimitri Petros' cross off a free kick was headed home by substitute McHugh.

Ahmed Jahouh crossed the ball from the left before Griffiths' header deflected off the crossbar and hung

**The result:** Mumbai City FC 2 (Chhangte 4, Griffiths 72) drew with ATK Mohun Bagan 2 (Mehtab 47-og, McHugh 89).

India loses to Turkey, finishes 14th

**Sports Bureau**

Host Turkey beat India 3-0 in the match for the 13th place in the junior Davis Cup under-16 World Group tennis tournament in Antalya on Sunday.

India's only win in six matches came against Mexico.

**The results (13th place):**  
**Turkey bt India 3-0** (Kerem Yilmaz bt Krish Tyagi 6-4, 6-7(0), [10-4]; Atakan Karahan bt Rushil Khosla 6-0, 3-2 (retired); Emirhan Bulut & Atakan Karahan bt Vansh Nandal & Krish Tyagi 6-2, 6-4).

**Final placings:** 1. Brazil, 2. USA, 3. Italy, 4. France, 5. Australia, 6. Czech Republic, 7. Japan, 8. Spain, 9. Argentina, 10. Paraguay, 11. Britain, 12. Morocco, 13. Turkey, 14. India, 15. Egypt, 16. Mexico.

**MAKING THE GRADE**

Afridi's heroics help Pakistan storm into the semifinals



Shaheen Afridi helped Pakistan enter the semifinals with a five-wicket win over Bangladesh in Adelaide on Sunday. **The scores:** Bangladesh 127/8 in 20 overs (Najmul Shanto 54; Shaheen Afridi 4/22) lost to Pakistan 128/5 in 18.1 overs (Mohd. Rizwan 32, Mohd. Haris 31). **MoM:** Afridi.

**SWING FACTOR**

Some of Surya's lap-sweeps were terrific, says Ashwin



R. Ashwin was effusive in his praise of Suryakumar Yadav after the Zimbabwe game. "He is free-spirited, he isn't any spring-chicken even if he is relatively new to international cricket. As a bowler, we always want runs to defend and he provides that. Some of his lap-sweeps were terrific."

**IN HOT WATER**

Lanka's Gunathilaka arrested for alleged sexual assault



Sri Lanka cricketer Danushka Gunathilaka, who was with the team for the T20 World Cup, was arrested in Sydney on charges of sexual assault of a woman on Sunday, prompting the Lankan government to order an "immediate investigation" into the incident.

**TENNIS**

Rune masters Djokovic in Paris summit clash



Danish teenager Holger Rune shocked six-time champion Novak Djokovic to clinch his first Masters title in Paris on Sunday, coming from a set down to win 3-6, 6-3, 7-5. Rune, 19, became the youngest winner of the Paris tournament since Boris Becker in 1986.

**PRO KABADDI LEAGUE**

Narender to the fore again as Thalaivas climb to third



Tamil Thalaivas registered a thrilling 35-34 victory over Puri Paltan in a Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 match in Pune on Sunday. The win helped Thalaivas climb to third. Narender (13 points) was the star raider for Thalaivas. Earlier, Gujarat Giants pipped Bengaluru Bulls 46-44.

# Surya's brilliance shines through as India hands Zimbabwe a thrashing

Bowlers strike after batters set imposing target; Men in Blue top group and will take on England in the semifinals at Adelaide on Nov. 10

**T20 WORLD CUP**

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**  
MELBOURNE

**S**eagulls constantly flew from the roof as a packed venue kept erupting with boisterous cheers. The birds missed their sleep while 82,507 fans enjoyed a raucous Sunday night at the Melbourne Cricket Ground as the Men in Blue kept their tryst with the semifinals.

After Suryakumar Yadav's frenzied 25-ball unbeaten 61 set India on a strong pedestal, the bowlers got to work and Zimbabwe wilted. The ICC Twenty20 World Cup Super 12 Group 2 match had seemingly tilted India's way once Rohit Sharma's men posted 186 for five.

**No surprises**

And there were no surprises in the second-part as Zimbabwe was bowled out for 115 in 17.2 overs. India's 71-run triumph paved its way towards Thursday's semifinal against England at Adelaide.

Just as the crowd was settling back after dinner, Wesley Madhevere drove lazily to a waiting Virat Kohli at short-cover and Bhuvneshwar Kumar had struck with his first ball. It got worse for Zimbabwe when Arshdeep Singh cas-



**Audacious!** Suryakumar picked his spots over square-leg and fine-leg for two sixes in the final over. AFP

tled Regis Chakabva.

There was a tiny lull as skipper Craig Ervine and Sean Williams were at the crease but once they retreated, popping up catches, and Tony Munyonga fell to Mohammed Shami, the rival was down for the count at 36 for five.

Sikandar Raza picked R. Ashwin (three for 22) for a couple of strikes and Ryan Burl targeted Axar Patel but these were dying embers as India stayed the course.

Earlier, the Indian fans trooped in in their blue jerseys. A live-band belted out A.R. Rahman's 'Dil se re' and the excitement quadrupled once Rohit elected to bat. The skipper and his deputy K.L. Rahul remained watchful before freeing their arms. The former drove and slashed while the latter flicked a six off seamer Richard Ngarava.

Against the run of play, Rohit fell on the pull while speedster Blessing Muzaraba-

bani exulted. Kohli walked in and quickly picked a four. Back to his eager-beaver routine, Kohli muscled a whipped on-drive off spinner Wellington Masakadza. Rahul and Kohli added 60 for the second wicket before the latter holed out in the deep.

This pattern of dismissal shadowed Rahul and Rishabh Pant too, the last-named having replaced Dinesh Karthik in the playing eleven. Rahul (51) after etching his fifty with a six

**SCOREBOARD****INDIA**

K.L. Rahul c Masakadza b Raza 51 (35b, 3x4, 3x6), Rohit Sharma c Masakadza b Muzarabani 15 (13b, 2x4), Virat Kohli c Burl b Williams 26 (25b, 2x4), Suryakumar Yadav (not out) 61 (25b, 6x4, 4x6), Rishabh Pant c Burl b Williams 3 (5b), Hardik Pandya c Muzarabani b Ngarava 18 (18b, 2x4), Axar Patel (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (lb-5, nb-1, w-6); 12; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 186.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-0 (Madhevere, 0.1), 2-2 (Chakabva, 1.4), 3-28 (Williams, 5.6), 3-95 (Rahul, 12.2), 4-101 (Pant, 13.3), 5-166 (Hardik, 19.2).

**ZIMBABWE BOWLING**

Ngarava 4-1-44-1, Chatara 4-0-34-0, Muzarabani 4-0-50-1, Masakadza 2-0-12-0, Burl 1-0-14-0, Raza 3-0-18-1, Williams 2-0-9-2.

**ZIMBABWE**

Wessly Madhevere c Kohli b Bhuvneshwar 0 (1b), Craig Ervine c & b Hardik 13 (15b, 2x4), Regis Chakabva b Arshdeep 0 (6b), Sean

Williams c Bhuvneshwar b Shami 11 (18b, 1x6), Sikandar Raza c Suryakumar b Hardik 34 (24b, 3x4), Tony Munyonga lbw b Shami 5 (4b, 1x4), Ryan Burl b Ashwin 35 (22b, 5x4, 1x6), Wellington Masakadza c Rohit b Ashwin 1 (7b), Richard Ngarava b Ashwin 1 (2b), Tendai Chatara c & b Axar 4 (4b, 1x4), Blessing Muzarabani (not out) 0 (2b); Extras (lb-3, nb-1, w-7); 11; Total (in 17.2 overs): 115.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-0 (Madhevere, 0.1), 2-2 (Chakabva, 1.4), 3-28 (Williams, 5.6), 3-95 (Rahul, 12.2), 4-101 (Pant, 13.3), 5-166 (Hardik, 19.2).

**INDIA BOWLING**

Bhuvneshwar 3-1-11-1, Arshdeep 2-0-9-1, Shami 2-0-14-2, Hardik 3-0-16-2, Ashwin 4-0-22-3, Axar 3-2-0-4-1.

**Toss:** India; **MoM:** Suryakumar. India won by 71 runs.

**India's next match:** Semifinal: Nov. 10 vs England, Adelaide, 1.30 p.m. IST.

## Dravid hopes Surya's form continues

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**  
MELBOURNE

A tournament campaign involves ticking many boxes and as India moved into the ICC Twenty20 World Cup semifinal, coach Rahul Dravid felt that his unit has done well and said: "Hopefully we have got a couple of more good days in us."

Speaking to the media after India prevailed over Zimbabwe, the batting legend praised Suryakumar Yadav's astounding innings: "It was incredible. That's why he is the No. 1 T20 player in the world. It's not easy to be consistent with the kind of strike rate he's going at. It is just fantastic the way he is playing and long may it continue."

**Pant was in the loop**

The coach also felt that Rishabh Pant was ready for the contest: "It is not that we ever lost confidence in Rishabh. He has been batting a lot in the nets, doing a lot of keeping practice

and today we got an opportunity to play him in this game."

Dravid also defended spinner Axar Patel: "This format is such that you can get taken apart, especially today when they lost a lot of wickets, nothing to lose and they could go after (the spinners). He bowled well in a couple of games."

**Deliberate**

Batting first was a conscious option as it gave an opportunity for the batters to play through the 20 overs, he said.

As for the semifinal against England, he said: "I can't sit here and predict what is going to happen there. We will have a look at that wicket and think what it might do."

Prior to Dravid's press-conference, Zimbabwe skipper Craig Ervine said his bowlers did well in the first 15 overs before Suryakumar flourished: "He was exceptional. He is such a 360 degree player and difficult to bowl to."

## Netherlands springs surprise of the tournament, sends Proteas packing



**Reason to smile:** The Dutch are delighted at having pulled off their biggest ever win. AFP

**Shayan Acharya**  
ADELAIDE

This edition of the T20 World Cup has seen quite a few surprises over the last couple of weeks, but on Sunday the Netherlands pulled off one of the biggest upsets by beating South Africa by 13 runs and knocking it out.

**Belied hopes**  
Hopes were pinned on David Miller, who returned to the team after missing the last game, but he managed only a run-a-ball 17.

South Africa needed 26 runs off the final over. Bas de Leede bowled a couple of extras before dismissing Keshav Maharaj and eventually earning a 13-run win.

This was the Netherlands' first win against South Africa across all formats.

**The scores:** Netherlands 158/4 in 20 overs (Stephan Myburgh 37, Max O'Dowd 29, Tom Cooper 35, Colin Ackermann 41 n.o.; Keshav Maharaj 2/27) bt South Africa 145/8 in 20 overs (Rilee Rossouw 25; Fred Klaasen 2/20, Brandon Glover 3/9, Bas de Leede 2/25). **MoM:** Ackermann.

## Final points table

GROUP 1	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
New Zealand (Q)	5	3	1	1	7	2.113
England (Q)	5	3	1	1	7	0.473
Australia	5	3	1	1	7	-0.173
Sri Lanka	5	2	3	0	4	-0.422
Ireland	5	1	3	1	3	-1.615
Afghanistan	5	0	3	2	2	-0.571

GROUP 2	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
India (Q)	5	4	1	0	8	1.319
Pakistan (Q)	5	3	2	0	6	1.028
South Africa	5	2	2	1	5	0.874
Netherlands	5	2	3	0	4	-0.849
Bangladesh	5	2	3	0	4	-1.176
Zimbabwe	5	1	3	1	3	-1.138

SEMIFINAL		Q: Qualified				
■ Nov. 9: New Zealand vs. Pakistan, Sydney, 1.30 p.m. IST						
■ Nov. 10: India vs. England, Adelaide, 1.30 p.m. IST						

**Sports Bureau**

Goalkeeper Krishnan Pathak's heroics helped India pull off a 3-1 win, via shoot-out, over Spain in the FIH Hockey Pro League in Bhubaneswar on Sunday. The teams were deadlocked 2-2 in regulation time.

Pathak produced three saves in the shootout, denying Joaquin Menini, Rafael Vilallonga and Marc Miralles. Gerard Clapes was the only Spaniard to score. Skipper Harmanpreet Singh, Raj Kumar Pal and Abhishek were on target for the hosts.

Earlier, the Indian cap-

tain sounded the boards in the 11th minute, flicking the ball home. Harmanpreet made it 2-0 in the 31st off a penalty corner.

Spain came into its own in the second half, making numerous forays and earning several penalty corners. Eventually, Miralles found the breakthrough in the 42nd minute before Pere Amat levelled it with a fortuitous goal – the ball went in off Jugraj Singh's foot – in the 54th. Pathak then stepped in.

**The result:** India 2 (Harmanpreet 11 & 31) drew with Spain 2 (Miralles 42, Amat 54). India won 3-1 via shootout.

**The propeller:** Harmanpreet, right, was in the thick of it for India.

## Pathak stands firm, India stuns Spain



## Garcia takes last semifinal spot



**Roaring back:** Garcia lost the first set before outlasting Kasatkina in three sets. AFP

### WTA FINALS

**Associated Press**  
FORT WORTH (USA)

Caroline Garcia claimed the last opening in the season-ending WTA Finals with a thrilling 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (5) victory over Daria Kasatkina on Saturday.

In the other match, top-ranked Iga Swiatek beat 18-year-old American Coco

Gauff 6-3, 6-0. The sixth-ranked Frenchwoman became the first in 30 matches this season to beat Kasatkina after losing the first set to the No. 8 player.

A third set that included a nine-deuce game with Kasatkina finally holding serve for a 5-4 lead ended in the tiebreaker when a scrambling Kasatkina put a volley into the net on Garcia's second match point.

## Hussamuddin joins Lovlina in medal round

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

Two-time Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin progressed to the semifinals as India's medal count continued to swell at the ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan on Sunday.

Up against South Korea's Haengseok Lee in the quarterfinal bout, Hussamuddin (57kg) fell behind early with his rival landing clean punches in the opening round. With the

prospects of an upset looming, Hussamuddin utilised his experience to make a comeback. He went all out in the next two rounds to dominate his way to a 5-0 win and guarantee yet another medal for India.

**The results: Quarterfinals:**  
**Men:** 57kg: Mohammad Hussamuddin bt Haengseok Lee (Kor) 5-0; 54kg: Seidekmato Sanzhai (Kyr) bt Ananta Chopade 4-0.  
**Women:** 56kg: Anikushita Boro bt Tsubha Aria (Jpn); 70kg: Dariga Shakimova (Kaz) bt Pooja 5-0; 75kg: Lovlina Borgohain bt Valentina Khalzova (Kaz) 3-2.

### CHESS

**Rakesh Rao**  
NEW DELHI

An irrepressible Nihal Sarin produced another come-from-behind triumph to nail fancied Dutch Anish Giri 5-4 for a place in the title-clash of the \$500,000 Chess.com Global Championship Finals on Saturday.

The talent from Thrissur

won the Armageddon game with white pieces after the eight rapid games left the players locked at 4-4.

He will take on USA's Wesley So who carved out a 5-3 victory over compatriot Hikaru Nakamura after six successive draws.

The losing semi finalists will receive \$50,000 each while the finalists will battle it out for the top prize of \$200,000.

The runner-up will get \$100,000.

On Saturday, when the contest resumed at 2-2, Anish won the fifth game to surge ahead.

For the second time in the match, Nihal immediately drew level to make it 3-3. The following two games ended as draws.

In the decisive Armageddon game, the battle was evenly fought till Nihal's 99th move. At this

stage, Anish's response gave Nihal a chance to seize and the youngster did not miss it.

Nihal proceeded accurately in an ending involving a rook each and pawns. Sensing that he had reached a point of no return, Anish resigned on the 104th move when he realised the only way to stop Nihal's lone pawn from queening was by sacrificing his rook.

## KERALA ROUND-UP

### First innings lead gives Tripunithura CC title

THODUPUZHA: Half-centuries from Ebin Antoneo and Advaith Prince and Gowtham Biju's match haul of eight wickets helped Tripunithura CC take a 173-run first innings lead in its rain-hit three-day final against Vytilla CC and win the Muthoot Pappachan youth cricket tournament at the KCA ground here on Sunday.

Vytilla CC's left-arm spinner Aquil Naushar took nine wickets in the first innings but it went in vain.

K.U. Madhu, Idukki Cricket Association president, and K.R. Biju, KCA representative-Idukki Cricket Association, gave away the prizes..

**The scores (three-day final):** Tripunithura CC under-19 306 in 92.5 overs (Ebin Antoneo 66, Advaith Prince 53, Dev 41, Aquil Naushar 9/123) bt Vytilla CC under-19 133 in 62.1 overs (Muhammed Riza 44, Gowtham Biju 4/42) & following on 152/8 in 56 overs (K.R. Azad 47, Gowtham Biju 4/42).

Tripunithura declared winner on the basis of its first innings as match was called off due to rain.

**Special prizes:** Govind Dev D. Pai (Tripunithura CC, player of the series), Gowtham Biju (Tripunithura CC, player of the final), Akash Radhakrishnan (Masters CC, best batter), Aquil Naushar (Vytilla CC, best bowler), Sangeeth Sagar (Vytilla CC, emerging player).

### Allround show by Midhun

KOCHI: P.K. Midhun's allround performance helped Kollam's Prathibha CC defeat Muthoot Microfin by 23 runs and enter the third round of the 72nd Navio Pooja all-India cricket tournament's first phase at the Tripunithura Palace Oval on Sunday.

**The scores:** Prathibha CC, Klim 154 in 42 overs (P.K. Midhun 46, P. Jerin 4/22) bt Muthoot Microfin, Ekm 131 in 32.3 overs (P.K.



**On top:** Tripunithura CC, winner of the Muthoot Pappachan youth cricket tournament. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Midhun 5/46).

### Thiruvananthapuram wins overall title

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Thiruvananthapuram won the overall title in the Kerala State track cycling championships held at the LNCPE Velodrome here on Sunday.

Thiruvananthapuram dominated in all categories to finish first with 90 points. Idukki came a distant second with 28 points. V.R. Adarsh of Thiruvananthapuram won three individual gold medals to hog the limelight.

**The results (winners only):**  
**Men:** 200m sprint: Abinantha Murali (Tvm) (11:051s); 1000m time trial: N. Ashif (Tvm) (1:11:180s); 4000m individual pursuit: V.R. Adarsh (Tvm) (5:16.107s).

**Boys:** under-18: 200m sprint: Atharva Patil (Tvm) (11:64s); 1000m time trial: Adarsh (1:21.421s); 3000m individual pursuit: Adarsh (3:58.018s).

**Under-16:** 500m time trial: P.A. Avinash Sreedhar (Ktm) (37:408s); 2000m individual pursuit: Rishab Shyam (Ekm) (2:33.757s).

**Under-14:** 500m time trial: M. Arjun (Pkd) (43:049s); 2000m individual pursuit: Arjun (3:04.531s).

**Women:** 200m sprint: Binilamol Gibi (Idk) (13:684s); 500m time trial: Binilamol (41:669s); 3000m individual pursuit: K. Sneha (Tvm) (4:35.709s).

**Girls:** Under-18: 200m sprint: A.K. Karthika (Tvm) (13:683s); 500m time trial: Karthika

## Pramod Bhagat and Manisha bag singles gold

Pramod unlucky in the men's doubles final as he along with Manoj lose to Indonesia's Hikmat Ramdani & Ukun Rukaendi; Sukant Kadam wins bronze in men's SL4 category

### PARA BADMINTON

#### Sports Bureau

Pramod Bhagat retained the gold in the BWF Para Badminton World Championships in Tokyo defeating compatriot Nitesh Kumar 21-19, 21-19 in the SL3 category final on Sunday.

Also winning gold was Manisha Ramadas, who beat Mamiko Toyoda of Japan 21-15, 21-15 in the women's SU5 category.

"This win is huge for me as I have been working very hard," said Pramod, who also won the men's doubles silver, partnering Manoj Sarkar, to take his tally of World championships medals to 11.

In the men's doubles fi-



**Joyful moments:** The Indian contingent that had a fruitful campaign in the Para Badminton World Championships in Tokyo. TWITTER@MEDIA\_SAI

nal, Pramod and Manoj lost to Indonesia's Hikmat Ramdani and Ukun Rukaendi 21-14, 18-21, 13-21.

Pramod has played in seven Worlds so far and won six gold, two silver

and three bronze medals and reached the finals in all editions except 2007 and 2017.

"I am very happy with my performance in singles, in doubles we could have

done better. This win tells me that I am moving in the right direction," Pramod said.

Another Indian Sukant Kadam won bronze in the men's SL4 category.

## IN BRIEF



### Bagnaia clinches MotoGP world title in great comeback

Francesco Bagnaia claimed the MotoGP world crown in the season-ending Valencia Grand Prix on Sunday in Valencia to pull off the greatest title turnaround in the championship's history. The Ducati rider, who trailed outgoing champion Fabio Quartararo by 91 points mid-season, completed his astonishing comeback with ninth place behind race winner Alex Rins.

### Srikanth, Jolly-Gayatri pair exit in semifinals

K. Srikanth and women's doubles pair of Tressa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand lost in the semifinals to end India's challenge at the Hylo Open Super 300 tournament in Saarbrucken, Germany on Saturday. Srikanth went down to World No. 6 Anthony Gingtong of Indonesia 18-21, 15-21, while Tressa and Gayatri lost to eighth-seeded Thai sisters Benyapa Aimsaard and Nuntakarn Aimsaard 21-17, 14-21, 18-21.

### Sathiyan-Manika pair loses final of WTT Contender

The Indian mixed doubles pair of G. Sathiyan and Manika Batra lost to Korea's Lim Jong-hoon and Shin Yubin 7-11, 7-11, 5-11 in the final of the World Table Tennis Contender Nova Gorica (Slovenia) on Saturday.

### LIVE TELECAST

**PKL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m. onwards  
**LaLiga:** Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)





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# Text & Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

**Currency usage still robust even six years after demonetisation**

**30.88** In ₹ lakh crore, the currency with the public as of October 21 which is 71.84% higher than the level for the fortnight ended November 4, 2016, illustrating that cash usage is still robust even six years after demonetisation. Cash usage has been rising, even as digital alternatives for payments have become very popular. PTI

**Past eight years likely to be warmest on record: WMO report**

**1.15** degree Celsius, by which the global mean temperature in 2022 is above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) average. This makes the eight years from 2015 the warmest on record, according to the World Meteorological Organisation report. The rate of sea level rise has also doubled since 1993 and has risen by nearly 10 mm to a new record high this year. PTI

**Bharat Biotech's Covaxin doses set to expire early next year**

**50** In million, the number of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin doses set to expire early next year as there are no takers. Due to a lack of product demand, the production stoppage of Covaxin was initiated by Bharat Biotech earlier this year, even though the vaccine maker had established manufacturing to reach an annualised capacity of one billion doses at the end of 2021. PTI

**Punjab records a rise in stubble burning events on November 5**

**16** The percentage by which the number of paddy stubble burning incidents rose to 2,817 in Punjab on November 5 over the previous day. Between September 15 and November 5 this year, a total of 29,400 stubble-burning events were detected in Punjab alone, followed by 2,530 events in Haryana, 2,246 in Madhya Pradesh, 927 in U.P., 587 in Rajasthan and nine in Delhi. PTI

**SBI beats RIL to become the most profitable company**

**14,752** In ₹ crore, the consolidated net income of the State Bank of India in the second quarter of FY23 as it beats Reliance Industries to become the country's most profitable corporate. The Mukesh Ambani firm which remained the most profitable corporate for decades took a hit of ₹4,039 crore in windfall tax this quarter. PTI

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## The Uniform Civil Code

What were the Constituent Assembly debates about the UCC? What were the different arguments? Is uniformity even desirable for a nation that is as diverse as India? How have Courts looked upon the implementation of the UCC?

### EXPLAINER

#### Diksha Munjal

##### The story so far:

**A** head of the upcoming Assembly elections, Gujarat on October 29 joined the list of BJP-ruled States that have called for implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi along with Union Minister Parshottam Rupala announced that the State will constitute a committee headed by a retired High Court judge to evaluate all aspects for implementing the UCC.

##### What did the Constituent Assembly say about the UCC?

Article 44 contained in part IV of the Constitution says that the state "shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India". While there is no draft or model document yet for the UCC, the framers of the Constitution envisioned that it would be a uniform set of laws that would replace the distinct personal laws of each religion with regard to matters like marriage, divorce, adoption, and inheritance. Part IV of the Constitution outlines the Directive Principles of State Policy, which, while not enforceable or justiciable in a court of law, are fundamental to the country's governance.

The clause on UCC generated substantial debate in the Constituent Assembly about whether it should be included as a fundamental right or a directive principle. The matter had to be settled by vote; with a majority of 5:4, wherein the sub-committee on fundamental rights headed by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel decided that securing a UCC was not within the scope of fundamental rights.

Members of the Assembly took starkly contrasting stances on the UCC. Some also felt that India was too diverse a country for the UCC. Member Naziruddin Ahmad from Bengal argued that certain civil laws in all communities were "inseparably connected with religious beliefs and practices". He felt the UCC would come in the way of Article 19 of the draft Constitution (now Article 25) which guarantees the right to freedom of religion subject to public order, morality, and health. While he was not against the idea of a uniform civil law, he argued that the time for that had not yet come, adding that the process had to be gradual and not without the consent of the concerned communities.

Member K.M. Munshi however, rejected the notion that a UCC would be against the freedom of religion as the Constitution allowed the government to make laws covering secular activities related to religious practices if they were intended for social reform. He advocated for the UCC, stating benefits such as promoting the unity of the nation and equality for women. He said that if personal laws of inheritance, succession and so on were seen as a part of religion, then many discriminatory practices of the Hindu personal law against women could not be eliminated.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had more of an ambivalent stance toward the UCC. He felt that while desirable, the UCC should remain "purely voluntary" in the initial stages. He stated that the Article "merely" proposed that the state shall endeavour to secure a UCC, which means it would not impose it on all citizens. The amendments to protect personal laws from the UCC were eventually rejected.

##### What are the various arguments around the UCC?

It has been argued that while India does



**'Uniform' diversity:** Large number of men and women from various Muslim organisations in a protest against the Uniform Civil Code in 2016. FILE PHOTO

have uniformity in most criminal and civil matters like the Criminal Procedure Code, Civil Procedure Code, and the Contract Act, States have made over 100 amendments to the CrPC and IPC, as well as several amendments to civil laws. For instance, BJP-ruled States reduced the fines prescribed and justified by the Centre under the amended Motor Vehicles Act. Another example could be that the law of anticipatory bail differs from one State to another.

Experts thus argue that if there is plurality in already codified civil and criminal laws, how can the concept of 'one nation, one law' be applied to diverse personal laws of various communities? Besides, constitutional law experts argue that perhaps the framers did not intend total uniformity, which is why personal laws were placed in entry 5 of the Concurrent List, with the power to legislate being given to Parliament and State Assemblies.

Looking at the codified personal laws of various communities in India – all Hindus are not governed by a homogenous personal law even after the enactment of the Hindu Code Bill, neither are Muslims and Christians under their personal laws. Even at the time of drafting the Hindu Code Bill, several of its provisions actually sought to locate the complex links between the importance of inheritance, succession rights and the right to divorce. But facing staunch opposition from conservative quarters, it was amended, diluted, and watered down multiple times to finally be separated into four different Acts – the Hindu Marriage Act, the Hindu Succession Act, the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act – in the 1950s.

Constitutional law scholar Faizan Mustafa notes that while marriages amongst close relatives are prohibited by the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, they are considered auspicious in the south of India. Even the Hindu Succession Act of 1956 made several compromises and could not make the daughter a coparcener till 2005. Wives are still not coparceners nor do they have an equal share in inheritance. Similarly, there is still no uniform applicability when it comes to the Muslim personal law or the Shariah Act that was passed in 1937. For in-

stance, the Shariah Act is not applicable in Jammu and Kashmir and Muslims continue to be governed by customary law which is at variance with the Muslim personal law in the rest of the country. The applicability also varies for certain sects of Muslims. Besides, many tribal groups in the country, regardless of their religion, follow their own customary laws

##### Experts argue that if there is plurality in already codified civil and criminal laws, how can the concept of 'one nation, one law' be applied to diverse personal laws of various communities

While the Supreme Court in 2019 hailed Goa as a "shining example" of an Indian State which has a functioning UCC, experts point out that the ground reality in Goa is more complex and that the Code has legal pluralities. The Goa Civil Code was given by the Portuguese in 1867; it permits a certain form of polygamy for Hindus while the Shariah Act for Muslims has not been extended to Goa with Muslims of the State being governed by Portuguese law as well as Shastric Hindu law. The Code gives certain concessions to Catholics as well. Catholics need not register their marriages and Catholic priests can dissolve marriages performed in church.

Meanwhile, the BJP's 2019 manifesto as well as the Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's UCC committee proposal argue that the uniform code would be formed by taking the best practices of various religions and tailoring them for modern times. Researchers say this would essentially mean picking up certain Muslim practices and applying them to the Hindu community (or vice-versa), and question whether there would not be any opposition to the same.

##### What has the Supreme Court said about the UCC?

The Supreme Court in various judgements has called for the implementation of the UCC. In its *Mohd. Ahmed Khan vs Shah Bano Begum* judgement of 1985, where a divorced Muslim woman demanded maintenance from her former husband, the apex

court while deciding whether to give prevalence to the CrPC or the Muslim personal law, called for the implementation of the UCC.

The Court also called on the government to implement the UCC in the 1995 *Sarla Mudgal* judgement as well as in the *Paulo Coutinho vs Maria Luiza Valentina Pereira* case (2019).

##### What has the Law Commission said?

The Modi government in 2016 requested the Law Commission of India to determine how to form a code in the presence of "thousands of personal laws" in the country. In 2018, the Law Commission submitted a 185-page consultation paper on the reform of family law. The paper stated that a unified nation did not necessarily need "uniformity", adding that secularism could not contradict the plurality prevalent in the country. In fact, the term "secularism" had meaning only if it assured the expression of any form of difference, the Commission noted. While saying that a UCC "is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage", the report recommended that discriminatory practices, prejudices and stereotypes within a particular religion and its personal laws should be studied and amended. The Commission suggested certain measures in marriage and divorce that should be uniformly accepted in the personal laws of all religions. Some of these amendments include fixing the marriageable age for boys and girls at 18 years so that they are married as equals, making adultery a ground for divorce for men and women and simplifying the divorce procedure. It also called for the abolition of the Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) as a tax-exempted entity.

##### What is the government's stance?

While the UCC is a long-time poll promise of the BJP, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said in Parliament this year that the government currently had no plans to set up a panel to implement the UCC and requested the 22nd Law Commission of India to undertake an examination of various issues relating to the same. The chairperson and members of said Law Commission, which was set up in 2021, have not yet been appointed.

### THE GIST

Gujarat has joined the list of BJP-ruled States that have called for implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). While there is no draft or model document yet for the UCC, the framers of the Constitution envisioned that it would be a uniform set of laws that would replace the distinct personal laws of each religion.

The clause on UCC generated substantial debate in the Constituent Assembly about whether it should be included as a fundamental right or a directive principle. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar felt that while desirable, the UCC should remain "purely voluntary" in the initial stages. He stated that the Article "merely" proposed that the state shall endeavour to secure a UCC, which means it would not impose it on all citizens.

It has been argued that while India does have uniformity in most criminal and civil matters like the Criminal Procedure Code and the Civil Procedure Code, States have made over 100 amendments to the CrPC and IPC, as well as several amendments to civil laws. Similarly, looking at the codified personal laws of various communities in India – all Hindus are not governed by a homogenous personal law even after the enactment of the Hindu Code Bill, neither are Muslims and Christians under their personal laws.

## CACHE



**Long-time coming:** A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket rolls to launch pad 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, U.S. on October 31 just before its launch. REUTERS

## The Falcon Heavy launch: the most powerful operational rocket in the world

What is the recently launched Elon Musk-owned SpaceX rocket carrying to space? How is the U.S. military involved in this mission? Is this the first time the rocket has been launched? Have previous missions been successful?

### Abhishek Chatterjee

#### The story so far :

**O**n November 1, Elon Musk-owned SpaceX launched the Falcon Heavy rocket into a geosynchronous Earth orbit from the Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, U.S. This is considered as a National Security Space Launch for the U.S. military. The company hails this as the most powerful operational rocket in the world. This is the fourth launch of the giant rocket system, and the first one in nearly three years since its last launch in 2019.

#### What is its current mission?

The rocket is carrying satellites to space for the U.S. military in a mission named as U.S. Space Force (USSF)-44. The mission deployed two spacecraft payloads, one of which is the TETRA 1 microsatellite created for various prototype missions in and around the geosynchronous earth orbit. The other payload is for national defence purposes. It will place the satellites for the Space Systems Command's Innovation and Prototyping.

Space Systems Command (SSC) is the oldest military space organisation in the United States Armed Forces. It is responsible for developing, acquiring, equipping, fielding and sustaining lethal and resilient space capabilities. SSC mission capability areas include launch acquisition and operations, communications and positioning, navigation and timing, space sensing,

battle management command, control, and communications, and space domain awareness and combat power.

The Falcon Heavy uses three boosters for added thrust and lift capacity. The centre booster plunged into the ocean as planned and the two side boosters landed on ground pads at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. These two boosters will be refurbished for a subsequent U.S. Space Force mission later this year, according to a press release by the Space Systems Command. The boosters are reused on other missions to cut down on mission costs.

#### What are the specifications of the Falcon Heavy rocket?

SpaceX claims Falcon Heavy to be the most powerful rocket in the world today by a factor of two. With a lifting capacity of around 64 metric tonnes into orbit, Falcon Heavy can lift more than twice the payload of the next closest operational vehicle, the Delta IV Heavy.

The rocket has a height of 70 m, a width of 12.2 m and a mass of 1,420,788 kg. Falcon Heavy has 27 Merlin engines which together generate more than five million pounds of thrust at lift-off, equalling around eighteen 747 aircraft at full power. This makes it the most capable rocket flying. The rocket can lift the equivalent of a fully loaded 737 jetliner, complete with passengers, luggage and fuel, to orbit, SpaceX said.

Merlin is a family of rocket engines developed by SpaceX for use on its Falcon I, Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launch

vehicles. Merlin engines use RP-1 and liquid oxygen as rocket propellants in a gas-generator power cycle. These engines were designed for recovery and reuse, according to SpaceX.

#### When was the Falcon Heavy last launched?

SpaceX last launched its Falcon Heavy rocket in June 2019 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. It carried 24 satellites as part of the Department of Defense's Space Test Program-2.

The satellites included four NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) technology and science payloads to study non-toxic spacecraft fuel, deep space navigation, "bubbles" in the electrically-charged layers of Earth's upper atmosphere, and radiation protection for satellites, according to a NASA release. The space agency said that the mission was useful for smarter spacecraft design and benefitted the agency's Moon to Mars exploration plans by providing greater insight into the effects of radiation in space. It also tested out an atomic clock that could change how spacecraft navigates and looked at how the space environment around the Earth affects us.

#### Why was there a delay in the current mission?

The mission was earlier scheduled for lift-off in 2020 but was delayed. The exact reasons for delaying the mission were not publicly disclosed but payload readiness issues were considered to be the cause.

Also, most of SpaceX's missions till date did not require the massive power of the Falcon Heavy.

#### What about the other launches of Falcon Heavy?

The Falcon Heavy debuted in 2018 when SpaceX CEO Elon Musk sent his personal red Tesla Roadster, an electric sports car with a dummy driver, into space as a test payload. The car is still in space, orbiting around the sun, travelling as far away as Mars' orbit and, at times, as close as Earth's orbit. SpaceX launched the other two Falcon Heavy missions in 2019. One carried a TV and phone service satellite to orbit for Saudi Arabia-based Arabsat, and the other carried experimental satellites for the U.S. Department of Defense.

#### Are there any future launches?

SpaceX is said to be working on even bigger rockets. The company is targeting early December to launch its giant Starship rocket system, according to a report by Reuters.

These test flights of Starship are all about improving our understanding and development of a fully reusable transportation system designed to carry both crew and cargo on long-duration interplanetary flights, and help humanity return to the Moon, and travel to Mars and beyond, SpaceX said in its website.

The Musk-owned company claimed Starship to be the world's most powerful launch vehicle ever developed, with the ability to carry an excess of 100 metric tonnes to Earth orbit.

## THE DAILY QUIZ

On the occasion of his 68th birthday, here is a quiz on some of the iconic characters played by the thespian Kamal Haasan

### Srinivasan Ramani

#### QUESTION 1

Kamal Haasan is known for blending seamlessly into serious characters, but he has also essayed brilliant roles in comedies. Name the London-return character from one such film who's oft used catchphrase in the film is "Catch my point?" Also name the film.

#### QUESTION 2

"Who is God ("sivam")? You and I are "God"!" — says this character who is a communist activist in this Tamil film directed by C Sundar. Name the character and the film.

#### QUESTION 3

"I have never feared being afraid",

says this otherwise fearful character who suffers from several phobias, largely due to trauma suffered in the civil war in Sri Lanka. Name the character.

#### QUESTION 4

When his grandson asks him, "Are you a good man or a bad man", this character replies, "I don't know, dear", in this film that has some inspirations from *The Godfather*. Name the character and the real life personality it was based on.

#### QUESTION 5

What ability did the character Janardhanan (alias Johnny) possess in a female-centric K. Balachander film? Kamal, who played that character, learnt this skill from AVM Murugan.



#### Visual question:

This character who is a R&AW official, "can speak five languages in Telugu". Name the character and the film he appears in.

**Questions (abridged) and Answers to the November 4 edition of the daily quiz:** 1. The necropolis where Tomb KV62 housing Tut is located. **Ans: Valley of Kings**

2. The teenage king's original name was not Tutankhamun but this. **Ans: Tutankhaten**

3. This organ usually left inside the body during mummification was missing for Tut. **Ans: Heart, it was replaced by a scarab amulet**

4. Many said that Britain entered the WWII because of this incident on April 16, 1939. **Ans: Playing the two trumpets found inside Tut's tomb**

5. The number of coffins used to keep the mummified body of Tut. **Ans: Three**

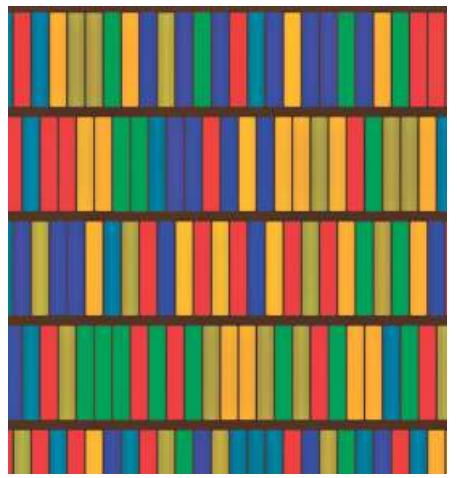
6. One of the daggers found from the burial was made from this material. **Ans: Meteorite**

7. This item has become an iconic symbol of Egypt. **Ans: Tut's funerary (death) mask**

8. Connect 'Downton Abbey' to Tut. **Ans: Highclere Castle, where the series is set, is the stately home of the Carnarvons whose fifth Earl bankrolled the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb**

Visual: Identify this Englishman. **Ans: Howard Carter**

**Early Birds:** Naume Basu| Shoury Patil| Rahul Verma



## KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

*Its about time  
you gave up  
ideas divorced  
from reality*

My colleague who is senior to me exchanged his promotion for a transfer to his home town

### S. Upendran

"I thought you were bringing your classmate with you. What happened?"

"He's gone to the mall for something. But he should be here soon. By the way, Vineet isn't my classmate. He was senior than me in school. I think he was..."

"You don't generally say 'senior than'. It's usually 'senior to'. For example, *Raju does everything Lina says because she is senior to him*."

"How about this example? *Yogesh looks like a kid, but he's been working in this branch for a long time. He's senior to everyone here*."

"Sounds good! Similarly, we say, 'junior to' and not 'junior than'."

"*Sunitha doesn't like to be told what to do by those who are junior to her*."

"That's a very good example. But sometimes, listening to people who are junior to you may prove to be very beneficial."

"That's true. I'm junior to Vineet, but he always listens to my ideas patiently."

"That's good. But why has Vineet gone to the mall? Is he buying something for..."

"Before I answer that question, tell me how 'd.i.v.o.r.c.e' is pronounced."

"You're not even married! Why are you worried about..."

"Vineet and I had a disagreement about how the word is pronounced."

"Many people in our country tend to pronounce the first syllable like the word 'die'. They pronounce the word as 'die-vorce'. But that's not how native speakers of English pronounce it. They tend to pronounce the 'i' like the 'i' in 'sit', 'pit' and 'hit'. They rhyme the second syllable with 'force' and 'course'. They pronounce the word 'di-VORCE', with the stress on the second syllable."

"Tell me, can the word 'divorce' be used in contexts other than marriage?"

"It certainly can. The word can be used with any kind of separation between two things. For example, *I wish we could divorce religion from politics*."

"There's no chance of that happening in our country."

"Now tell me, why has Vineet gone to the mall?"

"The poor chap bought a watch a couple of days ago. But it's been giving him a lot of trouble. He's gone to see if he can exchange the watch with a new one."

"You generally don't exchange something 'with' something else. You usually 'exchange for' something. *The fridge we bought six months ago is not working properly. We want to exchange it for a new one*."

"The shirt that my mother bought for my birthday was a very tight fit. I went to the store and exchanged it for a kurtha."

"They allowed you to do that?"

"The kurtha and the shirt were the same price. So, they had no problem."

*upendrankye@gmail.com*

## Word of the day

### Ineffable:

defying expression or description

**Synonyms:** unutterable, indescribable, indefinable

### Usage:

*Her face radiated ineffable ecstasy when she got her dream job.*

Pronunciation: *bit.ly/ineffablepro*

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