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Top 10

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Top 20

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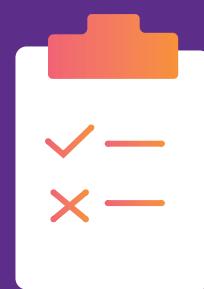
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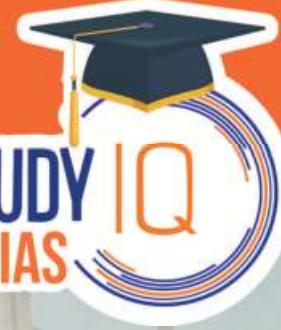
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• (Pre+Mains) •



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Amit Kilhor

Indian Polity & IR



Shashank Tyagi



Ayush Sanghi



Kunwar Prateek



Ankit Agrawal



Rahul Saigaonkar



Vasu Katara



Divakar Bothra

Indian Society & Social Justice



Sainil Nagare

History & Current Affairs



Prashant Tiwari

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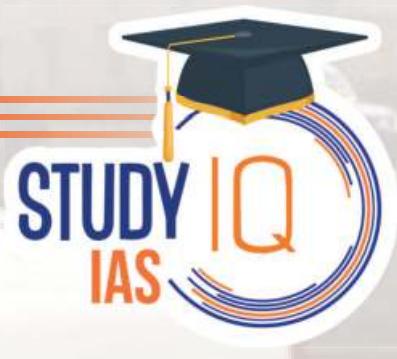


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1:00PM



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Sociology



Use Code: HINDU
Batch-2 Starting on
21st November
1:00PM



Shashank Tyagi
PSIR Political Science & International Relations



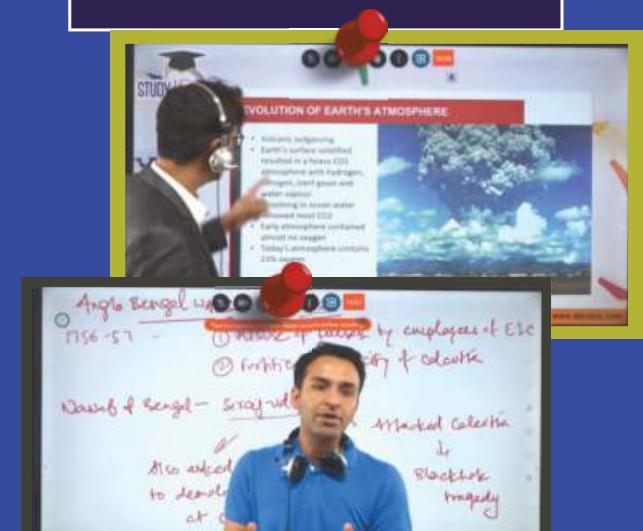
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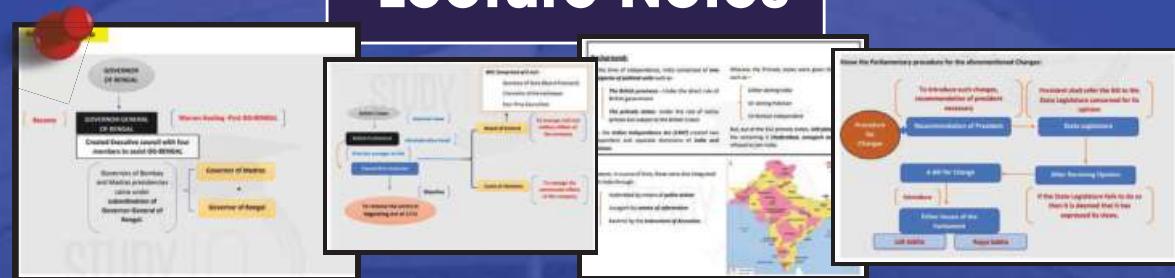
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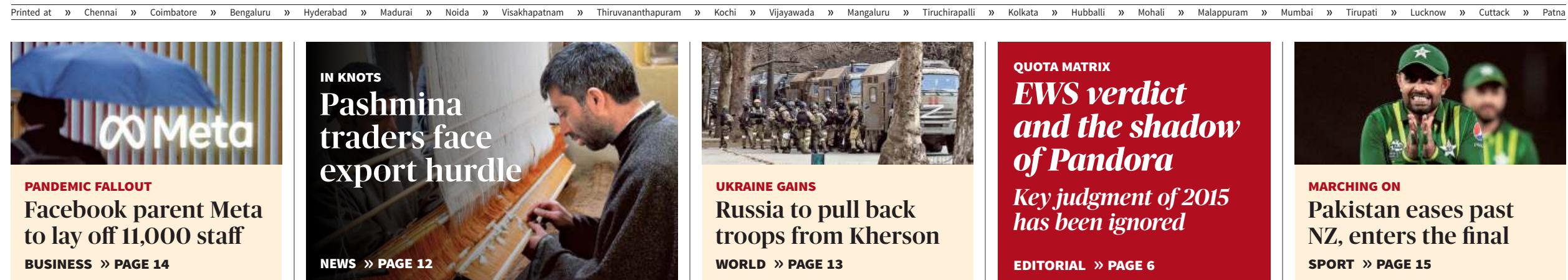


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Kerala govt. moves to divest Governor of Chancellor role

Renowned academic experts will be appointed Chancellors of universities, says State Cabinet; if Governor refuses to promulgate an ordinance, the Left Democratic Front government may introduce a Bill in the Assembly to remove him

G. Anand

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In the latest escalation of its running battle with Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, the Kerala government on Wednesday decided to remove him as Chancellor of State universities, seeking to replace him with "renowned academic experts".

The State Cabinet on Wednesday resolved to request the Governor himself to promulgate an ordinance removing him from the position. This would divest him of his powers as Chancellor, and at one stroke, render the Raj Bhavan remote from all aspects of university governance.

In an official statement, the Cabinet noted that the M.M. Punchhi Commission, constituted in 2007

Escalating row

Amid the rising conflict with Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, the Kerala Cabinet decides to remove him as Chancellor of State universities



THE ORDINANCE: State Cabinet resolves to request the Governor himself to promulgate an ordinance removing him from the position

THE IMPACT: The Governor will be divested of his powers as Chancellor and will be kept away from all aspects of university governance

THE STATE'S REASONING: M.M. Punchhi Commission had recommended that States desist from burdening Governors with the Chancellor's role

by the then-Congress-led Union government to study Centre-State relations, had vouched against granting Governors the power of Chancellors.

The Commission had recommended that State governments desist from burdening Governors with the Chancellor's role, the statement said.

The Cabinet's decision came as no surprise. On Sunday, Communist Party of India (Marxist) State secretary M.V. Govindan hinted the party would go to any extent to insulate the jurisdictional autonomy of universities from Mr. Khan's alleged trespasses.

In an apparent reference to the recent move

by Mr. Khan questioning the appointment of Vice-Chancellors of 11 universities, Higher Education Minister R. Bindu said at a press conference that there were interferences in the functioning of varsities, which aimed at making them rudderless.

The CPI(M) also seemed to take a cue from the Tamil Nadu government, which had weighed a similar executive order after several run-ins with the Governor in his capacity as Chancellor.

In case Mr. Khan disagreed with the ordinance and withheld its promulgation, the government may introduce a Bill in the Assembly to remove him, senior CPI(M) leaders indicated.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

T.N. MPs send memorandum

CHENNAI

The memorandum signed by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members of the ruling DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance seeking removal of Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi has been submitted to Rashtrapati Bhavan, the DMK said in an official statement.

» PAGE 5

Not sitting on Bills: Tamilisai

HYDERABAD

Refuting charges that her office was sitting on Bills forwarded by the Telangana government for her assent, Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan said she is taking time to assess the Bills before giving her approval.

» PAGE 5

Republicans make gains in U.S. midterm polls but no 'red wave'

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON

Republicans appeared poised on Wednesday to eke out a slim majority in the U.S. House of Representatives but their hopes of a "red wave" in midterm elections were dashed as President Joe Biden's Democrats outperformed expectations.

It was a disappointing night for Donald Trump, who was counting on a powerful Republican showing to boost his expected 2024 run to return to White House.

He also saw his main rival for the party's presidential nomination, Ron DeSantis, record a thumping victory to remain Governor of Florida.

With three key races yet to be called after Tuesday's vote, the Senate remained in play but it was leaning Democratic and control may hinge on a run-off election in the southern



Ron DeSantis gives a victory speech in Tampa, Florida. AFP

State of Georgia in December. Republicans seemed on track to reclaim the 435-member House for the first time since 2018, but by a handful of seats, a far cry from their predictions.

Top Republican Kevin McCarthy, who had forecast a pickup of as many as 60 House seats, put on a brave face after the overwhelming showing. "It is clear that we are going to take the House back," said Mr. McCarthy.

REPUBLICANS STRUGGLE
» PAGE 13

IN BRIEF

Chinese national, Haryana resident held for extortion

NEW DELHI
Delhi Police has arrested two persons, a Chinese national and a resident of Haryana, in connection with extortion through Chinese instant loan apps, officials said on Wednesday. The accused siphoned off ₹150 crore, the police said. » Page 3

Special session on tribal quota in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR
Amid confusion over reduction in the quota for STs following a HC order capping reservations at 50%, the Chhattisgarh government is planning to hold a special Assembly session on tribal reservation. » Page 10

DIAS PHYSICS
Civil Services Examination 2023/24
14th-NOV-2022
2.00 PM to 4.00 PM
011-40079000, 9350934622
18, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

SC gives Azam Khan leeway to seek stay on conviction

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Election Commission of India to issue the Gazette notification for declaring the by-election schedule for the Rampur Assembly constituency on or after Friday, giving Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan time to seek a stay on his conviction in a hate speech case that led to his disqualification from the seat.

The Election Commission has already written to the Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer not to go ahead with the issuance of the Gazette notification in compliance with the Su-

preme Court's direction.

A Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud also advanced the hearing date of Khan's plea to stay his conviction. The Bench ordered a Rampur Additional Sessions Court to hear the plea on Thursday and decide it the same day. The case was originally listed on November 15.

The apex court was also informed that the Sessions Judge in Rampur had earlier allowed Khan interim bail in the case.

The Special Magistrate court convicted Khan in a hate speech case on October 27. The U.P. Assembly Secretariat had issued a notification the next day declaring the seat vacant.

Rattled hills



Reduced to rubble: People stand outside collapsed houses after an earthquake struck the western district of Doti in Nepal early on Wednesday, killing six persons. Tremors were felt in Delhi, surrounding areas of Ghaziabad, Gurugram and in Lucknow. AP (REPORT ON PAGE 13)

Centre devises new guidelines for TV channels; broadcast of socially relevant topics compulsory

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved new guidelines for uplinking and downlinking of TV channels, under which all stations holding permission – except for foreign channels and where it may not be feasible – will have to broadcast content on issues of national importance and social relevance for at least 30 minutes every day.

The provision has been introduced as "airwaves/frequencies are public property and need to be used in the best interest of society". The eight listed

themes include education and spread of literacy; agriculture and rural development; health and family welfare; science and technology; welfare of women; welfare of the weaker sections of society; protection of environment and of cultural heritage; and national integration.

The consolidated guidelines exempt channels including those related to sports, where it would not be feasible to broadcast such content. As and when required, the Centre would issue general advisories to the channels in this regard.

Information & Broad-

casting Secretary Apurva Chandra on Wednesday said the new guidelines, which replaced those operational since 2011, would ease the issue of permission to the companies and limited liability partnership (LLP) firms [which

have been allowed for the first time] registered in India for uplinking-downlinking of TV channels and associated activities.

Listing the advantages, Mr. Chandra said the requirement to seek permis-

sion for live telecast of events had been done away with, only prior registration of events would be necessary for live telecast. Prior permission would not be needed for change of language or conversion of mode of transmission, from Standard Definition to High Definition or vice versa; only prior intimation would suffice.

Teleport-hub
LLPs/companies would be allowed to uplink foreign channels from Indian airports, which would create job opportunities and make India a teleport-hub for other countries, it said.

Since airwaves are 'public property', they need to be used in the best interest of society, says the government. SANDEEP SAXENA

Since airwaves are 'public property', they need to be used in the best interest of society, says the government. SANDEEP SAXENA

U.K. court turns down Nirav Modi's appeal against extradition

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The United Kingdom's High Court on Wednesday turned down the appeal of fugitive Nirav Modi against a District Court verdict, based on which the then Secretary of State had, on April 15, 2021, ordered his extradition to India.

The court accepted the Indian government's assurances taking Mr. Modi's mental health concerns into account, noting that its proposed arrangements were more comprehensive than the regime available at his current prison in the U.K. Mr. Modi may explore further legal recourse to challenge the judgment.

Along with his uncle Mehl Choksi, Mr. Modi is wanted by the CBI and the ED for his alleged involvement in the ₹13,758 crore Punjab National Bank fraud, and has been in judicial custody in the U.K. since March 2019.

Mr. Modi had contended that owing to his mental health condition, a risk of suicide and the "vague and sketchy" assurances from the Government of India (GoI) on the medical aid to be made available to him, he should not be extradited. The High Court said: "...the GoI assurances are extensive and specific to meet the successive levels of concern advanced on Mr. Modi's behalf."

Court grants bail to Sanjay Raut, says he was arrested for no reason

Sonam Saigal

MUMBAI

A special court on Wednesday granted bail to Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) MP Sanjay Raut in a money laundering case saying, "He was arrested for no reason and the arrest was illegal."

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has moved the Bombay High Court seeking a stay on the execution of the bail order. However, Justice Bharati Dangre said the matter will be heard on Thursday. Soon, Mr. Raut left the Arthur Road jail nearly 100 days after his arrest under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Special PMLA Judge M.G. Deshpande also granted bail to co-accused Pravin Raut on a bond of ₹2 lakh. "By simply labelling pure civil disputes as 'money laundering' or 'economic offence', it cannot automatically acquire such

status and ultimately drag an innocent person into a miserable situation in the guise of arrest. The court has to do what is right irrespective of who is before it," the judge said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

status and ultimately drag an innocent person into a miserable situation in the guise of arrest. The court has to do what is right irrespective of who is before it," the judge said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

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(Please scan this QR Code to view the Red Herring Prospectus)

FIVE STAR



Business Finance Limited

FIVE-STAR BUSINESS FINANCE LIMITED

Our Company was incorporated as Five-Star Business Credits Private Limited at Chennai, Tamil Nadu as a private limited company under the Companies Act, 1956, pursuant to a certificate of incorporation dated May 7, 1984, issued by the Registrar of Companies, Tamil Nadu at Chennai ("RoC"). Our Company was converted from a private limited company to a public limited company pursuant to board resolution dated September 7, 1988 and special resolution passed by the Shareholders at the EGM dated October 3, 1988. Consequently, the name of our Company was changed from 'Five-Star Business Credits Private Limited' to 'Five-Star Business Credits Limited' and the certificate of incorporation was amended on October 3, 1988. The name of our Company was subsequently changed to 'Five-Star Business Finance Limited' pursuant to board resolution dated March 25, 2015 and special resolution passed by our Shareholders at the EGM held on April 12, 2016, and a fresh certificate of incorporation consequent upon change of name was issued by the RoC on May 13, 2016. For further details see, "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 219 of the red herring prospectus of the Company dated November 1, 2022 filed with the RoC ("RHP" or "Red Herring Prospectus"). Our Company is registered with the Reserve Bank of India ("RBI") to carry on the business of non-banking financial institution without accepting public deposits (certificate of registration no. B-07-00286). For details, see "Government and Other Approvals" beginning on page 390 of the RHP.

Registered and Corporate Office: New No. 27, Old No. 4, Taylor's Road, Kilpauk, Chennai 600 010, Tamil Nadu, India; Tel: +91 44 4610 6260; Website: www.fivestargroup.in; Contact Person: Shalini Baskaran, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; E-mail: cs@fivestargroup.in; Corporate Identity Number: U65991TN1984PLC010844

OUR PROMOTERS: LAKSHMIPATHY DEENADAYALAN, HEMA LAKSHMIPATHY, SHRITHA LAKSHMIPATHY, MATRIX PARTNERS INDIA INVESTMENT HOLDINGS II, LLC AND SCI INVESTMENTS V

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 1 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF FIVE-STAR BUSINESS FINANCE LIMITED (OUR "COMPANY" OR THE "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A PREMIUM OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE) ("OFFER PRICE") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 19,600.05 MILLION (THE "OFFER") THROUGH AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES (THE "OFFER FOR SALE"), CONSISTING OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 1,667.42 MILLION BY SCI INVESTMENTS V, UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 7,194.14 MILLION BY MATRIX PARTNERS INDIA INVESTMENT HOLDINGS II, LLC, UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 120.87 MILLION BY MATRIX PARTNERS INDIA INVESTMENTS II EXTENSION, LLC, UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 3,614.47 MILLION BY NORWEST VENTURE PARTNERS X – MAURITIUS AND UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 7,003.15 MILLION BY TPG ASIA VII SF PTE. LTD. (COLLECTIVELY, THE "SELLING SHAREHOLDERS", AND SUCH EQUITY SHARES, THE "OFFERED SHARES").

The Offer is being made under Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations.

QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Offer | Non-Institutional Portion: Not less than 15% of the Offer

Retail Portion: Not less than 35% of the Offer

PRICE BAND: ₹ 450 TO ₹ 474 PER EQUITY SHARE

THE FLOOR PRICE IS 450 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES AND

THE CAP PRICE IS 474 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES.

BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 31 EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 31 EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER.

Risks to Investors:

- The weighted average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares transacted by the Promoters, Promoter Group and Selling Shareholders in the one year, three years and eighteen months immediately preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus is as follows:

Period	Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition (in ₹)*^	Cap Price (₹ 474) is 'X' times the Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition	Range of acquisition price: lowest price-highest price (in ₹)^
Last one year	490.67	0.97	490.67
Last three years	241.77	1.96	1 - 490.67
Last eighteen months	386.59	1.23	1 - 490.67

^{*}As certified by RPSV & Co., Chartered Accountants by way of their certificate dated November 1, 2022.

^{*}Weighted average cost means total Equity Share capital including securities premium issued during last one year, three years and eighteen months preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus divided by total number of Equity Shares.

- The Price/Earnings ratio based on diluted EPS for FY 2022 for our Company at upper end of price band is as high as 29.77x compared to the average industry peer group P/E ratio of 40.84x.
- Weighted average return of Net Worth for FY 2022, FY 2021 and FY 2020 is 15.11% and Return on Net Worth for the three months ended June 30, 2022 is 3.69% (not annualised).
- Average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares held by the Promoters and Selling Shareholders ranges from ₹ 0.50 to ₹ 186.04 per Equity Share and the Offer Price at upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 474 per Equity Share.

RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH OUR COMPANY ARE:

- We require substantial capital for our business and any disruption in our sources of capital could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.
- The risk of non-payment or default by our borrowers may adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition and our customers may delay and/or default on their repayment obligations due to various reasons. For our customers who earned not more than ₹ 25,000 per month, during the three months ended June 30, 2022 and the Financial Years 2022, 2021 and 2020, ₹ 309.58 million, 0.58% of our total Gross Term Loans, ₹ 259.40 million, 0.51% of our total Gross Term Loans, ₹ 150.79 million, 0.34% of our total Gross Term Loans, ₹ 162.30 million and 0.42% of our total Gross Term Loans of our total Gross Term Loans, respectively, experienced default in repayment obligations, (i.e. were in the 90+ DPD category).
- Our inability to meet our obligations, including financial and other covenants under our debt financing arrangements, could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition. As of June 30, 2022, our Total Borrowings were ₹ 25,203.19 million.
- We have had negative net cash flows in the past and may continue to have negative cash flows in the future.
- The four Book Running Lead Managers associated with the Offer have handled 64 public issues of equity shares in past three years out of which 22 issues closed below the issue price on listing date.

Name of the BRLMs	Total Issues	Issues Closed below IPO pricing on listing day
ICICI Securities Limited*	22	9
Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited*	-	-
Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited*	9	1
Edelweiss Financial Services Limited*	4	2
Common Issues of above BRLMs	29	10
Total	64	22

*Issues handled where there were no common BRLMs

BID/ OFFER SCHEDULE

BID/ OFFER OPEN
BID/ OFFER CLOSES ON NOVEMBER 11, 2022⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5.00 pm on the Bid/Offer Closing Date.

THE EQUITY SHARES OF OUR COMPANY WILL GET LISTED ON MAIN BOARD PLATFORM OF BSE AND NSE

Continued on next page...

Timings

DELHI

THURSDAY, NOV. 10
RISE 06:40 SET 17:31
RISE 18:46 SET 08:17
FRIDAY, NOV. 11
RISE 06:41 SET 17:30
RISE 19:32 SET 09:15
SATURDAY, NOV. 12
RISE 06:41 SET 17:30
RISE 20:22 SET 10:11

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 30 17
Safdarjung 30 17
Palam 29 18Delhi Palam Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm with smoke haze. Night will be cool. Short spell of light rain or thundershower is a chance at few places.Delhi Palam Tomorrow
30°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be cool with shallow fog and mist. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.Copyright Skymet Weather 2022
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Chhawla rape victim's family to file appeal

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The family of the 2012 Chhawla gang-rape victim on Wednesday said they would appeal against the Supreme Court's acquittal of the three accused.

The Delhi Commission For Women has issued a notice to the police asking it to ensure the security of the family. It is also seeking legal opinion on the matter.

Expressing disappointment, the victim's father said, "We are in the process of finalising it and will file an appeal soon."

Chinese national, Haryana man held for extorting loan app users

Duo accused of siphoning off ₹150 crore; police say they charged exorbitant interest rates and extorted users by threatening them with morphed nude pictures; network spread across country, 22 arrests were made earlier

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI



The arrested duo, Yu Zhang (left) and Vineet Jhaver. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Delhi Police Cyber Cell has arrested two persons, including a Chinese national, in connection with extortion through instant loan apps, officers said on Wednesday.

The accused Yu Zhang, a 52-year-old Chinese citizen, and Vineet Jhaver, 38, a resident of Haryana, have siphoned off ₹150 crore into their accounts, the police said.

Officers said several users of Chinese instant loan apps had complained of being charged exorbitant interest rates and extorted by gangs who threatened them with their morphed nude pictures if they refused to pay.

An official said the com-



The arrested duo, Yu Zhang (left) and Vineet Jhaver. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

plaints were analysed and over 100 such apps were found to be involved in the racket. These apps had access to users' personal data such as contacts, chats and images, which were being uploaded to servers in India and abroad, mainly China.

Explaining the modus operandi, the police said a person in instant need of a small loan downloads such an app on his/her phone and grants it

permission to access the phone data after uploading details such as Aadhaar card, PAN card and a live photograph. The loan is disbursed within minutes to the person's bank account. Their data, however, is shared with various modules of the gangs. The users begin receiving calls demanding payment and are threatened with their morphed and obscene images. In some cases, people in

need of as low as ₹5,000-10,000 were being forced to pay lakhs of rupees in interest.

The money trail revealed that multiple mule accounts were used to launder the extortion money, with huge amounts found to be credited daily in each of the accounts, the police said.

"The network is spread across Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and other parts of the country. Earlier, 22 people had been arrested. The mastermind in the present case is a Chinese national. She and her associate have been arrested," said DCP (IFSO) Prashant Gautam.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that they were operating at the behest of other Chinese nationals.

12 arrested for running fake call centre

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

loans, the police said on Wednesday.

The case came to light when the police received information about an illegal call centre running at Udhyan Road in Uttam Nagar, which was cheating people on the pretext of providing loans. It was allegedly run by Faisal, a resident of Ghaziabad, and his

team members who were all arrested from the spot, the police said.

When the police reached the call centre, Faisal tried to mislead them by claiming that the place was being used for selling medicines and even showed them some medicines on a counter. On sustained interrogation, he revealed that

all the employees were involved in posing as customer support agents and offering loans in exchange for paying a processing fee in a bank account, the police said.

"Paras, the prime accused who took the place on lease, , and three others are absconding," said DCP (Dwarka) Harsh Vardhan.

...continued from previous page.

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Retail Individual Investors also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. Bidders must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021

*Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") is a better way of applying to offers by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA below. Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor Investors. UPI may be availed by (i) Retail Individual Bidders in the Retail Portion and (ii) Non-Institutional Bidders with an application size of up to ₹ 500,000 in the Non-Institutional Portion. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" on page 416 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India ("AIBI") and Stock Exchanges and in the General Information Document. ASBA bid-cum-application forms and the Abridged Prospectus can be downloaded from the websites of BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE", and together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges") and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intml=35 and <https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intml=43>, respectively as updated from time to time. For the list of UPI Banks and banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI Mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. ICICI Bank Limited and HDFC Bank Limited have been appointed as the Sponsors Banks for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of SEBI circular dated November 1, 2018 as amended. For Offer related queries, please contact the Book Running Lead Managers ("BRLMs") on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and mail Id: ipo@npci.org.in.

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/ Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision in the Price Band, subject to the Bid/ Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, our Company and the Selling Shareholders, in consultation with the BRLMs, for reasons to be recorded in writing, may extend the Bid/ Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/ Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/ Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members and by intimation to the Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Banks, as applicable.

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process, in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("SCRR") read with Regulation 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, as amended (the "SEBI ICDR Regulations"). This Offer is in compliance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations wherein not more than 50% of the Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs") and such portion the ("QIB Portion") provided that our Company and the Selling Shareholders, in consultation with the BRLMs, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations ("Anchor Investor Portion"), of which one-third shall be reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid bids being received from domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations. In the event of under-subscription or non-allocation in the Anchor Investor Portion, the balance Equity Shares shall be added to the Net QIB Portion. Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs (other than Anchor Investors) including Mutual Funds, subject to valid bids being received at or above the Offer Price. However, if the aggregate demand from Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the Net QIB Portion, the balance Equity Shares available for allocation in the Mutual Fund Portion will be added to the remaining QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to QIBs. Further, not less than 15% of the Offer shall be available for allocation to Non-Institutional Bidders out of which (a) one third of such portion shall be reserved for applicants with application size of more than ₹ 200,000 and up to ₹ 1,00,000; and (b) two third of such portion shall be reserved for applicants with application size of more than ₹ 1,00,000, provided that the unsubscribed portion in either of such sub-categories may be allocated to applicants in the other sub-category of Non-Institutional Bidders and not less than 35% of the Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders ("RIB") in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders (except Anchor Investors) are required to mandatorily utilise the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") process by providing details of their respective ASBA accounts and UPI ID (in case of UPI Bidders), in which case the corresponding Bid Amounts will be blocked by the SCSBs or under the UPI Mechanism, as applicable to participate in the Offer. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Anchor Investor Portion of the Offer through the ASBA process. For details, see "Offer Procedure" on page 416 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN and the Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through UPI Mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository Database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID and Client ID as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes in their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk.

Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with Central Board of Direct Taxes notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

ICICI Securities
ICICI Securities Limited
ICICI Venture House, Appasaheb Marathe Marg,
Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025
Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6807 7100
E-mail: five-star.ipo@icicisecurities.com
Investor grievance e-mail:
customerservice.mbb@edelweissfin.com
Website: www.icicisecurities.com
Contact person: Sumit Singh/ Rupesh Khant
SEBI registration no.: INM00001179

Edelweiss
Edelweiss Financial Services Limited
6th Floor, Edelweiss House
Off CST Road, Kalina
Mumbai 400 098 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4009 4400
E-mail: fivestar.ipo@edelweissfin.com
Investor grievance e-mail:
customerservice.mbb@edelweissfin.com
Website: www.edelweissfin.com
Contact person: Manish Tejwani
SEBI Registration No.: INM000010650

kotak®
Investment Banking
Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited
1st Floor, 27 BKC, Plot No. C-27, G Block,
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East)
Mumbai 400 051 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4336 0000
E-mail: five-starbusinessfinance.ipo@kotak.com
Investor grievance e-mail:
[kmcdress@kotak.com](mailto:kmcдресs@kotak.com)
Website: investmentbank.kotak.com/
Contact person: Ganesh Rane
SEBI Registration No.: INN0000008704

NOMURA
Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India)
Private Limited
Ceejay House, Level 11 Plot F, Shivsagar Estate, Dr. Annie
Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai 400 018 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4037 4037
E-mail: fivestaripon@nomura.com
Investor grievance e-mail: investorgrievances-in@nomura.com
Website: www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html
Contact person: Vishal Kanjani / Radhika Shah
SEBI Registration No.: INN0000011419

KFin Technologies Limited
(formerly known as KFin Technologies Private Limited)
Selenium, Tower B, Plot No. 31 and 32
Financial District, Nanakramguda, Rangareddy
Hyderabad, Rangareddy 500 032 Telangana, India
Tel: +91 40 6716 2222
E-mail: fsbl.ipo@kfintech.com
Website: www.kfintech.com
Investor grievance e-mail: einward.ris@kfintech.com
Contact person: M Murali Krishna
SEBI Registration Number: INR000000221

COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER
Shalini Baskaran
FIVE-STAR BUSINESS FINANCE LIMITED
New No. 27, Old No. 4, Taylor's Road, Kilpauk
Chennai 600 010 Tamil Nadu, India
Tel: +91 44 4610 6260
E-mail: cs@fivestargroup.in
Website: www.fivestargroup.in
Investors may contact the Company Secretary and Compliance Officer or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related grievances including non-receipt of letters of Allotment, non-credit of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode, etc. For all Offer related queries and for redressal of complaints, investors may also write to the BRLMs.

AVAILABILITY OF RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the "Risk Factors" beginning on page 22 of the RHP before applying in the Offer. A copy of the RHP is available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, the websites of the BRLMs, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, Edelweiss Financial Services Limited at www.edelweissfin.com, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at investmentbank.kotak.com/ and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and the websites of the Stock Exchanges, for BSE at www.bseindia.com and for NSE at www.nseindia.com.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORM: Bid cum Application Form can be obtained from the Registered Office of Company. **FIVE-STAR BUSINESS FINANCE LIMITED:** Tel: +91 44 4610 6260; **BRLMs:** **ICICI Securities Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6807 7100; **Edelweiss Financial Services Limited**, Tel: +91 22 4009 4400; **Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited**, Tel: +91 22 4037 4037; **Syndicate Members:** Nuvana Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited), Tel: +91 22 40635569 and Kotak Securities Limited, Tel: +91 22 6218 5470 and at selected locations of Sub-Syndicate Members (as given below), Registered Brokers, SCBS, Designated RTA Locations and Designated CDP Locations for participating in the Offer. Bid cum Application Forms will also be available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and at all the Designated Branches of SCBS, the list of which is available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

SUB-SYNDICATE MEMBERS: Almondz Global Securities Ltd.; Amrapali Capital & Finance Services Ltd.; Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Ltd.; Axis Capital Limited; Centrum Broking Limited; Centrum Wealth Management Ltd.; Choice Equity Broking Private Limited; Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Private Limited; DB (International) Stock Brokers Ltd.; Eureka Stock & Share Broking Services Ltd.; Finwiz Technology Pvt. Ltd.; HDFC Securities Limited; IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited; IFCI Financial Services Ltd.; IIFL Securities Ltd.; JM Financial Services Limited; Jobanputra Fiscal Services Private Limited; KJMC Capital Market Services Limited; LKP Securities Limited; Inventure Growth & Securities Ltd.; Motilal Oswal Securities Limited; Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt. Ltd.; Prabhudas Lillaher Pvt. Ltd.; Pravin Ratia Share & Stock Brokers Limited; Religare; RR Equity Brokers Private Limited; SBICap Securities Limited; Sharekhan Ltd.; SMC Global Securities Limited; Systematix Shares and Stocks (India) Limited; Trade Bulls Securities (P) Ltd.; Viren M Shah; Way2Wealth Brokers Private Limited and YES Securities (India) Limited.

ESCRROW COLLECTION BANK(S), REFUND BANK(S) AND PUBLIC OFFER BANK(S): ICICI Bank Limited.

SPONSOR BANKS: ICICI Bank Limited and HDFC Bank Limited.

HC refuses to stay civic body polls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Declining to interfere with the MCD polls scheduled for December 4, the Delhi High Court on Wednesday rejected the request of three petitioners who sought a stay on the elections till their pleas challenging the delimitation of wards were heard.

A Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonian Prasad said the State Election Commission has already issued notification for the civic polls. "The Election Commission's notification is there. We cannot touch it now," the Bench said.

Last week, the SEC announced that elections to the MCD will be held on December 4 and the counting of votes will take place on December 7. The total number of wards was reduced to 250 from previous 272 after the final report of the delimitation exercise was approved and notified by the Centre on October 17.

The three petitions were filed by National Youth Party, RWA of B Block Hari Nagar and a candidate, Sanjay Gupta, who intended to contest poll from a ward allotted to SC/ST women.

'Stabilising MCD's finances would be biggest test for winning party'

The civic body's current backlog of pending salaries and pensions stands at ₹672 crore; officials say any political outfit which will take charge of the corporation after the polls will face an uphill task of generating revenue and clearing dues

Muneef Khan
NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), which is set to witness its first election, on December 4, after its unification five months ago, continues to face a backlog in payment of salaries and pensions to its employees.

The dues currently stand at ₹672 crore, a reduction from September's backlog of ₹1,126 crore. Civic officials said the coming months will be difficult – especially for the political party that will come to power after the MCD polls – as the corporation is running low on finances.

The backlog has been continuing since before the merger of the three erstwhile municipal corporations – North, South and East – due to pending payments of salaries and pensions to employees across various categories under the erstwhile North and East Delhi corporations. Currently, the employees under the two erstwhile



Workers' strikes over pending salaries were a recurring phenomenon in the erstwhile trifurcated municipal corporation. Officials fear the same may resume if the backlog is not cleared. FILE PHOTO

corporations have one to four months of pending salaries and pensions.

Mounting dues

"Apart from the dues, we require ₹774 crore more to pay salaries for each month, and this has to continue or the backlog will increase. After making the latest payment, our current finances are as low as ₹150 crore. It is likely that

we will have to rely on our internal revenue for paying next month's salaries since the external revenue sources have dried up and we can only wait for the next installment of external revenue, which is due after January," said a civic official, adding that the MCD's internal revenue has not increased significantly since the merger of the three erstwhile municipi-

pal corporations.

The official said close to 90% of the MCD's finances

are poured into salaries

and pensions, leaving little

room for new development projects.

"The backlog amount fluctuates every month. If we miss one payment the backlog will increase again, and it might force the employees to go on strike earlier, when coun-

cillors were in charge, there used to be recurring strikes over pending salaries," said the MCD official.

Revenue generation

Responding to the observations, MCD's director for press and information Amit Kumar said the civic body is working to generate "adequate" internal revenue to ensure salary payments and added that the corporation's latest property tax scheme – SAM-RIDDHI – is getting a decent response.

"It is hoped that the scheme will help achieve targeted property tax collection during the current financial year. Moreover, all the other revenue-earning departments are performing better than previous years in revenue collection. Efforts are also being made to optimally monetise the corporation's land and buildings. There is continuous monitoring to minimise avoidable expenditure. The money saved will add to the funds required for salary payment," said Mr. Kumar.

IN BRIEF



Volunteers form a human chain to promote voter awareness, at Raighat on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Delhi's draft electoral roll reflects dip in voter numbers

Delhi's draft electoral roll for 2023 was published by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) on Wednesday. It reflected a dip in the total number of voters by slightly over two lakh, with the latest figure standing at 1.46 crore. The draft roll was published as part of the special summary revision exercise which allows a month-long period (till December 8) to file claims and objections. According to the draft roll, the total number of male and female voters in the city stand at 79,96,401 and 66,93,292 respectively.

Where was ₹1,286 crore green cess spent, Lekhi asks govt.

Union Minister and BJP leader Meenakshi Lekhi on Wednesday asked the Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi where had it spent the ₹1,286.93 crore collected from the public as environment cess. Ms. Lekhi said, "Out of ₹1,286.93 crore collected as environment cess, only ₹2,72.51 crore had been spent in 2015-16." She accused the Chief Minister of doing 'political tourism' on taxpayers' money.

Delhi's air quality improves to 'poor' category

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The air quality of the Capital improved to the 'poor' category on Wednesday from 'very poor' a day earlier, according to data released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The air quality is likely to remain in the 'poor' category for the next three days, as per the Central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi.

The air quality index (AQI) of Delhi was 260 on Wednesday, down from 372 on Tuesday, stated the CPCB's 4 p.m. daily official

bulletin, which is considered the day's official AQI.

The improvement in air quality, according to the Met Department, was because of favourable wind speed at night, sporadic rain in adjoining States and a considerable drop in stubble burning.

The contribution of stubble fire in neighbouring States to PM2.5 in Delhi was 5% on Wednesday, down from 9% on Tuesday, as per Central government-run monitoring agency SAFAR. It was 34% on November 3, which was the season's highest, and the air quality was 'severe' then.



Students arrive to attend classes after schools reopened in Delhi on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

BJP spreading waste from Ghazipur landfill to nearby areas to reduce height: AAP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister and AAP leader Manish Sisodia, who visited the Ghazipur landfill site in east Delhi on Wednesday morning, alleged that the BJP was spreading garbage from the landfill to nearby areas to create a perception that the height of the trash mounds had reduced.

"The BJP has hatched a conspiracy to spread the garbage in nearby empty areas, so that from a distance it seems that the height of the landfill has come down. Because of this dumping, a wall [of the landfill] collapsed. Luckily, it happened at night, so there was no loss of life," Mr. Sisodia said. The Deputy Chief Minister said if AAP comes to power in the MCD, it will remove the "mountains of garbage" within five years.

Hitting back at AAP, the BJP said Mr. Sisodia was doing "political tourism" and



Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia at the Ghazipur landfill in Delhi on Wednesday. R.V. MOORTHY

Kapoor asked.

The MCD termed Mr. Sisodia's statements "unfortunate". "MCD workers and engineers have been sweating blood to reduce the height and flatten the landfill. It's not a facade but real work is being done by the MCD. It does no good to trifile the good work done."

The Chief Minister will launch 'Kejriwal Ki 10 Guarantee' campaign for the MCD elections on Thursday, the party announced. AAP had released a list of 10 guarantees before the Delhi Assembly poll in 2020 too.

Court reserves order in excise policy scam

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday reserved for November 14 its order on the bail applications of businessmen Vijay Nair and Abhishek Boimpally in connection with the Delhi excise policy case in which Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is also an accused.

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Head Office, 12, Thambusamy Road, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600 010.
Ph. No. (044) - 26426773. Email Id : tnscs.tn@nic.in. CIN : U15137TN1972SCG006157

Short e-TENDER NOTICE

Dated : 09.11.2022

Short E-tender No. TNCSC/22-23/ET-43

Online electronic tender for "PURCHASE OF 200 LAKH NUMBERS OF FORTIFIED RBD PALMOLEIN OIL 1 LITRE POUCHES (910 gms)"

Complete short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through <https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprochome/tncsc> and also available in www.tenders.tn.gov.in.

The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.

For Registration and further details contact MSTC LIMITED, Phone: 25222842/25251910/25261005 e-Mail : mstcsro@mstcinindia.co.in

Last Date for Online Submission : upto 11.00 A.M on 21.11.2022.

DIPR/ 5044 /TENDER/2022

MANAGING DIRECTOR

"கார்த்திக காலத்தில் காலத்தில் காலத்தை புரிந்து சரித்தின் பட்டினம்"

hmda Growing Global

HYDERABAD GROWTH CORRIDOR LIMITED

RFP for TOT

Bid/ Package no.: 170/CGM/T/HGCL/TOT/2022-23 Dated : 09/11/2022

RFP FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

The Government of Telangana through HGCL seek the Tolling, Operation, Maintenance and Transfer (TOT) of the Nehru Outer Ring Road in Hyderabad. Brief particulars of the Project are as follows:

Project Name	Length (Kms)	Initial Estimated Concession Value of Authority (Rs. Crore)	Last Date for receiving Bids
Tolling, Operation, Maintenance & Transfer of Nehru Outer Ring Road (from Km 0+000 to Km 158+000) in Hyderabad, Telangana	158.000	To be disclosed after receipt of Technical Bids and after declaring the Selected Bidder	16.01.2023 up to 11:00 hrs IST

The complete Bid document can be viewed /downloaded from the official portal of HMDA www.hmda.gov.in or e-procurement portal of Government of Telangana [<https://tender.telangana.gov.in>] from 10.11.2022 Bid must be submitted online only at <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>. Technical submission of the bids received online shall be opened on 16.01.2023 (at 14.00 hours IST).

Pre bid meeting will be held on 29.11.2022.

Any amendments to the RFP and Bid process will be notified through e-tender portal only.

Sd/- Chairman, HGCL/ Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA.

Hyderabad Growth Corridor Limited

HGCL Building, Khajaguda Road, Nizamabad, Hyderabad- 500104

Email:cgm@hgcl.com, Ph No: +914029559433

Issued By: Commissioner I & PR Department, Government of Telangana

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION

Head Office, 12, Thambusamy Road, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600 010.

Ph. No. (044) - 26426773. Email Id : tnscs.tn@nic.in. CIN : U15137TN1972SCG006157

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE

No. : BS/06/034414/2022 Dated : 09.11.2022

Short E-Tender No : TNCSC/22-23/ET-44

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites Online electronic tender for the "purchase of 20,000 Metric Tonnes of any one of dal namely Tur dal (Split- Husked & Fatta) [Indigenous] Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Split- Husked & Laired No.2) Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Whole - Husked & Laired No.2) as per Agmark specification"

Complete short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through <https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprochome/tncsc> and also available in www.tenders.tn.gov.in.

The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.

For Registration and further details contact MSTC LIMITED, Phone: 25222842/25251910/25261005 e-Mail: mstcsro@mstcinindia.co.in

Last Date for Online Submission : Upto 11.00 A.M. on 21.11.2022

DIPR/ 5043 /TENDER/2022

MANAGING DIRECTOR

"கார்த்திக காலத்தில் காலத்தில் காலத்தை புரிந்து சரித்தின் பட்டினம்"

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU / PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ENGINEER, PWD, PLANNING AND DESIGN CIRCLE, CHENNAI - 600 005

FORM CGM/2022/23/PWD/Circle/Chennai, Dated : 09.11.2022

FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MUSEUM, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI

'I am taking time to assess Bills before giving consent'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD



Tamilisai Soundarajan

Refuting charges that her office was sitting on some Bills forwarded by the State government for her assent, Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundarajan has asserted that she is taking time for assessing and analysing the Bills before giving her consent.

Addressing a press conference at the Raj Bhavan on Wednesday, the Governor said, "It is being projected as if I am blocking the Bills such as setting up of a common recruitment board for filling up vacant posts in universities and other institutions. In fact, I had been insisting that the government fill up all the vacant posts in the universities since I took over as Governor".

To queries on when she would give her assent to the Bills pending with her,

Dr. Tamilisai said there was no time limit fixed for the institution to clear the Bills. "There is no time limit fixed for the Governor to assess the Bill and give consent," she said.

When asked about the Bill on setting up private universities not receiving her assent, she said that the government intended to promote private universities at a time when the government varsities were in a state of mess.

Letter seeking removal of T.N. Governor submitted

Memorandum to President signed by LS, RS members of DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance; says Tamil Nadu Governor contradicts State's policy in public and unduly delays assent to Bills

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The memorandum signed by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members belonging to the ruling DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance seeking removal of Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi has been submitted to Rashtrapati Bhavan, the DMK said in an official statement.

"We must place on record our dissatisfaction that the work being done by the Tamil Nadu government and the Legislature is being obstructed by the office of the Governor by contradicting its policy in public and unduly delaying assent to Bills," the memorandum said.

"The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has enacted several important Bills and sent the same to the Governor for assent. We are pained to note that the Governor is unduly delaying assent to the Bills passed by the State Legislature," it noted.



Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi has not given assent to several important Bills passed by the Assembly, says memorandum.

The memorandum listed out a total of 20 Bills including The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill 2022, which empowers the State govern-

ment to appoint the Vice-Chancellors of the State Universities under the administrative control of Higher Education Department, Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill, 2022, among others.

"This amounts to interference in the administration of the State and tran-

saction of business by the Legislature. It impedes and obstructs a democratically elected government from serving the people, which is *ex-facie* unconstitutional," the memorandum added.

"It is true that under the scheme of our Constitution, a Governor cannot sit as an appellate authority over the decision of the Cabinet or the Legislature. The need, requirement or necessity of a Bill cannot be inquired into by the Governor. That is within the sole prerogative of the Legislature, which extensively debates the necessity of the Bill. Once a Bill is passed it is deemed to be the will of the people and the Governor has to Act within the frame work of constitution," it further noted.

Kerala joins T.N., Bengal in bid to curb Governor's powers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

By proposing an ordinance which would replace the Governor with eminent academics in the post of university Chancellor, the Left Democratic Front government in Kerala has formally joined the club of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and West Bengal, other States ruled by BJP rivals which have brought legislation

curbing the Raj Bhavan's role in higher education institutions.

Under the previous Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, a similar experiment was done in Maharashtra too in 2021.

The West Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was an attempt by the Mamata Banerjee government to appoint the Chief Minister as the Chancellor of the 31 public un-

iversities in the State, replacing the Governor. The then-Governor and current Vice-President, Jagdeep Dhankar, returned the Bill to the State Cabinet.

The Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed two Bills curtailing the power of the Governor in appointing Vice-Chancellors for State-run universities.

The MVA government in Maharashtra had also amended the existing laws to limit the Chancellor's role in appointing Vice-Chancellors. However, the present government is against it.

The Rajasthan State Funded Universities Bill was an attempt to vest the power to appoint Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors with the Chief Minister, making the Governor the Visitor of all State-run universities instead. The AAP government in Punjab has

also been mulling a legislation to remove the Governor as the Chancellor of all State-run universities.

In a statement, the Kerala Cabinet said it had decided to recommend to the Governor to promulgate an ordinance providing for the appointment of eminent academicians to the post of Chancellor.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Kerala Law Minister P. Rajeeve said that the Cabi-

net's decision was based on the recommendations of the Punchhi Commission. "Under entry 32 of the Constitution, universities are a State subject. The State Cabinet has the power to bring an ordinance on this matter. The UGC decides the quality of the universities, but its rules are silent on the role of Chancellors. So the State's law will prevail and there is no conflict," said Mr. Rajeeve.

In Kolkata, protesting candidates emerge as symbols of resilience



Jobseekers protesting against the recruitment scam in Kolkata on Wednesday. DEBASISH BHADURI

Bishwanath Ghosh
KOLKATA

Protesting candidates, who got selected as school-teachers way back in 2016 but never got the jobs, are emerging as symbols of resilience and hope, with their sit-in at Kolkatta crossing 600 days last week and support pouring in from various groups.

What has suddenly turned the focus on them is the arrests made in the recent months of high-profile officials – including the former State Education Minister Partha Chatterjee – who were allegedly part of a scam that saw undeserving candidates getting recruited as teachers in return for bribes.

"Even though more than 8,000 fake recruits (appointment of undeserving candidates) have come to light, the deprived candidates have not yet got justice. We hope that the High Court and the State government together will give us justice," Partha Pratim Mondal, who is qualified to be a

maths teacher and who was among the aspirants to initiate the protest, told *The Hindu*.

The protest began in 2019, when they staged a sit-in at the Press Club for 29 days. Then, in January 2021, they sat at Central Park in Salt Lake City for 187 days before they were removed by the police. Finally, they shifted to the Gandhi Statue at the Maidan, where they have been sitting in protest since October 2021.

Last week, the protesters were visited by members of the transgender community, led by Ranjita Sinha, director of the Association of Transgender/Hijra.

"This is an important moment in the history of non-violent protests. Men, women, young mothers – everybody leaving their families and small children behind just to be able to sit for the protest, it is such a struggle. I can relate to the struggle because for the transgender people, every day is a struggle," Ms. Sinha said.

Principal

AUCTION NOTICE

A Public auction of unserviceable material will be held at Army Public School, Ridge Road, Dhaula Kuan by the Presiding Officer on 12th November 2022 at 11:00 AM.

Interested persons may attend the auction by paying Rs. 200/- as gate money. Successful bidders have to deposit a bank draft amounting to Rs. 10,000/- within one hour of successful bidding drawn in favour of APS Dhaula Kuan. Cheque/Cash will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to bring their E-Waste Certificate while attending Auction.

Principal

State Bank Institute of Rural Banking (SBIRB)
Opp: HUC Telephone Exchange, Old Mumbai Highway
Road, Lingampally, Hyderabad-500019, 040-23463304-306.

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR AMC SERVICES

State Bank Institute of Rural Banking (SBIRB), Hyderabad invites E-tenders for the following Annual Maintenance Contract services,

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Place: Hyderabad, Date: 10.11.2022. Sd/- Chief Manager, SBIRB

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ENTERPRISE CONNECT

GAIL clocks Revenue of Rs 76,063 crore (up 96%) in H1 FY'23

GAIL (India) Limited reported Revenue from Operations of Rs 76,063 crores for the period April – September 2022 as compared to Rs 38,902 crores in corresponding period of Financial Year 2021-22. Profit before Tax (PBT) for H1 FY'23 stood at Rs 5,770 crores as compared to Rs 5,736 crores for the corresponding period in previous year. Profit after Tax (PAT) stood at Rs 4,452 crores as compared to Rs 4,393 crores in corresponding period of previous year. Quarter on Quarter basis, Revenue from Operations reported is Rs 38,491 crores in Q2 FY'23 as compared to Rs 37,572 crores in Q1 FY'23. PAT stood at Rs 1,876 crores in Q2 FY'23 as against Rs 3,894 crores in previous quarter and PAT stood at Rs 1,537 crore as compared to Rs 2,915 crore in previous quarter. During the quarter, Natural gas transmission volume stood at 107.71 MMSCMD in Q2 FY'23 as against 109.47 MMSCMD in Q1 FY'23. Gas marketing volume stood at 92.54 MMSCMD as against 100.84 MMSCMD in previous quarter. LHC sales stood at 231 TMT as against 220 TMT & Polymer sales stood at 108 TMT as against 109 TMT in comparison to previous quarter. On Consolidated basis, Revenue from operations increased by 2% to Rs 38,729 crores in Q2 FY'23 as against Rs 37,942 crores in Q1 FY'23. PBT in Q2 FY'23 stood at Rs 1,675 crores as against Rs 4,230 crores in Q1 FY'23. PAT was Rs 1,315 crores in Q2 FY'23 as against Rs 3,253 crores in Q1 FY'23. Shri Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, GAIL said the company has incurred a Capex of around Rs 3,970 crores during the current half year mainly on Pipelines, Petrochemicals, Equity to JVs, etc. which is 53% of annual target. He further added that GAIL has been declared as successful Resolution Applicant by the Committee of Creditors for acquiring JBF Petrochemical Limited through Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process. With this the company will further expand its presence in southern part of country.

was based on the feedback from the students who had to travel distances to reach the XAT exam centre. XLRI has launched new courses- 2 years

XLRI-Rutgers Double Master's Program in Logistic and Supply Chain Management and Analytics in collaboration with Rutgers Business School, USA, one of the oldest and highly ranked University B-School.

Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Ventures Creations). The de-

tails can be had from the website. The XAT score is being used by more than 160 institutes for the admission. Some of the premier management institutes those accept XAT scores are TAPMI, Great Lakes, GIMB, XIMB, IRMA, K.J. Somaiya, MICA and many more. A candidate may apply for multiple programmes. Those who apply for more than one programme may be called for multiple interviews and/or group discussions. The selection criteria for different programmes may differ depending on the nature of the programme. The XAT online test will have different components and one needs to maximize their performance in each of them. In its pursuit of academic excellence, XLRI actively encourages the students from diverse backgrounds to apply. Besides performance in the personal interviews (and/or group discussions)- XAT performance, relevant work experience, academic background are also taken into consideration while preparing the final list.

NBCC inked MoU with NLC India Limited

On the occasion, Shri Srivastava advised all org-

anizations to focus on the three month campaign on internal housekeeping activities being carried out on the directions of the CVC as a part of the Vigilance Awareness Week this year. These include improvement of internal processes, timely disposal of work and systematic improvements leveraging technology. Shri Srivastava was accompanied by Additional Secretary Ms. Preveen Kumari Singh and Deputy Secretary Ms. Madhu Sharma from the Commission. They were received by GAIL Director (Business Development) Shri M V Iyer, CVO Shri Sandeep Sarkar, Director (Projects) Shri Deepak Gupta and Director (Human Resources) Shri Ayush Gupta. They were briefed on current developments in the LNG business, progress of pipeline projects, digitization efforts for making financial transactions secure and seamless as well as various Vigilance related initiatives in the Organization.

CMD, IREDA urges Delhi University stu-

dents to lead the charge against corruption

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) organized a speech competition today, at Satyavati College (Evening), University of Delhi, as a part of "Vigilance Awareness Week 2022". On this occasion, Shri Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA addressed students at the college in the presence of Ms. Manisha Saxena, CVO, IREDA, Dr. Vijay Shankar Mishra, Principal, Satyavati College (Evening) and other senior officials. CMD, IREDA mentioned the Hon'ble Prime Minister's address at Vigyan Bhawan on 3rd November, 2022, "the campaign of Vigilance Awareness Week is taking place to realize the dreams and aspirations of a corruption-free India and underlined its importance in the lives of every citizen." He added that IREDA is dedicated to "Zero Tolerance Against Corruption" and has taken all possible steps to combat corruption and improve accountability to the stakeholders of the company. Shri Das emphasised that the battle against corruption should not be restricted to Vigilance Awareness Week and is not only a one-week affair. He stated that, as corruption obstructs nation progress, every citizen has a responsibility to combat it collectively. The students can serve as flag bearers in the fight against corruption, he continued.

Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam achieves goal of complete consumer satisfaction

Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam is committed to ensure reliable, good voltage and uninterrupted power supply to the consumers. In order to achieve the goal of complete consumer satisfaction, many ambitious programs have been started by the Nigam so that the problems of the consumers can be resolved expeditiously. The Members of the Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum (CGRF) of Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam will make extensive visits in the month of November, 2022 for hearing grievances of the consumers and to entertain new complaints. A spokesman of the Nigam said here today that the proceedings of the CGRF will be held on Op Circle Jhajjar on November 07, Op Division Barwala November 09, OP Circle Kaithal on November 11, Op City Division Panipat on November 16, OP Circle, Yamunagar on November 18, OP Circle, Rohtak on November 21, OP Division, Panchkula on November 23, OP Circle, Sonipat on November 25, OP Circle, Panipat on November 28, and OP Circle, Ambala on November 30 respectively. Except for field visit CGRF shall be available at Head Quarter from 9 am to 5 pm to hear the grievances of consumers visiting office. The CGRF shall take all grievances/complaints of consumers like billing problem, voltage complaints, problems in metering, disconnection and reconnection of power supply, interruptions, failure of power supply, efficiency, safety, reliability, non-compliance of Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission orders etc. However, the cases of theft and unauthorized use of electricity, offences and penalties as specified under section 126 and section 135 to 139 of Electricity Act, accidents and inquiries as under section 161 of the Act would not be considered by the Forum. All the consumers are requested to avail the opportunity for the redressal of their grievances.

Delhi Transco Organises Vendors Meet

Delhi Transco Limited is going to establish GIS substations in different parts of the city to further augment its transmission network. These substations will be established at Budwara, Darbarpuri, Harsh Vihar, Maharanji Bagh, Sarojini Nagar, Bharthali and Gopalpur with an investment of around Rs 1200 crores. Delhi Transco Limited in its endeavour to further improve efficiency and transparency in its business operations as well as to woo more bidders for its upcoming projects – organized a Vendors Meet recently. The meet was attended by bigwigs in electrical equipment manufacturing such as SIEMENS, GE, ABB, BHEL and TOSHIBA etc.

This platform provided vendors an opportunity to express their views and make suggestions for addressing changed market scenario in post Covid-19 pandemic period. The suggestions from vendors will be thoroughly studied for further incorporation in business operations to ensure greater participation from the vendors. Dr Sanjay Kumar Lal – Director (Finance), Sh Mukesh Kumar Sharma – Director (Operations) and other senior officers of the DTL were also present in the meet.

XAT 2023 : MBA's second largest exam is meant to identify true managerial candidate for over 160 b-schools.

For more than 73 years XLRI has been conducting the Xavier Aptitude Test (XAT), a national-level aptitude test for MBA/ PGDM admissions. XAT is one of the oldest and the second-largest exams for MBA/ PGDM admissions in India. It is conducted in 80+ cities across India. XAT 2023 will be conducted on Sunday, January 8, 2023. Applications, Sample papers and topper tips are available on xatonline.in. XLRI conducts XAT on behalf of XAMI. XAMI members comprises of highly esteemed management institutes such as XLRI, XIMB Bhubaneswar, XISS, XIME and



Considering consent

The law must stay in tune with the times, and consider ground realities

As much as the laws of a country must adhere to the principle of justice and fairness, they also need to stay in tune with the times. It was this proviso that the Dharwad Bench of the High Court of Karnataka invoked as it urged the Law Commission of India to have a rethink on the criteria for age of consent, 'taking into consideration the ground realities'. The judges said they were motivated to make this recommendation, having encountered several cases relating to minor girls over the age of 16 years (but below 18 years) having fallen in love and eloped with the boy, and wondered why the consent of the girl in a sexual relationship is not factored in, especially when charges are made out under provisions of the POCSO Act. The Act was enacted to protect children from sexual abuse, and it raised the age of consent for sexual intercourse from 16 to 18 years. In practice, however, studies have noted that many cases booked under the Act in the adolescent group (16 years and above) have a romantic involvement, including eloping with the intention of getting married, consensually. In almost all instances, police cases are initiated by the parents of the minor girl who has eloped with the lover. Once the sexual act is confirmed, the POCSO Act is slapped on the boy, who may sometimes be a minor, or barely of legal age for marriage, and the consequences of being prosecuted for penetrative sexual assault are life altering, as they are meant to be. While the boys face criminal prosecution, the girls are also sent to government institutions when they protest parents' strong disapproval of the liaison. Activists have charged that this has the potential to wreck the lives of the youngsters involved, and entire families too are felled by this encounter with the law.

There is no doubt that children are vulnerable, and must be protected from forced attempts to sexually assault or groom them with an eye on exploitation. However, the realities of adolescent attraction and the ascertainment of consent, 16 years or above, must be considered pertinent to investigation and prosecution. The High Court judges also asked if it could be presumed that minors have knowledge of the applicable law. It may be remembered that the Justice J.S. Verma Committee on Amendments to Criminal Law also recommended that the age of consent be reduced to 16, and necessary amendments be made in the POCSO Act. The Law Commission must now train its guns on the actual implementation of the Act, and ensure the POCSO Act, stays true to its broad intent – the protection of children.

Needless needling

The ties between the Governor and the government in TN must be reset

The presentation of a memorandum against Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi by MPs of the ruling DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance to President Droupadi Murmu is yet another reflection of the fractured relationship between the DMK regime and the Governor. Irrespective of their differences, this unfortunate development could have been avoided with some effort and reasoning on both sides. The memorandum has slammed the Governor's way of functioning, "openly contradicting its [Tamil Nadu government's] policy in public and unduly delaying assent to Bills". In an account of 20 Bills passed by the State Assembly and pending with the Governor, the memorandum, expectedly, dealt with Mr. Ravi's approach towards the TN Admission to UG Medical Degree Courses Bill 2021, also called NEET [National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test] exemption Bill, which is now awaiting presidential assent. What the Alliance argued was that Mr. Ravi, instead of forwarding the Bill to the President, even in the first instance had chosen to return it to the Assembly, "which is *ultra vires* of the powers conferred on a Governor". But quite needlessly, the joint statement also took strong exception to the Governor's public statements on matters unrelated to governance such as *Sanatana Dharma*, Dravidian heritage, Tamil pride and *Thirukkural*, a Tamil classical work. Ever since he assumed charge in September 2021, Mr. Ravi, a former Nagaland Governor, has earned the DMK's wrath over the NEET exemption Bill. In addition, his presenting himself as a strong advocate of the three-language formula and the National Education Policy (NEP) has not been palatable to many parties in the State.

While it is perfectly legitimate to have contrarian views in a democratic set up, every constitutional authority should conduct himself or herself in a manner that adheres to the letter and spirit of the Constitution. Notwithstanding the correctness or otherwise of his position, the Governor should not be seen as one needlessly provoking a duly-elected government to confront him on one issue or the other. He should walk the extra mile to establish that he stays within constitutional limits. Given his non-political background, Mr. Ravi is better placed than many of his gubernatorial counterparts to present himself as being fair and objective. Meanwhile, critics including those from the ruling party should refrain from reacting adversely to every single observation as their responses may create an impression of their wanting to be in a state of perpetual conflict with the Governor. After all, the ties between the institution of Governor and the State government rest and flourish on understanding and mutual respect. Otherwise, Tamil Nadu will be the loser, undermining governance.

The Supreme Court of India's recent decision, upholding the constitutional validity of the law granting 10% reservation to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of the upper castes, has ignited much debate. Some pundits have affirmed the judgment marks the death knell of caste as a factor in reservation, while others argue that it underscores its perpetual relevance. In all the brouhaha, the media and the commentator have overlooked another Supreme Court judgment just seven years ago which was potentially even more far-reaching for our democracy but which has been ignored entirely in the current debate.

In a 64-page decision in 2015, a bench of Justices Ranjan Gogoi and Rohinton F. Nariman struck down the United Progressive Alliance Government's 2014 notification including Jats in the Central list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Most significant was the rationale the justices provided: they observed that the state should not go by the "perception of the self-proclaimed socially backward class" on whether they deserved to be categorised among the "less fortunate"; new formulae, they averred, must be found to determine backwardness. The issue, the justices concluded, was not whether reservations were a tool to address millennia of caste discrimination or an instrument of affirmative action; the issue was how to determine who deserved consideration for reservation benefits.

'Open the gates for the most distressed'
Most significantly, the top court held that caste, while acknowledged to be a prominent cause of injustice in the country historically, could not be the sole determinant of backwardness. It argued in its judgment: "Owing to historical conditions, particularly in Hindu society, recognition of backwardness has been associated with caste. Social groups who would be most deserving must necessarily be a matter of continuous evolution. New practices, methods and yardsticks have to be continuously evolved moving away from caste-centric definition of backwardness." It ruled that the State should uncover emerging forms of backwardness in an evolving society.

"The gates would be opened only to permit entry of the most distressed. Any other inclusions would be a serious abdication of the constitutional duty of the State," the Court warned. It observed that "grave and important" decisions in reference to Article 14 and Article 16 of the Constitution must be made on the basis of "contemporaneous inputs", which were not



Shashi Tharoor

is a third-term Member of Parliament (Congress), Lok Sabha, for Thiruvananthapuram, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers, and the author of 24 books, including, most recently, 'Ambedkar: A Life'

In the recent verdict on reservation to Economically Weaker Sections, a Supreme Court judgment of 2015, which was potentially even more far-reaching for India's democracy, has been ignored entirely in the current debate

available. Most striking were the Court's observations on what constitutes "social backwardness". It said that neither educational nor economic backwardness, which the Government referred to, were enough, though both may contribute to social backwardness. "But social backwardness," the Court observed, "is a distinct concept" that emerges from multiple circumstances ranging from the social and cultural, to economic, educational and even political.

Call for new methods and yardsticks
The Court conceded that caste may be a prominent factor for 'easy determination of backwardness', but its judgment discouraged "the identification of a group as backward solely on the basis of caste" and called for "new practices, methods and yardsticks" to be evolved. It added the observation that class may be a factor too, since a class is "an identifiable section of society", but again it may not be enough to justify reservation. Citing its own decision to recognise transgenders as a distinct community with justiciable rights, the Court congratulated itself for identifying a form of social backwardness that had nothing to do with caste or class, in determining their eligibility for government benefits.

This was fascinating philosophically, but it opened up a proverbial can of worms for policy-makers. The most contentious element of the Court's judgment was its proposition that caste, and the need to right historical wrongs, is no longer sufficient grounds for government benefits. Nor is the self-perception of a caste that it is backward; not even the perception by other castes that it is. New methods, the judgment insisted, have to be developed to identify the backwardness of a group of people.

The Court, drawing a somewhat fuzzy line between 'past' and 'emerging' forms of backwardness, advanced the presumption of the "progressive advancement of all citizens on all fronts, i.e., social, economic and educational" making history an insufficient guide. You cannot keep citing historical wrongs and propose reservations as a solution to redressing them, the Court decided. This set off a conceptual bomb under the complacent edifice of the reservation system.

We have long accepted the logic of reservations in our country as a means of making up for millennia of discrimination based on birth. This is why the Constitution inaugurated the

world's oldest and farthest-reaching affirmative action programme, guaranteeing Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes not only equality of opportunity but guaranteed outcomes, with reserved places in educational institutions, government jobs and even seats in Parliament and the State Assemblies. These reservations were granted to groups listed in Schedules of the Constitution on the basis of their (presumably immutable) caste identities. The addition of the OBC category – after the acceptance by the V.P. Singh government of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission – added more people to the numbers benefiting from reservations, but it did not change the basis on which they benefited: despite the "C" in "OBC" referring to "classes", the OBC lists contained castes and sub-castes.

What criteria is the question

So we witnessed the unedifying spectacle of castes fighting to be declared backward: the competitive zeal of the Meenas and the Gujjars in Rajasthan to be deemed more backward than each other, and similar agitations by Patels in Gujarat and Marathas in Maharashtra. Then the transgender judgment, and the judgment disqualifying Jats, opened the floodgates to far-reaching questions. If caste is not a good enough basis, and class is not either, and now lack of education or income does not suffice, but the misfortune of being born transgender does, then how do we determine who deserves reservations in our society? The Supreme Court says historical wrongs are passé; the Government needs to establish that a group of potential beneficiaries is suffering backwardness right now. But it does not tell us what criteria to apply.

Justices Gogoi and Nariman suggested that the Government come back with a "matrix" to justify reservations. One could imagine a list of differently-weighted categories, ranging from income, family situation, disability, education level, etc, in addition to birth in a particular caste, which together would constitute a basis to draw up such a matrix. But the Government, not wanting to touch a Pandora's box, never came back with one, and the Court did not renew or repeat its demand either – not even when one of the judgment's authors became Chief Justice of India.

With the EWS decision, the shadow of Pandora now hovers over the Supreme Court – but her notorious box may already have been opened by this dramatic, and surprisingly under-reported, judgment of 2015.

Policing with talent, resource sharing, not squabbling

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) convened a conference in late October in the capital, which saw the participation of the Union Home Minister, a few State Home Ministers and police chiefs. West Bengal did not send its highest officials citing its preoccupation with *pooja*-related issues. The Delhi conference was a very important occasion aimed at improving the quality of policing in the country through an exchange of ideas. The seriousness of the subject required attendance at the level of the Chief Minister and if some States gave it a miss, it was an unfortunate development and a reflection of the lack of seriousness in matters of governance affecting public order and crime.

The debate now over the way the Tamil Nadu police have handled the case of a blast in Coimbatore that happened recently, and a possible terror-related plot, also fits in this scene and is relevant to the state of law and order in the State and elsewhere. There is a section of influential public opinion which has accused the Tamil Nadu government of having been slothful and delayed handing over investigation of the incident to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). This has been rebutted by the State Director General of Police (DGP) who said that his force could not abruptly abandon the investigation and had to do the preliminary investigation to facilitate an NIA take-over. The exchange of barbs by the two sides has been an unfortunate and avoidable development and the truth lies in between. Rather than getting into a slanging match, what is more important is an examination of the standard operating procedures in place, the identification of lacunae and the initiation of corrective measures.

Patel's vision
The first Home Minister of independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, would have been dismayed by the politics in Centre-State relations in a matter as serious as policing. He placed great value on professional policing, one reason why he insisted on an elitist and well-trained corps



R.K. Raghavan

is a former Central Bureau of Investigation Director who teaches 'criminal justice and policing' at the Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana

such as the Indian Police Service (IPS) which worked alongside the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). He was under immense pressure from various quarters, which included his own Congress party, to disband both the Indian Civil Service and IPS, but as a distinguished and astute visionary, he was steadfast in his belief. Subsequent events proved him right. Despite all their faults, the two all-India services have been a cementing force and have greatly contributed to establishing nationally accepted standards of governance, especially in the area of law and order.

The passage of 75 years in a free India has more than established that a country of our proportions and diversity will need objective policing by a highly trained police force. It is distressing that there is still conflict between the MHA and some States over utilising talent in the IPS and the sharing of resources available in the States. Both sides have to be partially blamed for this unfortunate state of affairs. Petulance in personnel management has occasionally affected administration in the Centre and States.

Camaraderie is essential

It is a no-brainer that in this, New Delhi is the senior partner in what is definitely a collaborative relationship. But there have been actions over the decades that have inflicted many deep wounds on public order. These have been situations that have demanded large numbers of well-trained policemen. The Centre has always chipped in with support from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). There have also been other outfits such as the Border Security Force (BSF), the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) which have also worked in tandem with the State Police. Therefore, it makes sense that the MHA and State Police stop squabbling but explore how best to forge a strong camaraderie.

We are also witness to frequent spats between States and the Centre over the use or alleged misuse of the Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI). Here again both parties have to share the blame. But the basic point that has been ignored is that crime and bureaucratic corruption have inter-State ramifications and only a national agency can bring in a much-needed and wide perspective. Insensitive action by a few States to withdraw consent to the CBI to function in a State smacks of politics and vindictiveness, which diminishes the fight against public servant graft.

What is lacking

'Police' is a State subject under the distribution of powers laid down in the Constitution of India. But that does not mean the Union government has no say in the matter. Training and technology are two areas where the Centre does greatly contribute to sharpening police ability to combat terrorism and other major public disturbances. The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad is a world-class institution that has resources and the professional excellence which are generously available to State police forces. Petty squabbling reduces the exchange of ideas and goes to attenuating the police response to difficult situations that require police assistance. This is why we need a political leadership that does not get bogged down in petty differences but promotes a free exchange of talent and resources between New Delhi and the States.

There is no point in blaming a DGP if he or she does not respond to a situation in a professional manner. The DGP looks up to the Chief Minister for directions. If the latter is driven by political considerations and gives unprofessional instructions, there is very little that the DGP can do. Despite all that the Supreme Court of India has done to insulate the chief of police from political caprice, the truth is that a DGP is perilously placed *vis-à-vis* the Chief Minister and his or her party men. It is lamentable that public opinion in the country has not asserted itself to impart a better sense of policing at all levels of government. I do not foresee any change in this unfortunate situation in the years ahead.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trouble for pristine Nicobar

Pankaj Sekhsaria's report (Page 1, November 9) was horrifying – of how a mega-crore project will result in the massive destruction of nature. Is the Government not bothered about climate change especially as COP27 is underway? Even more shocking is the bizarre plan for compensatory afforestation/artificial tree plantations in Haryana, which shows that there is

no understanding of the subject. What the Great Nicobar loses can never be retrieved.

B. Sundar Raman
Coimbatore

The plan to pander to the filthy rich and the commercial interests of big business is a cruel blow against the environment. Not only will this avaricious project destroy pristine forests, it is also sure to impact indigenous

communities. The untouched forests and the people inhabiting these islands for millennia should be protected as a global heritage.

The tragedy is that we are condemned to receive lessons on environmental protection from a government and class of people responsible for causing the maximum damage to the environment. The judiciary should take *suo motu*

cognisance of such crimes against the earth.

Firoz Ahmad,
New Delhi

The stage is set, unmistakably, for the sounding of the death knell of the unique biological diversity of India's Andaman islands. Tragically, none except a band of dedicated environmental activists is losing sleep over the huge devastation ahead. The 'compensatory

afforestation' only raises serious concerns. The juggernaut of destruction needs to be stopped by jolting public conscience.

Ayyaseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

The Agnipath scheme
All said and done, the crux of the Agnipath issue is about the very short duration of service, which is grossly inadequate. It is understood that the main reason is the central

government's worry about an ever-increasing pension commitment. Agnipath should not become an Agnipareeksha.

V.H. Subramoney,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.



Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Enforcing the ban on the two-finger test

On October 31, the Supreme Court declared that any person conducting the 'two-finger test' on rape or sexual assault survivors will be found guilty of misconduct. The court said that the test is "regressive and invasive" and has "no scientific basis as it neither proves nor disproves allegations of rape". It instead "re-victimises and re-traumatises women who may have been sexually assaulted." In 2013, too, in *Lillu v. State of Haryana*, the Supreme Court had held that the two-finger test violates the right of rape survivors.

Section 53A of the Evidence Act states that previous sexual experience "shall not be relevant to the issue of consent or the quality of consent" in prosecutions of sexual offences. In 2014, the Union Ministry of Health issued 'guidelines and protocols' proscribing the application of the two-finger test. It directed health providers to conduct a medical examination as per the detailed 'proforma for medico-legal examination of survivors/victims of sexual violence', a copy of which was annexed to the guidelines. The guidelines state that a copy of the medical report must be given immediately, and free of cost, to the survivor/victim. These guidelines were circulated to hospitals, but it appears that the instructions were not taken seriously by the doctors handling medico-legal cases.

Weakening the case
It is important to note that the doctor's medical opinion has a vital bearing on the outcome of a criminal case. In the case of sexual assault, the doctor is required to mention marks of resistance and sign(s) of recent intercourse. She is not supposed to give her opinion about rape, as rape is a legal term and not a medical diagnosis. It is for the investigating officer to conclude after their investigation whether or not rape was committed. An unsolicited opinion by a medical practitioner



R.K. Vij
is a former Special DGP of Chhattisgarh.
Views are personal

Several steps need to be taken at several levels to ensure that the ban is followed in every corner of the country.

may create doubt and weaken the case. Therefore, it is undesirable to conduct the two-finger test (on a victim of sexual assault), which has no evidential value in the investigation.

The Supreme Court said that workshops must be conducted. This is relevant as there is no institutional platform to share such judgments with medical practitioners. Forensic science laboratories (FSLs) generally work under the Home Departments of States. Funds for the modernisation of the police are also planned and utilised by the police under the supervision of the Home Department. A part of these funds are used for the upgradation of FSLs. The police department's interaction with the FSL is generally continuous, and both understand each other's requirements.

However, despite the Health Department's relevance in the investigation of offences relating to assault, rape, unnatural death, age determination (by the ossification method), etc., interaction between the Health Ministry and the Home Ministry (or the police department) is limited. Further, the Health Department is not one of the pillars of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), which is an extension of the Home Ministry's mission mode project, the Crime and Criminal Tracking and Network Systems, and is operational at each police station of the country.

The police have an age-old



system of 'roll call'. Roll calls are supposed to be held every day in the morning and in the evening at police stations and reserve police lines. Besides allocating duty to every police personnel, every order of the Superintendent of Police (and of seniors through him) is read and explained to everyone present and signatures obtained. This ensures accountability. However, this practice seems to have either become irregular or remained only on paper. This is evident from the fact that despite the Supreme Court's order scrapping Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, cases were registered at many police stations. The system of daily roll call must be revived at all police stations.

Improving training
Training still remains one of the most neglected branches in most departments. With limited in-house training capacity, officers are often not spared for refresher courses even once in five years. The communication channels between the heads of department and the officers are never direct and straight. It is, therefore, quite likely that the two-finger test will continue to be conducted in some remote areas. The erring doctors (if any) will have all the reasons to justify their act and evade disciplinary action for any 'misconduct' so contemplated.

Therefore, all departments which have a bearing on the investigation of offences or are stakeholders in the criminal justice system must come together periodically so that they can exchange best practices, latest developments in law, and court rulings. An institutional mechanism needs to be developed to ensure continuity of this process. The medico-legal section of the Health Department needs to be integrated with the ICJS as it is no less important than the FSL. Training capacity must also be reviewed, and communication channels improved to avoid the status quo.

The Governor versus the government

Governance and public interest will likely be the casualties of the stand-off

STATE OF PLAY

G Anand
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Injured egos are not rare in the cut and thrust of politics. But the bitter rift between a Governor and Chief Minister has seldom played out as forcefully in public view as it has in Kerala over the past week. The escalating tensions between Governor Arif Mohammad Khan and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has assumed centre stage yet again in State politics. However, the latest tangle seems acrimonious compared to the relatively tame disputes of the past.

The incident that precipitated the stand-off was the CPI (M)'s boycott of the Vice-Chancellor of the APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University (KTU), Ciza Thomas. As Chancellor of State universities, Mr. Khan had appointed her to the post, bypassing government nominees. He did so after the Supreme Court set aside the appointment of Rajasree M.S. as Vice-Chancellor of KTU, finding it violative of the norms of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Unleashing a full-blown attack against the LDF government, Mr. Khan alleged that the government had "initiated the process of the collapse of the constitutional machinery" by threatening him with dire consequences and not permitting the Vice-Chancellors appointed by him from performing their duties. He dared the ruling front to "barge into Raj Bhavan" and "attack" him "on the street" if they "had the guts". Mr. Khan also said he would attend the sit-in protest by LDF workers in front of the Raj Bhavan on November 15 if the leaders of the ruling front



were ready to debate with him publicly.

Mr. Khan's comments on Mr. Vijayan signalled the growing chasm between the two offices. He alleged that Mr. Vijayan "had to go home to change his clothes" when an IPS officer removed his gun from the holster to prevent the CPI(M) leader from freeing a party worker from police custody in Kannur.

The Governor threw down the gauntlet to the government by ordering other Vice-Chancellors to submit their resignations. The premise for this controversial directive was that the government had appointed these Vice-Chancellors through the same process deemed unlawful by the Supreme Court in the KTU Vice-Chancellor's case.

The government got a brief respite from the wrestling match with Mr. Khan over university administration on November 8, when the Kerala High Court restrained him as Chancellor from passing final orders on the show-cause notices issued to the Vice-Chancellors.

Mr. Khan then courted controversy during a press conference when he debarred journalists from Kairali TV and MediaOne TV from covering the event, deeming them politically partisan. He was immediately criticised by civil so-

cieties for "curtailing" press freedom. The Editor's Guild of India protested the "selective targeting of media channels by a person occupying high constitutional office". With the exception of the BJP, the LDF and the Congress-led Opposition condemned Mr. Khan's "blackballing" of the two media houses. Journalist unions marched in protest to the Raj Bhavan.

The State government has found itself in a situation with little political precedent. It believes that Mr. Khan's actions pose a severe challenge to the governing ideal of federalism. The CPI(M)-led LDF has found a common cause with other non-BJP ruled States, primarily Tamil Nadu, which have had similar run-ins with their respective Governors. The DMK has promised to send its representative to join the LDF's Raj Bhavan siege.

However, an Achilles' heel of the government's case against the Governor is its failure to convincingly address accusations of nepotism and maladministration in State universities. The government has also not addressed the glaring disconnect between State university laws and UGC norms.

The increasingly strident stand-off between the Governor and the government may lead to another season of political turmoil in Kerala. Governance and public interest will likely be the casualties if the two entities fail to strike a detente.

However, the path to reconciliation appears distant at the current juncture. The CPI(M) has said it has no choice but to take up the gauntlet thrown down by Mr. Khan. The Kerala cabinet on November 9 resolved to request Mr. Khan to promulgate an ordinance removing the Governor as Chancellor of universities.

A higher number of promotions, but lower learning outcomes

SC/ST students have been impacted disproportionately by the pandemic as their learning outcomes have declined the most

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani, Rebecca Rose Varghese & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Higher education in India is entering a worrying phase due to the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 on school education. On the one hand, with policies mandating the promotion of students, promotion rates at the secondary school level rose significantly and repetition rates nosedived during the pandemic years (2020-21 and 2021-22). On the other, the inability to attend physical school and the lack of access to digital education caused a massive drop in learning levels after the COVID-19 outbreak. Simply put, compared to students from the pre-COVID-19 years, more students were promoted from secondary to higher secondary school and graduated from school to college during the pandemic years even though their learning outcomes were poor. This is significant as even in the pre-COVID-19 era, the employability of engineers had been reducing fast due to the poor quality of education and the lack of conceptual understanding.

The Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+) survey for 2021-22 shows that the promotion rate among secondary school students continued to increase even during the pandemic years. **Chart 1** shows the promotion rate of secondary school students across communities. Notably, the promotion rate among Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students increased sharply after the outbreak. The promotion rate among Other Backward Classes (OBC) students continued to rise unabated.

Chart 2 shows the repetition rate of secondary school students across communities. The repetition rates too drastically came down in the pandemic years with

some 1% students repeating their class across all communities. Notably, the gap in the repetition rate between SC/ST students and general category students declined greatly after the outbreak.

While the promotion rate surged and the repetition rate declined, the marks scored by school students in National Achievement Survey (NAS) exams dropped significantly across classes and in most subjects. NAS exams were conducted in November 2021 across select schools. Similar tests were conducted in 2017/2018. **Chart 3** shows the difference between the mean score in 2021 compared to the score in 2017/2018 among Class VIII and X students (SC/ST/OBC and general category) in various subjects. For instance, in the Class X Science exam, the score of general category students dropped by 34 marks, while that of SC, ST and OBC students declined by 45, 48 and 40 marks, respectively. So, there will be a disproportionately greater impact on SC and ST students as their learning outcomes reduced the most while their promotion rates saw the highest degree of rise among all the communities.

Chart 4 shows the dropout rate of secondary school students across communities. Despite reports such as a UNICEF poll and an Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) survey pointing out that dropout rates increased in India during the outbreak, UDISE+ data do not reflect this drop.

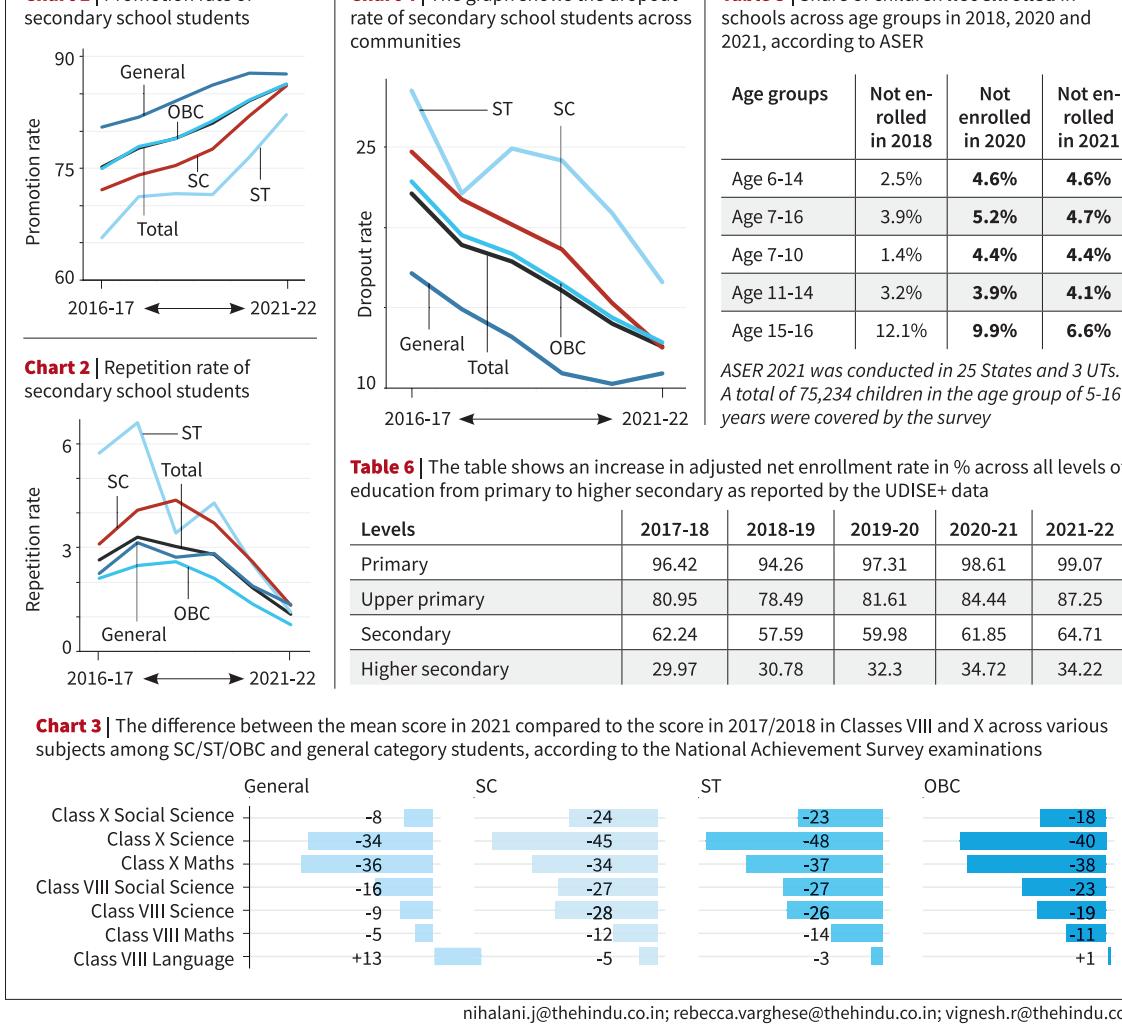
Table 5 shows the percentage of children not enrolled in school across age groups in 2018, 2020 and 2021, according to the ASER survey. ASER showed that except in the 15-16 age group, the share of children who were "not enrolled" in schools in 2020 and 2021 compared to 2018 increased in every other age group. However, the UDISE+ shows an increase in enrolment rate across all levels of education (**Table 6**). This contradiction in data necessitates further scrutiny of the UDISE+ data.

Mind the knowledge gap

The data for charts 1, 2, 4 and table 6 were sourced from UDISE+ reports between 2016-17 and 2021-22. Table 5 was sourced from ASER and chart 3 was sourced from National Achievement Survey 2021 and 2017/18



Chart 3 | The difference between the mean score in 2021 compared to the score in 2017/2018 in Classes VIII and X across various subjects among SC/ST/OBC and general category students, according to the National Achievement Survey examinations



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 10, 1972

Minister wants ceiling on size of houses

Bangalore, Nov. 9: The Union Railway Minister, Mr. T.A. Pai, has urged State Governments to impose a ban on the construction of huge houses. Laying the foundation-stone for a Rs. 7 crore housing project of the Life Insurance Corporation called "Jeevan Bima Nagar", at HAL III State layout here-to-day, Mr. Pai said that restrictions on size of houses should precede the legislation imposing ceilings on urban lands. According to Mr. Pai, if a restriction is put on the size of houses, it would help in curbing urban land value which had been steadily rising. It would enable the lower and middle income groups to own plots and build houses, he said. Mr. Pai suggested that the size of a house for a family of five should be 750 square feet. This control on house size should be in force still every citizen had a house of his own, he said. Mr. Pai, who is a former Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation, suggested the creation of a subsidiary agency within the LIC exclusively for solving the mounting housing problem. The agency, he said, should take up construction of cheap houses for the homeless millions. It should merely borrow funds from the LIC and at the same time be free from the rigid rules and procedures which governed the Corporation. All funds for housing should be routed through this specialised agency, Mr. Pai said. The LIC, he pointed out, had spent as much as Rs. 300 crores so far on providing houses. Any one could take legitimate pride in this, he added.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 10, 1922

All steel trains

Bombay, Nov. 9: There was a trial run this evening of a new all steel suburban train of the G.I.P. railway between Victoria Terminus and Kurla. In view of the electrification of the suburban trains to be introduced shortly all steel trains will replace the old ones, to begin with, between Bombay and Kurla and later on up to Igatpuri on the North East Line and Poona South East. Five completed rakes of the first new train have been recently brought from England and car section put together in the Matunga Workshops of the G.I.P. Railway. Cars are built of steel. Carriages are similar in appearance and design to the best type now at work on London underground railways and trains are vestibuled so that access can be had to any carriage while the train is in motion.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

More than one crore voters are above the age of eighty in India

2.49 In lakh, the number of voters aged above 100 in India,

according to Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar. Moreover, there are 1.8 crore voters over 80 years of age. Mr. Kumar said after flagging off a bicycle rally in Pune to create awareness about voter registration as part of the national launch of a special summary revision of the voters' list. PTI

IMF agrees to fund Bangladesh to fight economic crisis

4.5 In \$ billion, the amount the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed to loan

Bangladesh to stabilise the country's economy. Bangladesh is the third South Asian nation after Sri Lanka and Pakistan to secure a bailout package from the IMF to tide over the sharp rise in food and energy prices caused by the pandemic and inflation due to the Russia-Ukraine war. PTI

Facebook-parent Meta lays off almost 13% of its workforce

11,000 The number of people

laid off by Facebook parent Meta, about 13% of its workforce, as it contends with faltering revenue and broader tech industry woes, CEO Mark Zuckerberg informed its employees. The job cuts come just a week after widespread layoffs at Twitter under its new owner, Elon Musk. AP

Retail electric vehicle sales soar in October, says FADA

185 In percentage, the year-on-year surge in the overall retail sales of

electric vehicles (EVs), including passenger vehicles (PEV), in India to 1.11 lakh units in October, according to automobile dealers' body FADA. The total passenger EV sales rose 178% to 3,745 units in October 2022 as against the 1,346 PEVs retailed in the year-ago period. PTI

Dropout students re-join schools in Jammu and Kashmir

14,000 The number of

dropouts to rejoin their schools during the just concluded fourth phase of the Back-to-Village (B2V) programme in Jammu and Kashmir, according to officials. The readmission of 13,977 school dropouts into schools, stands out as the biggest achievement of the programme. PTI

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In the hopes for a clear blue sky

How far back does Delhi's air pollution problem go? What policy measures have been taken over the decades by the Union and State governments? What are the major pollutants contributing to the increased PM2.5 levels in the capital? Have the measures taken by the State been effective?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:

Last week, Delhi was once again covered in a haze of smog—witnessing very poor air quality, a phenomenon that has become a trend during the winter months. As the situation becomes an annually recurring one, here's a look at how far back it goes and what policies have been adopted by the Centre and Delhi's elected governments to curb air pollution over the years.

When did Delhi start acting against air pollution?

In March 1995, the Supreme Court, while hearing a plea by environmentalist and lawyer M.C. Mehta about Delhi's polluting industries, noted that Delhi was the world's fourth most polluted city in terms of concentration of suspended particulate matter (SPM) in the ambient atmosphere as per the World Health Organization's 1989 report. The Court took note of two polluting factors—vehicles and industries, and in 1996 ordered the closure and relocation of over 1,300 highly-polluting industries from Delhi's residential areas beyond the National Capital Region (NCR) in a phased manner. In 1996, Mr. Mehta filed another public interest litigation (PIL) alleging that vehicular emissions were leading to air pollution and that it posed a public health hazard. In the same year, a report about Delhi's air pollution by the Centre for Science and Environment made the apex court issue a notice to the Delhi government to submit an action plan to curb pollution. Both matters were later merged.

Later that year, the Delhi government submitted an action plan. The Supreme Court, recognising the need for technical assistance and advice in decision-making and implementation of its orders, asked the Ministry of Environment and Forests (now the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change—MoEFCC) to establish an authority for Delhi, leading to the creation of the Environmental Pollution Control Authority of Delhi NCR (EPCA) in 1998. The EPCA submitted its report containing a two-year action plan in June of that year and the Supreme Court subsequently ordered the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus fleet, taxis, and autos to switch to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), and the phasing out of all pre-1990 autos. Other measures between the late 1990s and early 2000s included the complete removal of leaded petrol, removal of 15 and 17-year-old commercial vehicles and a cap of 55,000 on the number of two-stroke engine auto rickshaws (which reports at the time said were contributing to 80% of pollution in the city). Coal-based power plants within Delhi were also converted to gas-based ones.

Around the same time, the Centre decided to establish a network of monitoring stations under the National Air Quality Programme (NAMP) to measure key pollutants. Under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) specified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), pollutants like PM10 (particulate matter with a diameter exceeding 10 microns), sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides were measured.

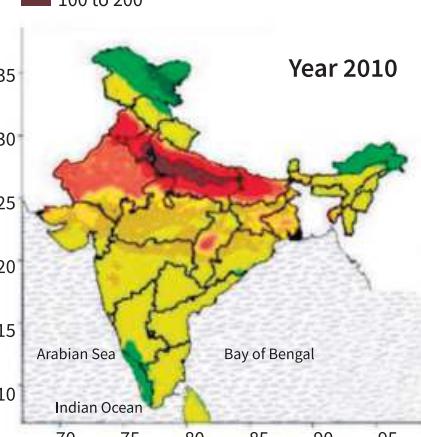
How were air quality standards revised?

The NAAQS were revised in 2009 to include 12 categories of pollutants including PM2.5 (particulate matter with a diameter under 2.5 microns)—a noxious pollutant

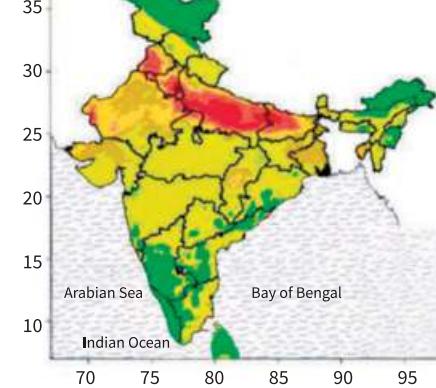
India's PM2.5 levels through the years

A computer modelling study by Urban Emissions.info re-analysed the pan-India PM2.5 concentration from 1998 to 2020 and found that Delhi was the most polluted of all States/UTs in each of these years. Here we show the maps from 2000 with a five-year gap till 2020

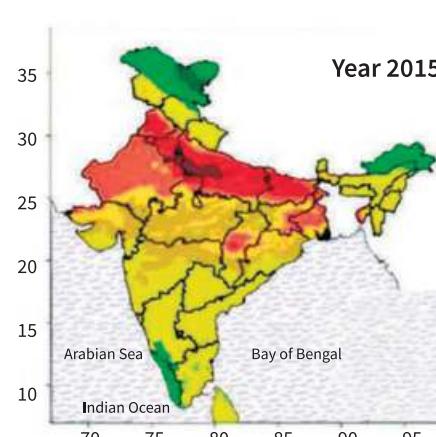
PM 2.5
ug/m³
India annual standard = 40
WHO annual guideline = 5
0 to 5 5 to 20 20 to 40 40 to 50
50 to 60 60 to 80 80 to 100
100 to 200



Year 2000



Year 2005



Year 2020

which can penetrate deep into the lungs and even enter the bloodstream, resulting in cardiovascular and respiratory impacts. Particulate Matter (PM) is primarily generated by fuel combustion from different sectors, including transport, energy, households, industry and agriculture.

According to the revised NAAQS, the acceptable annual limit for PM2.5 is 40 micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m³) and 60 ug/m³ for PM10. The renewed WHO standards meanwhile, prescribe an accepted annual average of 5 ug/m³ for PM2.5 and 15 ug/m³ for PM10.

While PM2.5 as a pollutant was only included in 2009, a computer modelling study by UrbanEmissions.info re-analysed the pan-India PM2.5 concentration from 1998 to 2020 and found that Delhi was the most polluted of all States/UTs each year through all the 23 years. Delhi's annual PM2.5 levels increased by 40% from 80 g/m³ to 111 g/m³. Another study by the U.S.-based Health Effects Institute released this year, studying data between 2010 and 2019, also found Delhi to be the most polluted city in the world in terms of PM2.5 levels.

In the winter of 2016, Delhi witnessed one of its worst incidents of pollution-induced smog, with PM2.5 and PM10 levels reaching a whopping 999 ug/m³ in parts of Delhi on November 1.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court in November 2016 told Delhi and NCR authorities to form a plan to deal with the air pollution, and the MoEFCC in early 2017 came out with the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), which involved coordination between multiple agencies in Delhi to activate pollution control measures corresponding to the increasing Air Quality Index (AQI) levels.

What led to high pollution in Delhi?
Multiple studies over the years, including the Delhi Pollution Control Committee's (DPCC) 2019 report by IIT Delhi and Madras experts, found that the rapid growth in Delhi's population, industrialisation and urbanisation, and increase in motorised private vehicle fleet led to the high concentration of air pollutants such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and ozone.

Between 2001 and 2011, Delhi saw a

population spurt from 1.378 crore to 1.678 crore. As of 2011, the population of Delhi and NCR was 25.8 million or 7.6% of India's urban population. While Delhi's total area is 1,483 square kilometres (sq km), the population density grew from 9,340 persons per sq km in 2001 to 11,320 persons per sq km in 2011. From around 4.2 million motor vehicles registered in 2004 in Delhi alone, the registered vehicles increased to around 10.9 million in March 2018.

As for the burning of farm residue or stubble in Delhi's neighbouring States, researchers have emphasised the need for airshed management, along with improved machinery subsidies and alternatives to crop burning

While multiple polluting industries were moved out of Delhi in the 1990s, it still has one of the biggest clusters of small-scale industries. The CPCB notes that several of Delhi's polluting industrial clusters do not meet air, water, and soil standards. The Noida drain basin, which houses multiple industrial areas, is the most polluted cluster in India with its air and water being in the 'critical' category.

What are the measures taken to tackle major polluters?

UrbanEmissions.info combined officially available information and its modelling studies to infer that the share of vehicular exhaust contributing to Delhi's PM2.5 pollution is up to 30% while soil and road dust is up to 20%, biomass burning is 20%, industries is up to 15%, diesel generators up to 10%, power plants up to 5% and notably, the share of pollution from outside Delhi's urban airshed (like stubble burning in neighbouring States) is up to 30%.

Multiple researchers have alleged that the policy approach and measures taken by the Central and State authorities for specific polluting sectors over the years have been fragmented and often reactive. IIT-Bombay professor Vinish Kathuria noted in the *Economic and Political Weekly* that the 2002 public transport overhaul to CNG did not yield the desired results. While SPM and PM10 levels fell marginally, carbon monoxide levels increased.

Meanwhile, due to the Supreme Court's 55,000 cap on two-stroke auto rickshaws, the sector could not grow, leading to black marketing of permits. Studies note that between 1997 and 2011, Delhi's population grew by 45% and registered cars and two-wheelers grew by 250%, meaning the lower availability of autos could have likely contributed to increased private vehicle ownership. Besides, Delhi still does not have the required public bus fleet vis-a-vis demand.

Researchers have also noted challenges with newer policies like the odd-even vehicular rationing rule applying only to private vehicles. A study by IIT Delhi's Rahul Goel noted that although vehicular emissions contribute 25% to Delhi's PM2.5 levels, passenger vehicles contribute just 8%, of which cars constitute 5%. This means that if all passenger vehicles within Delhi stopped operating, PM2.5 levels would reduce by an average of 8%, but the remaining 17%, contributed by heavy freight vehicles, would remain as it is not covered under the odd-even rule.

Experts also point out that a coordinated response factoring in Delhi's waste management has to be taken to reduce air pollution.

While the daily waste generation rate in Delhi is over 10,000 tons, the capacity of its already overflowing landfills to collect and manage garbage is under 6,000 tons. This leads to the practice of burning waste around residential areas. Reports show that garbage is also burnt illegally in landfills when curbs are in place.

As for the burning of farm residue or stubble in Delhi's neighbouring States—Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan—researchers have emphasised the need for airshed management, along with improved machinery subsidies from the government and alternatives to crop burning. An airshed is a common geographic area where pollutants get trapped.

One major argument for the failure to tackle Delhi's pollution problems is that a large proportion of these polluting sources are present all year round and high pollution levels are mainly witnessed in winter months due to unfavourable meteorological conditions, meaning stop-gap and seasonal measures often yield unsatisfactory outcomes.

THE GIST

The National Ambient Air Quality Standards were revised in 2009 to include 12 categories of pollutants including PM2.5 (particulate matter with a diameter under 2.5 microns)—a noxious pollutant which can penetrate deep into the lungs and even enter the bloodstream, resulting in cardiovascular and respiratory impacts.

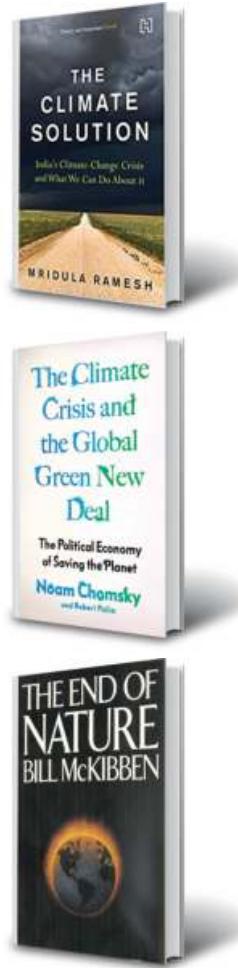
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BIBLIOGRAPHY



Ready for action: Activists from Greenpeace India participate in a demonstration to raise awareness about climate change at Chellanam beach in Kochi on November 8. PTI



On climate action: books that tell us what is happening and what can be done

Climate change can no longer be ignored as the world battles an energy crisis, record greenhouse gas concentrations and extreme weather. Here are a list of books which outline the history of global warming and its environmental and socio-political effects

Soma Basu

Climate change is no longer a subject of discussion for scientists alone. It never actually was. The tardiness in understanding and accepting the challenges of climate change has delayed the process of making choices that are good for the planet. From politicians to policy makers, people in general are unable to see the existential threat because it has not affected them directly, yet. The COP27, this year's most important climate conference underway in Egypt right now, has been described as the make-or-break moment for global action to get the Earth's rising temperature under control. We often read books to escape from reality, but it is perhaps important to now seriously read the ones on climate change, so that we and our successive generations are invested in safeguarding our lives.

The first warnings

After Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius published a seminal paper in 1896 predicting that changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels could alter the surface temperature through the greenhouse effect, British engineer Guy Callendar, in 1938, linked the rising carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere to global temperature. Scientists began to worry about climate change in the late 1950s and began to unite for action in the 1980s.

While the warnings escalated at various forums, Bill McKibben's *The End of Nature*, published by Random House in 1989, is considered to be among the first books on global warming, written for common readers. The author apparently penned down his lament on Nature thinking that by simply stating the

problem, people would be provoked into action. His book drew attention to core issues such as the greenhouse effect, acid rain, and the depletion of the ozone layer.

However, the perils of climate change as we decipher today were known by 1979. *Losing Earth: The Decade We Could Have Stopped Climate Change* is Nathaniel Rich's ground breaking chronicle of events from 1979 to 1989, when the world came close to signing international treaties which could have put the brakes on the acceleration of global warming. While scientists and activists sounded the alarm, the book reveals the genesis of the fossil fuel industry and the birth of climate denialism and how politicians and businesses worked to thwart climate policy through misinformation. Rich's cautionary tale of the climate battles ahead is a riveting work much like John Hershey's *Hiroshima* and Jonathan Schell's *The Fate of the Earth* that articulate a moral framework for understanding how we got into this situation which could end all life on Earth, and how we must act to avoid a catastrophe. Rich wrote in his 2019 book that when the condition and time were favourable for solving climate crisis, "nothing stood in between except ourselves". True to his words, each successive year, we belched increasing quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere by burning coal, gas and oil.

Fossil fuel burning

The indiscriminate burning of fossil fuel continues to be the villain in the climate crisis. Another wonderful publication is the 2008 book *Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution* by Pulitzer Prize winner Thomas Friedman, wherein he explains the urgent need to expand national renewables and a rapid shift to clean energy. According to

Friedman, climate change has presented a unique opportunity to bring forth innovation and transform national economies.

In 2020, Noam Chomsky and Robert Pollin's *Climate Crisis and the Global Green New Deal: The Political Economy of Saving The Planet* mapped out the irreversible consequences of unchecked climate change. Their book presents a blueprint for change, while highlighting the forecasts of a hotter planet: how vast stretches of the Earth will become uninhabitable, plagued by extreme weather, drought, rising seas, and crop failure. They also argue that it is entirely feasible to cease fossil fuel burning within the next 30 years.

Bill McKibben's *The End of Nature*, published by Random House in 1989, is considered to be among the first books on global warming, written for common readers

Another 2020 book, *Our Final Warning: Six degrees of Climate Emergency* by Mark Lynas catalogues the latest climate science and charts the likely impact of global heating. At one degree – the world we are already living in – vast wildfires scorch California and Australia and monster hurricanes devastate coastal cities. At two degrees, the Arctic ice cap melts away and coral reefs disappear from the tropics. At three, the world begins to run out of food, threatening millions with starvation. At four, large areas of the globe are too hot for human habitation, erasing entire nations and turning billions into climate refugees. At five, the planet is warmer than the past 55 million years and at six, a mass extinction of unparalleled proportions sweeps the

planet. It is a death knell and time is running out. But the authors, like many scientists, believe that the escalating consequences can still be avoided if we stop burning fossil fuels within a decade as a must mitigation measure and if countries adopt the binding agreement for reducing carbon emissions to limit future warming.

Climate scientist Peter Kalmus embarked on a journey to change his life and the world. He began by bicycling and growing his own food and slashed his climate impact to one tenth of the U.S. average.

Published in 2017, *Being The Change*, his book is inspirational for those who want take climate action, but are unsure of where to start.

What India needs to do

In the 2021 Global Climate Risk Index, India ranks as the seventh most impacted country in the world.

Indian authors such as Vandana Shiva (*Staying Alive: Women, Ecology, and Development*) and Amitav Ghosh (*The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*) throw light on the current environmental crisis. Mridula Ramesh in her book *The Climate Solution: India's Climate Change Crisis and What Can We Do About It* comprehensively focusses on green sources of power and talks about climate warriors who have helped reverse the effects by adapting sustainable methodologies.

With a clear understanding of climate change, its history and impact over the decades, the author gives a checklist of actions that everyone can implement to fight climate change. Till then, the growing energy crisis, record greenhouse gas concentrations and extreme weather events will continue to be a danger we need to be prepared for.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"What is the meaning of 'The speaker applied the guillotine to the bill', sir?

"To apply the guillotine' means to stop any further discussion of a bill. It is a method of cutting short the discussion on a bill in Parliament 'by fixing times for taking votes'.

The Government will bring in a guillotine resolution.

The word is from the name of a French physician, Joseph Ignace Guillotine (1738-1814). It was at his suggestion that the guillotine was used first in 1789 for beheading criminals. The guillotine 'consisted of a heavy knife blade sliding between grooved posts'. This is the original meaning of 'guillotine'. The word is pronounced 'gileetain'. The 'g' is pronounced like the 'g' in 'gift' and the 'o' before 't' is pronounced like the final sound in China and 'i' as in 'feel' and 'peel'. Some stress the word on the first syllable 'gil' and others on the second syllable 'tin'. Both are acceptable.

"Mr. K. Panchapagesan of Madras wants to know whether it is correct to say "May I know your good name please?". He is worried about the expression 'good name'."

"Native speakers do not use this expression. They generally say "May I know your name please?". The expression 'good name' is widely used in the north. I do not see any reason why we should not use it. It has got nothing to do with grammar; it is more a cultural thing. It is nice to be told that your name is good. I do not expect 'Mr. Savage' or 'Mr. Butcher' to get angry when you say "May I know your good name please". They will be pleasantly surprised. 'Good name' has a nice Indian flavour and I do not object to this at all."

"What is the meaning of 'The teacher is not worth his salt', sir?"

"It means that the teacher is not efficient or capable, that he is not worth the money that he is being paid. It is usually used in the negative.

The engineer is not worth his salt. He is very lazy and is not worth his salt."

"How do you pronounce 'circuit', sir?"
"Cir' rhymes with 'fur', 'cur' and 'her'. The 'r' is silent. 'Cuit' is pronounced 'kit'. It rhymes with 'pit' and 'bit'. The stress is on the first syllable 'cir'. Let's stop here for the day. Good bye."

"Thank you, sir. Good bye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Twitter has been in the news since billionaire Elon Musk took ownership. Here's a quiz on the social networking service

Ranjani Srinivasan

QUESTION 1

On March 21, 2006, the first Twitter message, "just setting up my twtr", was posted by whom?

QUESTION 2

The 2009 version of the Twitter logo was named 'Larry' after which NBA star who played for the Boston Celtics?

QUESTION 3

Identify this user-generated metadata tag used by Twitter and Instagram to enable cross-referencing of content by topic and theme.

QUESTION 4

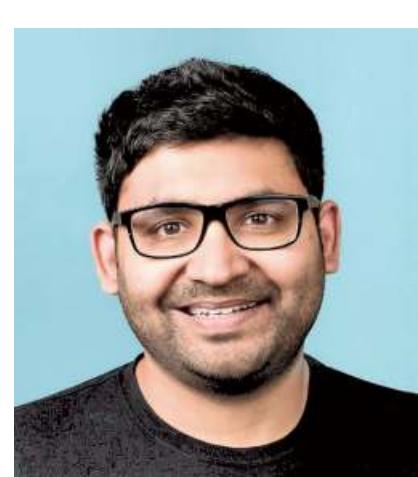
Which historical limit did Twitter change in 2017 to allow users to express themselves better on the platform?

QUESTION 5

Which feature was launched in June 2009 after Twitter was slammed by Kanye West and sued by Tony La Russa over accounts run by impersonators?

QUESTION 6

Twitter's most followed account belongs to an American politician and a Democrat. Name this world leader.



Visual question:

Before taking over Twitter, this former CEO of Twitter was in charge of an initiative to develop a decentralised social network protocol. Name him and the initiative. PTI

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. A law passed by Parliament in 2000 gave birth to this State, carved out from this existing State. The new State is known for its rich presence of mineral and forest resources. **Ans: Jharkhand from Bihar**

2. This State was formed in January 1971 and became the 18th State of India. **Ans: Himachal Pradesh**

3. This Indian historian and journalist who played an important role in the unification of this State is honoured as the State's high priest. He started a newspaper, to strive for its Statehood. **Ans: Aluru Venkata Rao of Karnataka**

4. This is an autonomous region and was a proposed State in northeast India. Along with the other parts of northeast India, regional aspiration in the region reached a turning point in the 1980s. The region is now administered by an elected autonomous council. **Ans: Bodoland**

5. This was a U.T. in 1961. One of its territories was granted full Statehood and the other portion was merged with another territory in 2019. **Ans: Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu**

Visual: The name of this place. **Ans: Hutatma Chowk**

Early Birds: K. N. Viswanathan| Tarun Ravindran

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Word of the day

Mawkish:

effusively or insincerely emotional

Synonyms:

mushy, sentimental, sappy

Usage:

The movie was fine in the beginning but became awkwardly mawkish towards the end

Pronunciation:

bit.ly/mawkishpro

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

From Page One

Kerala moves to remove Governor as Chancellor

Although the ruling LDF has the numbers in the Assembly to push such a Bill through the House, it will face stiff opposition from the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF).

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly V.D. Satheesan said the ordinance to curtail the Governor's powers was not well-intentioned, and at worst, could be considered conspiratorial. The CPI(M) aspired to insert its favourites into Chancellor positions to take total control of the higher education sector to promote politically partisan interests, including nepotism in appointments, claimed Mr. Satheesan, adding that the UDF would not abide by the CPI(M)'s plot.

BJP State president K. Surendran warned the government to brace itself for aggressive street protests if it removed Mr. Khan from the Chancellor's position. He alleged that the ordinance was a cover for CPI(M)-orchestrated corruption and favouritism in varsity appointments.

(With PTI inputs)

Court grants bail to Raut, 'arrested for no reason'

Mr. Raut was arrested on August 1 by the ED on allegations of money laundering and irregularities pertaining to the redevelopment of the Patra Chawl in Mumbai's Goregaon.

'Committed fraud'

It was alleged by the ED that the developers, one of whom is an "associate" of Mr. Raut, fraudulently made ₹1,039.79 crore from the scheme. The agency alleged that Mr. Raut also benefited from it.

According to the ED, "Mr. Raut has played a major role in the offence through his proxy and confidant Pravin Raut. The case dates to March 2018 when an FIR was registered under the provision of the PMLA against M/s Guru Ashish Construction, Housing Development, and Infrastructure Limited's promoters Rakesh and Sarang Wadhawan on the basis of a complaint filed by an executive engineer of Maharashtra Housing and Area Development (MHADA)."

'Civil litigation'

The court's order on Wednesday, however, said, "From the record materials and the discussion made, it is clear how Pravin Raut is arrested for a pure civil litigation, whereas, Sanjay Raut for no reason. This truth is glaring."

The court questioned MHADA's conduct and observed, "The conduct of MHADA right from the beginning till date is suspicious. Even the ED admitted it in their complaints, yet the ED has not made any staff of MHADA an accused. MHADA's attitude as such, lodging FIR on one fine morning, can neither throw dust in the eyes of the court nor brush off and wash out long civil litigation, which was even acknowledged by the High Court."

The court went on to say, "Rakesh and Sarang Wadhawan, being the main accused, were not arrested by the ED; they have been left scot-free. At the same time, Pravin was arrested for a civil dispute and Sanjay for no reason. This clearly indicates disparity, and the ED's pick and choose attitude. If the court still accepts the ED's charge and further rejects the bail pleas, that will amount to putting a premium on such pick and choose strategies of the agency. Certainly, in that event, any common, innocent and honest people, will lose faith and confidence, which they have reposed in the judicial system as a temple of justice."

Trinamool's setback in cooperative poll triggers furore in West Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Elections to an agriculture cooperative, where the ruling Trinamool Congress suffered a setback, have created a flutter in West Bengal politics with speculation of an understanding between the Left parties and the BJP. Though the leadership of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] has denied any kind of understanding with the latter, the issue is refusing to die down.

Elections to the Nandakumar-Baharampur Cooperative Agriculture Credit Society were held on November 6 and the West Bengal Samoboi Bachao Committee, a platform of forces opposed to the TMC, won all the 63 seats. According to reports, the platform had the supporters of both the Left parties and the BJP.

The election to a little-known cooperative has become a talking point with



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a public meeting in Krishnanagar on Wednesday. PTI

BJP MP from Bishnupur Saumitra Khan calling all forces to join hands against the TMC. "I am ready to join hands with anyone willing to fight and defeat the Trinamool," the BJP MP said.

The TMC leadership took the opportunity to impress on the "Ram-Baam" understanding. Party spokespersons like Kunal Ghosh and Tapas Roy said this was what the TMC was trying to highlight for the past few years.

On Wednesday, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

D.Y. Chandrachud takes charge as the 50th Chief Justice of India

The new CJI has been part of several Constitution Benches and landmark verdicts of the top court, and describes dissent as the 'safety valve of democracy'. He will have a term of two years and will head the judiciary until November 10, 2024

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Justice Dhananjaya Yashwant Chandrachud was sworn in as the 50th Chief Justice of India (CJI) by President Droupadi Murmu at a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Wednesday.

He took the oath in English and in the name of God, in the presence of Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Law Minister Kiren Rijiju.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was not present, tweeted, "Congratulations to Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud on being sworn in as India's Chief Justice. Wishing him a fruitful tenure ahead."

His predecessor, Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, who demitted office on Tuesday,



Taking office: D.Y. Chandrachud assumes charge as the Chief Justice of India after President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to him at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday. PTI

was present at the oath-taking ceremony. Justice Chandrachud as CJI will have a term of two years and will head India's judiciary until November 10, 2024, a day before he completes 65 years. His father, Y.V. Chandrachud, holds the distinction of being the longest-serving Chief Justice, who headed the

judiciary from February 22, 1978 to July 11, 1985.

Chief Justice Chandrachud, who describes dissent as the "safety valve of democracy", has been part of several Constitution Benches and landmark verdicts of the top court, including judgments on the Ayodhya land dispute, and the right to privacy. He

wrote the lead judgment for a nine-judge Constitution Bench in the *K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India* case, in which it was unanimously held that the right to privacy was a Fundamental Right.

Recently, a Bench headed by him expanded the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act

to include unmarried women for abortion between 20 and 24 weeks of pregnancy.

The new Chief Justice has been part of the Benches that delivered path-breaking judgments on de-criminalising same-sex relations, after it partially struck down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. He has been part of Benches that ruled on the validity of the Aadhaar scheme and the Sabarimala issue, and paved the way for permanent commission for women officers in the armed forces.

He was designated as a senior advocate by the Bombay High Court in June 1998 and became Additional Solicitor-General that year till his appointment as a judge in the Bombay High Court on March 29, 2000. He went on to become the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court from October 31, 2013 until he was elevated to the top court in May 2016.

Priority is to serve the common man, says CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Wednesday said he would endeavour to make the Supreme Court a "no-stress" court for everyone, while responding to the congratulations of lawyers present in the courtroom on his first working day as top judge.

The three-judge Bench led by CJI Chandrachud however started the day's court work with an apology for making the lawyers wait well past the scheduled time of 11.30 a.m. The Bench heard cases through most of the lunch break.

CJI Chandrachud was accompanied by Justices Hima Kohli and J.B. Pardiwal on the Bench.

Earlier in the day, Chief Justice Chandrachud told the media that his priority would be service to the common man. He said the key areas would be to use more technology to sharpen the justice delivery system, reforms in the Supreme Court Registry and prompt listing of cases.

Chhattisgarh plans special Assembly session on tribal quota

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Amid confusion over the reduction in the quota for Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Chhattisgarh following a recent high court order capping reservations at 50%, the State government has proposed to convene a special session on tribal reservation.

"A proposal to convene a special session of the Legislative Assembly regarding the issue of tribal reservation has been sent to the Speaker of the Assembly, Dr. Charan Das Mahant ji. It has been requested to convene a special session of the Vidhan Sabha on December 1 and 2," tweeted Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday.

On September 19, the Chhattisgarh High Court struck down a 2012 legislation that reserved 58% seats for Scheduled Castes, 27% for OBCs and 10% for the EWS.

Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in recruitment and entrance examinations, holding that reservation above the 50% ceiling was "unconstitutional". It was the BJP government that had in 2012 brought an amendment to the 1994 Reservation Act of the erstwhile Madhya Pradesh, as the distribution of population had changed in the new State. However, since only the reservation for STs had been increased in the 2012 amendment, the latest court order led to speculation about the pre-2012 situation being restored, triggering protests by the Opposition BJP.

According to sources, the Chhattisgarh government may bring fresh legislation that may hike the reservations in the State to 81%–32% for STs, 12% for SCs, 27% for OBCs and 10% for the EWS.

The corrupt destroy the country, SC counters govt. in Navlakha case

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Recently, we saw a video in which people talk about crores of rupees to buy our so-called elected representatives. Are they not doing anything against our country?

JUSTICE K.M. JOSEPH

rupt should be exonerated... I am saying take action against them," Mr. Raju said.

Justice Joseph observed, "Who takes action against the corrupt? Recently, we saw a video in which people talk about crores of rupees to buy our so-called elected representatives. Are they not doing anything against our country? The point is you do not defend them (the corrupt), but they go on merrily... What happens in every office you go into?" Justice Joseph was accompanied by Justice Hrishikesh Roy.

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju sought to clarify that he was not defending the corrupt.

"I am not saying the cor-

while hearing a plea made by the 70-year-old Mr. Navlakha to shift him from jail to house arrest for medical reasons.

The Bench referred to Father Stan Swamy, an 84-year-old Jesuit priest and tribal activist who died in hospital after a court refused him medical bail. The Bench also referred to Sudha Bhardwaj, a lawyer and another accused in the case, who had got bail.

In Mr. Navlakha's case, the court said it was considering only house arrest and not release on bail.

"He is a 70-year-old man. He is not in the best of health. We don't know how long he will live. Nobody knows... Certainly he is going towards the inevitable," Justice Joseph said.

The court asked the government to suggest restrictions it wanted to impose on him while in house arrest.

Justice Roy said it was a "little disturbing" to note that hardly any progress had been made since the chargesheet was filed in October 2020.

Mr. Raju contended that it would be difficult to monitor Mr. Navlakha if he was put in house arrest. He could link up with Maoists. The law officer also alleged ISI connections.

Mr. Raju said there were doctors and ambulances around the clock in the jail. He would be taken to a hospital of his choice even if it was a "sneezing problem".

Construction work starts at Adani-backed Colombo port

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

worried about speed breakers on the road when you go out," Mr. Mitra said.

This is not the first time that the supporters of the Opposition parties in the State have come together to keep the TMC from power. A similar understanding between the Opposition parties had come to the fore at gram panchayats and other local bodies where elections are being held. Senior CPI(M) leader Asok Bhattacharya had forged an understanding with Congress councillors to keep the Trinamool out of power in the Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMP) for almost a decade before losing the civic body to the ruling party earlier this year. The State CPI(M) leadership has refuted reports of such understanding with the BJP. CPI(M) leaders Sujan Chakraborty and Shamik Lahiri tried to downplay the developments at Nandakumar and said the claims of an understanding are untrue.

Some Trinamool leaders, like Madan Mitra, have started issuing threats to the Opposition parties if they want to replicate "Nandakumar" elsewhere. "If you try to replicate elsewhere, you should be

'Embarrassing' to adjourn demonetisation case, says Constitution Bench of SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In 2016, demonetisation was done through a notification issued under RBI Act, 1934.

time while apologising for the delay. The court postponed the hearing to November 24.

On October 12, in a preliminary hearing, the Bench requires a lot of planning as judges are drawn from different Benches and away from their regular cases to hear the issue in question, which would be a significant one.

However, Attorney-General R. Venkataramani, for the government, urged the court to grant him a week's

been urging the Bench not to "waste" judicial time on the issue of demonetisation. Mr. Venkataramani had termed the case as "academic" in nature as things had long settled. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had questioned the very maintainability of the case. Senior advocates P. Chidambaram and Shyam Divan, for petitioners, had however countered that the issue was "very much alive". Demonetisation in 1946 and 1978 were implemented through separate Acts debated by the Parliament. In 2016, it was done through a mere notification issued under provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. They had said the court should declare the law or nothing would stop the government from repeating the exercise, which had seen "horrendous consequences".

IN BRIEF



Tushar Mehta to lead Indian delegation to UNHRC

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta will lead the official Indian delegation to the Human Rights Council where the Fourth Universal Periodic Review will take place on Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced. A press release stated that India has been "engaged constructively" with members of the UNHRC and others in the United Nations to support human rights across the world. The announcement came hours before the session where countries like the United States, U.K., Belgium, Germany and Spain are expected to raise issues like the Citizenship Amendment Act and incidents of "hate speech" and the hijab issue of Karnataka.

Paharis on ST list: Gujjars, Bakerwals plan boycott

The protest campaign of Gujjars and Bakerwals against the Centre's decision to include Paharis on the Schedule Tribe list is gaining momentum in J&K, with these communities planning to boycott the visit of Union Tribal Minister Arjun Munda this month. "A boycott call was announced today [Wednesday] by the All J&K Gujjar Bakerwal Co-ordination Committee (AJKGCC), a body of ST communities, to register their protest against grant of ST status to Pahari-speaking people who belong to upper castes of society," Anwar Chowdhary, convenor of the committee, said in Jammu. Mr. Munda is likely to visit Udhampur on November 17 and 18.

Plea against acquittal of BJP leaders in Babri case dropped

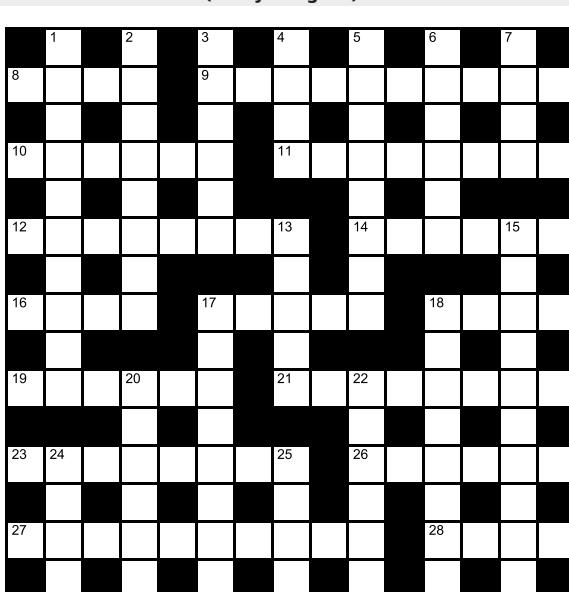
The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday dismissed the criminal appeal filed against the order of a special CBI court in Lucknow that acquitted senior BJP leaders L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti and 28 others accused of criminal conspiracy in the Babri Masjid demolition case. The court said the appellants were not "real victims" in the matter, which also became the reason for the dismissal of the instant appeal. The judgment was delivered by Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice Saroj Yadav on the instant criminal appeal filed by the appellants, Haji Mohboob Ahmad and Syed Akhlaq Ahmad, residents of Ayodhya.

Pune firm gets \$155.5 million export order for artillery guns

Pune-based Bharat Forge Limited has won a \$155.50mn export order for a 155mm artillery gun platform to be executed in three years. "We are pleased to inform that Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, has been awarded an export order for a 155mm Artillery Gun platform to be executed over a 3-year time frame. The total value of the order is \$155.50 Mn," it informed Bombay Stock Exchange. "This order...is a great testament to the Government of India's...push to promote exports of Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured advanced defence platforms from India," the statement added.

TH CROSSWORD + 13707

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



Across

- 8 Cat-call from home-owner (4)
- 9 Change trains when moving, carrying that thing with round bearing (10)
- 10 Chemical part of chalk alight (6)
- 11 Ran exotic cruise carrying rector and daughter (8)
- 12 Men leaving Westminster renovation for scammers (8)

Pashmina shawls have Shahtoosh guard hair, say Customs officials; all fluff, counter traders and artisans

SPECIAL

Soibam Rocky Singh

NEW DELHI

Traders of universally prized Pashmina shawls are complaining that "obsolete testing methods" have resulted in many of their export consignments being flagged by Customs authorities for presence of Shahtoosh guard hair, which is obtained from endangered Tibetan antelopes. The traders claim the use of obsolete techniques such as "light microscopy" by the authorities has resulted in several cases of "false positives", leading to their wrongful prosecution.

Pashmina is obtained from a breed of mountain goats (*Capra hircus*) found on the Changthang Plateau in Tibet and parts of Ladakh. Manufacture of Pashmina is a largely unorganised cottage and handicraft industry, providing

employment and livelihood to approximately six lakh people, most notably to local skilled villagers and artisans in Kashmir.

Shahtoosh, on the other hand, is the fine undercoat fibre obtained from the Tibetan antelope, known locally as *chiru*, a species living mainly in the northern parts of the Changthang Plateau in Tibet. As they offer high levels of smoothness and warmth, Shahtoosh shawls is a highly expensive commodity.

However, when their population declined dramatically from commercial poaching, CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora) listed the Tibetan antelope in 1979, leading to a ban on sale and trade of Shahtoosh shawls and scarves.

Difficult to differentiate
As the two materials have similar physical properties and tangibility, differentiation is hard without ad-



Heavy price: Many Pashmina traders quit the trade, given the problems that come with such inquiry. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vanced scientific forensic methods.

Naqeed Qazi, a Pashmina trader, has first-hand experience of one of his export consignments of Pashmina shawls getting flagged by Customs authorities for presence of Shahtoosh. "I had sought DNA testing of the consignment but my appeal was rejected," Mr. Naqeed said. The sample from his consignment was instead sent to the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, which em-

ploys light microscopy technique to look for the presence of Shahtoosh. The light microscopy method, Mr. Naqeed said, "is subjective and depend to a large extent on the expertise of the examiner."

"My case then involved the CBI. The agency came to my office in Kashmir and went to the artisans. Now, Enforcement Directorate (ED) has got involved in the case and they are looking into the money laundering angle. This is all being

done on the basis of one wrong test," Mr. Naqeed rued.

Another Pashmina trader, Imran Rashid, said due to the "prevailing system", a lot of export orders get cancelled as it takes months – in some cases years – for the shipment to eventually be released by the officials.

"As a result, the value of Pashmina exports has dropped from over ₹750 crore six or seven years ago to about ₹100 crore today," Mr. Rashid said. As many of the exporters do not want to get into this kind of trouble, many have quit the export-end of business and are focussing on retail, he said, adding, "That's why there is such a huge dip in exports."

HC moved

Left with no other option, the Pashmina Exporters and Manufacturers Association has moved a petition before the Delhi High Court, for a direction to im-

prove the existing testing infrastructure by incorporating the modern "scanning electron microscopic" technique and DNA tests.

Advocates Tanveer Ahmed Mir and Kartik Venu, who represented the association, said the ambiguity in the forensic results adversely affected the reputation and finances of the Pashmina industry.

Mr. Mir said that the traders were subjected to both Customs prosecutions – on suspicion of presence of Shahtoosh guard hair – as well as criminal prosecutions by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), CBI, and ED, possibly leading to incarceration up to seven years, even when it is not clearly proved if the material used is in fact a contraband.

India contributes only about 1% of the world's Pashmina, but the Pashmina produced in India is considered the best of the lot.

Publishing papers not mandatory for Ph.D. scholars

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission has said that though publication of research papers in peer-reviewed journals might not be mandatory anymore for Ph.D. scholars, it would have value when they applied for employment or post-doctoral opportunities.

In new guidelines for Ph.D. scholars, which were notified on Monday, the UGC had done away with the compulsory requirement of getting research papers published in peer-reviewed journals before the final thesis was submitted. UGC Chairperson M. Jagadeesh Kumar, in a statement, said even if publication of research paper in peer-reviewed journals was not compulsory, it did not mean Ph.D. students should stop doing that altogether. "Focussing on high-quality research will lead to publications in good journals, even if it is not mandatory. It will add value when they apply for employment or post-doctoral opportunities," Mr. Kumar said.

Level of groundwater extraction lowest in 18 years, finds study

Total groundwater recharge was 437.6 billion cubic metres, as opposed to extraction of 239.16 bcm, reports Ministry of Water Resources

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

Groundwater extraction in India saw an 18-year decline, according to an assessment by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) made public on Wednesday.

The total annual groundwater recharge for the entire country is 437.6 billion cubic metres (bcm) and annual groundwater extraction for the entire country is 239.16 bcm, according to the 2022 assessment report. Further, out of the total 7,089 assessment units in the country, 1,006 units have been categorised as "over-exploited" in the report.

By comparison, an assessment in 2020 found that the annual groundwater recharge was 436 bcm and extraction 245 bcm. In 2017, recharge was 432 bcm and extraction 249 bcm. The 2022 assessment suggests that groundwater



Promising data: The last time groundwater extraction was this low was in 2004, at 231 bcm. AKHILESH KUMAR

extraction is the lowest since 2004, when it was 231 bcm.

Such joint exercises between the CGWB and States/Union Territories were carried out earlier in 1980, 1995, 2004, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2017 and 2020.

"A detailed analysis of the information collected from the assessment indicates increase in ground water recharge which may mainly be attributed to increase in recharge from canal seepage, return flow of irrigation water and recharges from water bodies/

tanks & water conservation structures. Further, analysis indicates improvement in ground water conditions in 909 assessment units in the country when compared with 2017 assessment data. In addition, overall decrease in number of over-exploited units and decrease in stage of groundwater extraction level have also been observed," the Ministry of Water Resources said in a statement.

The full report wasn't made public by the Ministry.

Cong. recalls Rajiv Gandhi's last public meet in Maharashtra

Abhinav Deshpande

NAIGAON/KRISHNOOR



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with his supporters during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Nanded district on Wednesday. PTI

the day at Vajirgaon Phata.

The rank and file of the Congress party recalled how Rajiv Gandhi had visited the village and addressed his last public meeting in Maharashtra. "It was indeed a great public meeting. There was no space even to move our legs. More than 30 years after he met with a tragic end, his son has come to our village," recalled a villager, struggling to catch a glimpse of the Wayanad MP. On the third day of his 14-day tour of Maharashtra, Mr. Gandhi resumed the foot march from Shankar Nagar in Biloali mandal as the journey entered its 63rd day.

He walked 24 km, ending

the rank and file of the Congress party recalled how Rajiv Gandhi had visited the village and addressed his last public meeting in Maharashtra. "It was indeed a great public meeting. There was no space even to move our legs. More than 30 years after he met with a tragic end, his son has come to our village," recalled a villager, struggling to catch a glimpse of the Wayanad MP. On the third day of his 14-day tour of Maharashtra, Mr. Gandhi resumed the foot march from Shankar Nagar in Biloali mandal as the journey entered its 63rd day.

He walked 24 km, ending

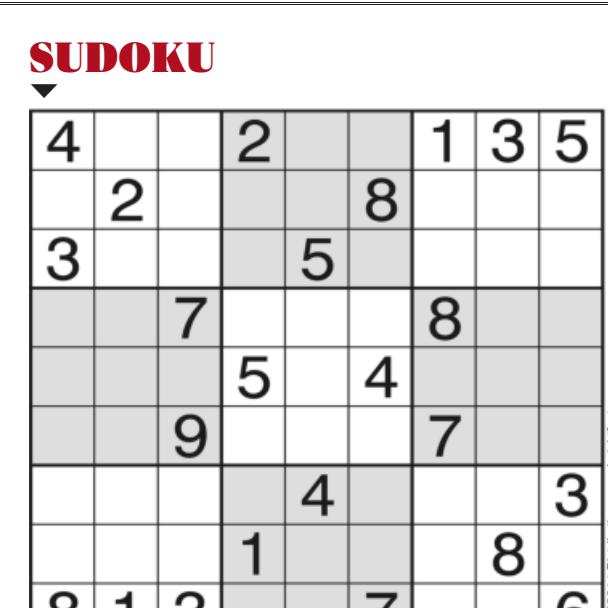
FAITH

In Nammazhvar's footsteps

Ramanujacharya asked his disciple Srivatsanka Mishra to teach Thiruvaimozhi to his disciples. But while explaining the very first pasuram, Srivatsanka Mishra fainted due to his amazement at the greatness of the Lord described by Nammazhvar. Ramanuja was reminded of the incident where Nammazhvar himself fainted as he contemplated Krishna's simplicity in allowing Yasoda to tie Him up. Ramanuja therefore felt that his disciple deserved to be called Azhwar, said Elayavilli Sriram, in a discourse. But Srivatsanka Mishra felt that this was an honour that belonged only to Nammazhvar. So he chose to be called Azhwar instead. Srivatsanka Mishra was from Kooram, a village near Kanchipuram, and he came to be known as Kooratazhvan. The influence of Nammazhvar on Kooratazhvan is evident in his works.

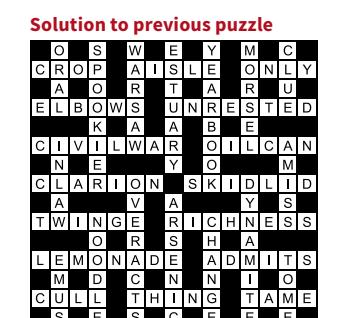
Of Kooratazhvan's Panchastava, Sri Vaikuntha Stava was the first. Here He talks of the Supremacy of Lord Narayana. Nammazhvar in his Thiruvaimozhi also begins by talking of the Lord's Supremacy. The first pasuram of Thiruvaimozhi gives the essence of the whole work. In Nammazhvar's pasuram, the very first word – 'uyarvara' – indicates that none is equal to or superior to Vishnu. Likewise, in Kooratazhvan's Atmanusha stava, the very first word – 'atimanusha' – gives the essence of the work. Even when He took the human form, the Lord's actions were extraordinary beyond what an ordinary mortal could ever do. That is the significance of his vibhava avatars. Nammazhvar began by talking of the Lord's Supremacy, but later spoke of His saulabhyam. His simplicity despite His superiority, is His distinctive quality.

SUDOKU

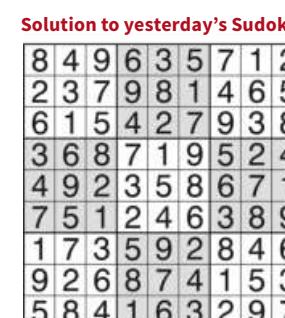


DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle



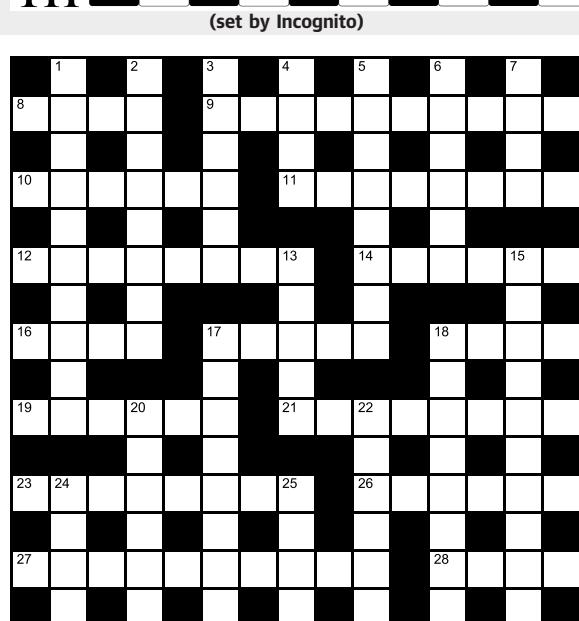
Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



CROSSWORD

13707

(set by Incognito)



Across

- 8 Cat-call from home-owner (4)
- 9 Change trains when moving, carrying that thing with round bearing (10)
- 10 Chemical part of chalk alight (6)
- 11 Ran exotic cruise carrying rector and daughter (8)
- 12 Men leaving Westminster renovation for scammers (8)

Down

- 1 Shout, "Wolf runs away guardedly at first, showing sign of disease" (6,4)
- 2 Administrates oath to fold new saris (6,2)
- 3 Dress excited stripteaser in absence of press (6)
- 4 Fish having low sound? (4)
- 5 Cooked up ten clues fit for consumption (8)
- 6 Bird in South Africa gets chest bones (6)
- 7 Commanding officer and setter arrive (4)
- 13 With beginners, symbol in Greek means addition (5)
- 15 Once, print media rejected most popular announcement (10)
- 17 Diseased tonsils cover middle of pharynx and holes used for breathing (8)
- 18 Number over South, East, North and South-East? That's gibberish! (8)
- 20 Girlish English females tee off (6)
- 22 Little animal is initially trained by Picasso, for example (6)
- 24 First: Female's right for eternity (4)
- 25 Piece of land mentioned in TANSI tender (4)

LONDON

King Charles III narrowly avoids being hit by eggs in York



King Charles III and his wife Queen Consort Camilla narrowly avoided being hit with eggs thrown at them during a visit to northern England on Wednesday. A man was heard shouting "this country was built on the blood of slaves" and "not my king" before he was detained by police officers as the incident occurred. AP

DHAKA

IMF agrees \$4.5 billion aid package for Bangladesh to battle inflation



The IMF said on Wednesday it reached a preliminary agreement to provide Bangladesh with a \$4.5 billion support package to help it cope with soaring energy and food prices. Bangladesh plans to use the IMF loan to prop up its foreign exchange reserves, which have nosedived from \$46 billion to \$34 billion. AFP

RAMALLAH

Teenager among two Palestinians dead in West Bank violence



Two Palestinians including a teenager were killed in unrest in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, one of them in clashes during a visit by right-wing Israeli politicians to a sensitive religious site. According to Palestinian officials, a 15-year-old boy died of "serious wounds caused by shrapnel". REUTERS

JAKARTA

Licences of firms that made syrups linked to child deaths revoked



Indonesia's food and drug agency revoked the licences of two firms to distribute materials used in syrup medicines linked to a wave of child deaths caused by kidney failure or damage. Two potentially harmful chemicals — diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol — were found in the companies' supplies of propylene glycol. AFP

Republicans fight to retake House, control of Senate too early to call

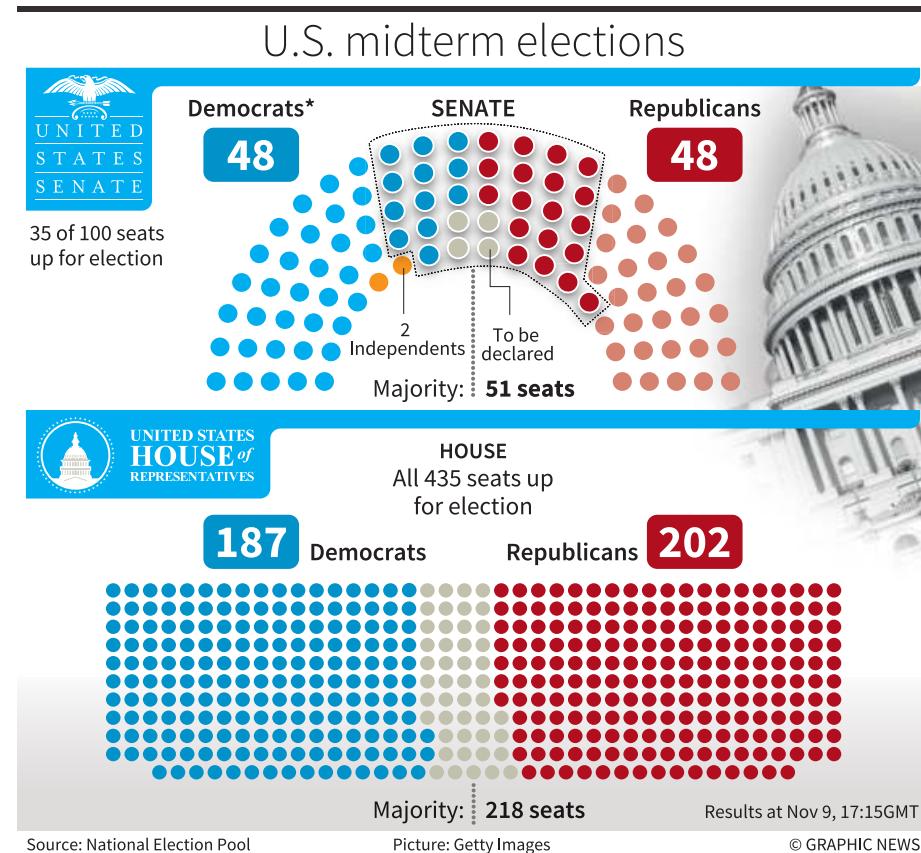
In the most heartening news for Democrats, John Fetterman flipped Pennsylvania's Republican-controlled Senate seat that's key to the party's hopes of maintaining control of the chamber. Votes still being counted across the country

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Republicans were fighting on Wednesday to retake the House in the U.S. while control of the Senate hinged on tight Arizona, Nevada and Georgia races in midterm elections that defied expectations of sweeping conservative victories driven by frustration over inflation and President Joe Biden's leadership.

In the most heartening news for Democrats, John Fetterman flipped Pennsylvania's Republican-controlled Senate seat that's key to the party's hopes of maintaining control of the chamber. But Republican Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin won reelection, raising the stakes of races that were too early to call.

In the House, Democrats kept seats in districts from Virginia to Kansas to Rhode Island, while many districts in States like New York and California had not been called. But Republicans were also notching victories, including toppling House Democratic



campaign chief Sean Patrick Maloney of New York.

The race for control of Congress will determine the future of Mr. Biden's agenda and serve as a referendum on his administration.

tion as the nation reels from record-high inflation and concerns over the direction of the country. A Republican House majority would likely trigger a spate of investigations into

Mr. Biden and his family, while a GOP Senate takeover would hobble the President's ability to make judicial appointments.

Democrats were successful in Governors' rac-

es, winning in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania — battlegrounds critical to Mr. Biden's 2020 win.

But Republicans held on to Governors' mansions in Florida, Texas and Georgia, another battleground State Mr. Biden narrowly won two years ago.

Votes were still being counted across the country, meaning Republicans could still emerge with control of both chambers of Congress. But there was no strong GOP surge, uplifting for Democrats who had braced for sweeping losses.

Democrats had faced historic headwinds. The party in power almost always suffers losses in the President's first midterm elections, but Democrats bet that anger from the Supreme Court's decision to gut abortion rights might energize their voters to buck historical trends.



Watch | All you need to know about the midterm elections
bit.ly/midterms

China sees opportunities and risks from 'divided' U.S.

Ananth Krishnan

BEIJING

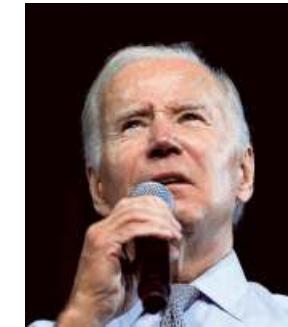
A closely contested midterm elections in the United States has been seen by strategic experts in rival China as underlining an increasingly divided country.

If divisions in America might ostensibly appear to pose benefits to Beijing amid its all-encompassing geopolitical rivalry with Washington, experts in the Chinese capital also fear escalating tensions given a broadly bipartisan consensus on a tougher approach to China.

"As can be seen from the experience of recent U.S. Presidents, after midterm election setbacks, they tend to be more active in foreign affairs, so the Biden administration is highly likely to do something that they think is in the vital strategic interests of voters to attract attention," the Communist Party-run *Global Times* quoted an unnamed strategic expert as saying.

Midterm woes

Noting that the Barack Obama White House had, a year after midterm setbacks, announced the killing of Osama bin Laden, while the Donald Trump administration released its Indo-Pacific Strategy report a year after its midterms.



A meeting between Joe Biden and Xi Jinping is on the cards.

port a year after its midterm woes, the expert said President Joe Biden "would also follow this route, perhaps further pushing the Indo-Pacific Strategy and solidifying the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework at the upcoming APEC summit" in Thailand next week.

Taiwan question
Diao Daming, an associate professor at the Renmin University in Beijing, described the political contest in the U.S. as "a bitter race".

"We are likely to see Republicans in Congress pushing for investigations into the incumbent Joe Biden, while at the local level Democrats continue to push for probes into Trump."

"Divergences between China and U.S. may be further amplified, while

cooperation may weaken," Mr. Diao added, suggesting that "the Taiwan question is a more prominent stumbling block in bilateral ties".

A meeting between Mr. Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping is on the cards at the G20 Summit in Indonesia next week, although there is little expectation of a major breakthrough on the many thorny issues straining ties.

Beijing slammed Democrat leader and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for visiting Taiwan in August, and has seen the Biden administration as broadly carrying forward Mr. Trump's approach to China amid widening rifts on issues ranging from trade and Taiwan to human rights in Xinjiang and most recently, export controls imposed by the U.S. on advanced microchips, which dealt a major blow to China's semiconductor industry.

Further rifts on Taiwan could soon follow. Mr. Xi, in the October Communist Party Congress, warned in strong language against external interference, even as Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, who may likely succeed Ms. Pelosi as House Speaker, has already pledged he will visit Taiwan.

Xi tells Chinese military to enhance troop training and war preparedness

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

Chinese leader Xi Jinping has called on the Chinese military to "enhance troop training and combat preparedness" in his first visit to the military's joint operations command headquarters in his third term.

"The entire military should devote all its energy to and carry out all its work for combat readiness, enhance its capability to fight and win, and effectively fulfil its missions and tasks in the new era," said Mr. Xi, who in October began a third five-year term as leader of the Communist Party. Mr. Xi, at last month's Party Congress in Beijing, was also appointed chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) for another term.

Mr. Xi on November 8 made his first visit in the new term to the joint operations command centre of the CMC. He said the world was "undergoing more profound changes unseen in a century" and "stressed that China's national security is facing increased instability and uncertainty, and its military tasks remain arduous".



Review time: Chinese President Xi Jinping inspects the CMC joint operations command centre on Wednesday. AP

He "instructed [the military leadership] to resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests", the official *Xinhua* news agency said.

Accompanying Mr. Xi was the new CMC leadership, which saw a reshuffle at the congress, where three Generals who have occupied key roles leading the Army in the Western Theatre Command (WTC), which borders India, received significant promotions to the CMC and to the Party Central Committee.

General He Weidong, 65, was named the new Vice-Chairman of the CMC. General Zhang Youxia, 72, a close associate of Mr. Xi, was confirmed for another term as Vice-Chairman.

General He was one of three PLA Generals promoted who were actively involved in the WTC. General He served as the Army (ground forces) Commander of the WTC from 2016 to 2019, a period spanning the 2017 Doklam crisis. He later headed the Eastern Theatre Command, which is responsible for Taiwan.

Also promoted was General Xu Qiling, 60, who was appointed as one of 205 members of the Party's Central Committee. He succeeded General He as WTC Army Commander in 2020 and was subsequently moved to the CMC's Joint Staff department. The current head of the WTC, General Wang Haijiang, 59, was also appointed to the Central Committee.

Russia orders troops out of Kherson

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia ordered its troops to withdraw from the city of Kherson in southern Ukraine on Wednesday in a further major blow to its campaign amid a Ukrainian counter-offensive.

"Begin to pull out troops," Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said at a televised meeting with Russia's commander in Ukraine, Sergei Surovikin.

The commander had proposed the "difficult decision" of pulling back from the city and setting up defences on the eastern

bank of the Dnipro River.

Kherson city was the first urban hub captured by Russia during its "special military operation" and the only regional capital controlled by Moscow's forces since the offensive began on February 24.

Ukraine sceptical

Ukraine's troops have for weeks been capturing villages en route to the city near the Black Sea and leave President Vladimir Putin with little to show from a campaign.

But Ukraine responded with scepticism to the Russian announcement.

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhaylo Podolyak said some Russian troops remained in the city.

"We see no signs that Russia is leaving Kherson without a fight," he said on Twitter.

Russia losing the Kherson region would return Ukraine important access to the Sea of Azov and leave President Vladimir Putin with little to show from a campaign.

The retreat will put pressure on Russian control of the rest of the Kherson region, which forms a land bridge from Russia to

Crimea, the peninsula which Moscow annexed in 2014.

Car crash

Kherson was one of four Ukrainian regions that Russia declared it had annexed in September, shortly after being forced to withdraw from swathes of territory in the northeastern Kharliv region.

The announcement of the retreat came just hours after officials said the Moscow-installed deputy head of the Kherson region, Kirill Stremousov, a key supporter of annexation, had died in a car crash.

Six killed in Nepal earthquake

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

At least six persons were killed in Nepal when a 6.6-magnitude earthquake struck the lower Himalayan region on Wednesday, leading to tremors rippling across parts of the country and north India. The National Earthquake Monitoring Centre said the quake was recorded at 2.12 a.m. The epicentre was in Doti district. Two moderate earthquakes preceded the stronger tremor.

U.K.'s Sunak says he 'regrets' appointing Williamson

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, under fire for appointing to his Cabinet Gavin Williamson, who is accused of "bullying", said he had regretted the decision.

Mr. Williamson, a Minister of State without portfolio, resigned on Tuesday night after angry texts he sent to former Conservative whip Wendy Morton, about not being invited to the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, became public over the weekend. Mr. Wil-

liamson faces a probe by the Conservative Party following a complaint from Ms. Morton.

"I obviously regret appointing someone who has had to resign in the circumstances," Mr. Sunak said at Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the British Parliament on Wednesday, when questioned on the subject by Leader of the Opposition (Labour) Keir Starmer. "But I think what the British people would like to know is that when situations like this arise, that they will be dealt with properly," Mr. Sunak said.

Mr. Williamson has an alleged history of bullying. He is accused of asking a civil servant to slit their own throat and jump out of a window when he was U.K. Defence Secretary between November 2017 and May 2019.

Mr. Sunak had promised a government run on "integrity, professionalism and accountability".

The Prime Minister has also been under pressure for his re-appointment of Suella Braverman to the post of Home Secretary. Ms. Braverman had resigned from that position

Braverman had lent her support to Mr. Sunak when the latter had made a second bid for No.10 Downing Street in October and Mr. Sunak had re-appointed Ms. Braverman to her old position.

"It's a pattern with this Prime Minister," Mr. Starmer said in Parliament on Wednesday. "Too weak to sack the security threat that sat around the Cabinet table [i.e., Ms. Braverman]. Too weak to take part in a leadership contest after he lost the first one. Too weak to stand up for working people," he said.

IN BRIEF



IOB raises interest rates on retail term deposits by 60 bps

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has raised interest rates on retail term deposits by up to 60 basis points (bps). With the revision in interest rates, domestic/NRO/NRE depositors would get an interest rate of up to 7.15% on a term deposit for tenors of 444 days, and three years and above, the public sector lender said. The revision would take effect from Thursday. Interest rates have been increased by 60 bps for term-deposit tenors of 270 days to one year and one to three years.

'Over 82% executives see rise in cybersecurity budgets in '23'

More than 82% of business executives in India foresee an increase in cybersecurity budgets in 2023, with 77% of them viewing cybercriminal activity as the biggest organisational threat, according to a PwC survey. According to the '2023 Global Digital Trust Insights-India edition', one in four companies (27%) globally has suffered a data breach that cost \$1-20 million or more in the past three years. The survey includes 3,522 respondents across 65 countries.

Centre approves Sovereign Green Bond framework

The government has excluded nuclear power and large hydropower projects exceeding 25 MW from the ambit of investments to be made through the issuance of sovereign green bonds, as per the framework approved by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday. The Budget had announced a plan to issue green bonds as part of the government's overall market borrowings this year, with the proceeds to be deployed in public sector projects 'which help in reducing the carbon intensity of the economy.'

'Rupee-settled trade suitable for export, obligation perks'

Commerce Ministry says changes introduced for granting export benefits and incentives, as well as Fulfilment of Export Obligation norms for importers, for export realisations made in rupees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has expanded the norms for incentives and export obligations under the Foreign Trade policy to cover foreign trade transactions settled in rupees, the Commerce Ministry said on Wednesday.

In July, the RBI and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade had carried out amendments in the Foreign Trade policy and trade settlement procedures to enable the use of the rupee for invoicing, payment and settlement of export, import dues.

The ministry said that

Fillip for ₹ trade

Transactions settled in Indian currency qualify for perks

- Ministry says policy tweaks aimed at facilitating international trade transactions in rupees
- EEPC chairman says move signals the 'internationalisation of the domestic currency'
- "These are early steps towards 100% convertibility" of the rupee, remarks EEPC's Garodia

changes have now been introduced for granting export benefits and incentives as well as for meeting Fulfilment of Export Obligation norms for importers, for export realisations made in Indian rupees.



"Given the rise in interest in internationalisation of Indian rupee, the policy amendments have been undertaken to facilitate... international trade transactions in Indian rupees," the ministry said.

Engineering Export Promotion Council of India chairman Arun Kumar Garodia said allowing rupee trade settlement under the various export promotion schemes should help boost exports and signals the 'internationalisation of the domestic currency'.

"These are early steps towards 100% convertibility" of the rupee, he added.

The new norms for export realisation in Indian rupees cover schemes including imports for exports, Advance Authorisation and Duty Free Import Authorisation, and Realisation of Export Proceeds under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme.



Facebook parent has been battling soaring costs and a weak advertising market. AP

Meta to cut more than 11,000 jobs in one of biggest U.S. layoffs this year

Reuters

Meta Platforms Inc. said on Wednesday it would let go of 13% of its workforce, or more than 11,000 employees, in one of the biggest tech lay-offs this year as the Facebook parent battles soaring costs and a weak advertising market.

The broad job cuts, the first in Meta's 18-year history, follow thousands of layoffs at other major tech companies including Elon Musk-owned Twitter and Microsoft Corp.

Pandemic impact
The pandemic boom that boosted tech companies and their valuations has turned into a bust this year in the face of decades-high inflation and rapidly rising interest rates.

Meta, whose shares have lost more than two-thirds of their value, said it also plans to cut discretionary spending and extend its hiring freeze through the first quarter.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,034	-0.25
US Dollar	81.47	0.55
Gold	51,747	1.07
Brent oil	93.26	-6.00

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	3997.20	+36.60
Adani Ports	890.80	+37.80
Apollo Hosp	4361.20	+2.60
Asian Paints	3086.50	-17.05
Axis Bank	873.70	0.75
Bajaj Auto	3739.55	-30.30
Bajaj FinServ	1752.20	-25.35
Bajaj Finance	7144.00	-46.05
Bharti Airtel	819.05	-3.65
BPCL	306.85	-2.90
Britannia Ind	4175.35	+36.10
Cipla	1129.40	-1.50
Coal India	255.80	6.25
Divis Lab.	3298.75	-115.80
Dr Reddys Lab	4534.90	+49.45
Eicher Motors	3732.95	-22.20
Grasim Ind	1745.50	-29.70
HCL Tech	1053.45	6.30
HDFC Bank	2503.50	-3.90
HDFC Life	1508.35	-0.45
HDFC Life	531.75	-4.25
Hero MotoCorp	2651.50	30.45
Hindalco	417.10	-20.40
Hind Unilever	2508.80	-24.00
ICICI Bank	910.50	-7.00
IndusInd Bank	1149.00	4.85
Infosys	1511.20	3.75
ITC	360.70	7.20
JSW Steel	706.55	-3.45
Kotak Bank	1893.40	-10.80
L&T	2003.50	-14.15
M&M	1337.55	-13.75
Maruti Suzuki	9253.50	-79.80
NestleIndia	20319.90	-160.35
NTPC	173.40	-2.45
ONGC	138.65	0.10
PowerGrid Corp	218.75	-9.25
Reliance Ind	2604.00	-2.60
SBI Life	1263.80	-14.85
State Bank	615.55	1.40
Sun Pharma	1013.55	-14.80
Tata Consumer Product	770.15	-2.00
Tata Motors	433.15	-1.85
Tata Steel	106.10	-0.60
TCS	3216.05	-17.65
Tech Mahindra	1028.70	-24.80
Titan	2718.10	-23.45
UltraTech Cement	6903.50	-70.00
UPL	753.60	5.15
Wipro	390.95	-0.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 09

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.24	81.56
Euro	81.68	82.00
British Pound	93.07	93.44
Japanese Yen (100)	55.75	55.97
Chinese Yuan	11.20	11.25
Swiss Franc	82.67	82.99
Singapore Dollar	58.04	58.28
Canadian Dollar	60.45	60.69
Malaysian Ringgit	17.31	17.40
Australian Dollar	52.53	52.74

Source: Indian Bank

Govt. said to mull trimming spend for first time in 3 years

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Spending by the Indian government this fiscal year could be less than budgeted for the first time in three years, two sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters, amid a push to meet a fiscal deficit target of 6.4% of GDP.

Total expenditure for FY23 could come in ₹700 billion-₹800 billion below the budgeted ₹394.5 trillion, the sources said.

Tata Motors Q2 loss narrows to ₹898 cr. on higher volumes

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Motors Ltd. said consolidated net loss for the July-September quarter narrowed to ₹898.35 crore due to volume and margin expansion. The firm had logged a ₹4,415.54-crore loss in the year-ago period.

Total revenue from operations rose 29.7% to ₹79,611 crore. Tata Motors also announced its intent to delist its American Depository Receipts from the New York Stock Exchange as the rationale for listing in 2004 had diminished with "increase in liquidity and foreign shareholder participation in the stock markets in India".

Shares from the New York Stock Exchange as the rationale for listing in 2004 had diminished with "increase in liquidity and foreign shareholder participation in the stock markets in India".

total income rose by 19% to ₹1,793 crore. While the long-term prospects look promising, the short-term outlook is unclear due to geopolitical uncertainties, the firm said.

The Ramco Cements Q2 net tumbles 98% to ₹11 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Ramco Cements Ltd. (RCL) reported standalone net profit for the second quarter plummeted 98% to ₹11 crore on account of an increase in cost of fuel and weak cement prices.

Gerard Pique was sent off at half-time in his final match before retirement, seemingly for remonstrating with the referee, but Barcelona fought back to beat Osasuna 2-1 and move five points clear at the top of LaLiga on Tuesday.

Sport

Croatia retains veteran core in its football World Cup-bound squad



The stalwarts: Croatia will bank on Modric and Perisic to do one better than the runner-up finish in Russia 2018. AFP

was "devastated" at failing to overcome a knee injury.

The 22-year-old was all set to be included in England's squad for Qatar un-

till suffering the injury playing for Chelsea against AC Milan in the Champions League on October 11.

The squads: CROATIA:

Goalkeepers: Dominik Livakovic, Ivica Ilicic, Ivo Grbic. **Defenders:** Domagoj Vida, Dejan Lovren, Borna Barusic, Josip Juranovic, Josko Gvardiol, Borna Sosa, Josip Stanisic, Martin Erlic, Josip Sutalo. **Midfielders:** Luka Modric, Mateo Kovacic, Marcelo Brozovic, Mario Pasalic, Nikola Vasic, Lovro Majer, Kristijan Jakic, Luka Modric, Ante Budimir, Marko Livaja. **Forwards:** Ivan Perisic, Andrej Kramaric, Bruno Petkovic, Mislav Orsic, Ante Budimir, Marko Livaja.

SWITZERLAND: Goalkeepers:

Gregor Kobel, Philipp Kohn, Jonas Omlin, Yann Sommer.

Defenders: Manuel Akanji, Eray Comert, Nic Elvedi, Edimilson Fernandes, Ricardo Rodriguez, Fabian Schar, Silvan Widmer.

Midfielders: Michel Aebischer,

Christian Fassnacht, Fabian Frei,

Freder Leuter, Ardon Jashari,

Fabian Rieder, Xherdan Shaqiri,

Djibril Sow, Renato Steffen, Granit Xhaka, Denisa Zakaria.

Forwards: Breel Embolo, Noah Okafor, Haris Seferovic, Ruben Vargas.

Barcelona pulls further clear at the top of LaLiga

Agence France-Presse
PAMPLONA

Gerard Pique was sent off at half-time in his final match before retirement, seemingly for remonstrating with the referee, but Barcelona fought back to beat Osasuna 2-1 and move five points clear at the top of LaLiga on Tuesday.

The 35-year-old Pique, who waved goodbye to the Camp Nou last weekend, was incensed by referee Jesus Gil Manzano's decision to show Barca striker Robert Lewandowski a second yellow card just after the half-hour mark.

Napoli moved clear at the top of Serie A by beating Empoli 2-0 to claim its 10th straight league win.

Former Arsenal winger Serge Gnabry scored a hat-trick as Bayern Munich moved four points clear at the top of the Bundesliga with a dominant 6-1 win against Werder Bremen.

BIG SPECTACLE

Hayden hopes for an India-Pakistan final



Pakistan team mentor Matthew Hayden wants to play the World Cup final against India purely for the sake of "big spectacle." "I would like to play India in the final purely because of the big spectacle," he said when asked which opponent he will choose for the final.

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

Fifth straight win helps HFC consolidate lead at the top



Mohd. Yasin's 48th minute goal helped Hyderabad FC (HFC) beat host Jamshedpur FC 1-0 for its fifth straight win and consolidate its top spot in the Indian Super League on Wednesday. With 13 points, HFC is seven points clear of FC Goa.

TT WORLD RANKINGS

Sathiyan-Manika duo reaches a career-high fifth spot



The Indian mixed doubles pair of Manika Batra and G. Sathiyan moved up a place to reach a career-high fifth in the International Table Tennis Federation rankings on Tuesday. The duo had recently made the final of the WTT Contender in Slovenia.

BILLIE JEAN CUP

Putintseva, Rybakina power Kazakhstan past Britain



Kazakhstan defeated Great Britain 2-1 in the Billie Jean King Cup on Tuesday. Yulia Putintseva recovered to beat Katie Boulter 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 while Elena Rybakina dispatched Harriet Dart 6-1, 6-4. Rybakina and Anna Danilina lost 7-5, 6-3 to Olivia Nicholls and Alicia Barnett.

PRO KABADDI LEAGUE

Paltan pip Thalaivas in thriller, stay ahead



Puneri Paltan prevailed over Tamil Thalaivas 35-34 in a nail-biting finish in the Pro Kabaddi League in Pune on Wednesday. Paltan's Fazel Atrachali became the first player to score 400 tackle points in the league. Earlier, Bengaluru Bulls overcame Haryana Steelers 36-33.

Rizwan, Babar turn it on as spirited Pakistan storms into summit clash

The openers score half-centuries to tear apart a strong Black Caps' bowling attack; skipper Williamson terms the loss a 'tough pill to swallow'

T20 WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Mohammad Rizwan and Babar Azam slammed half-centuries as Pakistan powered past New Zealand by seven wickets and into the Twenty20 World Cup final on Wednesday.

Pakistan set the tone at the SCG with some razor-sharp fielding and disciplined bowling that restricted New Zealand to 152 for four.

In front of a 36,443 strong crowd, mostly Pakistanis, Rizwan (57) and Babar (53) tore apart the Black Caps' strong bowling attack in a 105-run opening stand that sealed the deal.

Teams batting first had won five out of six games in this tournament and when Kane Williamson won the toss, he had no hesitation

in asking Pakistan to bowl.

In an eventful opening over, Finn Allen hit Shaheen Afridi for four off the first delivery and was given out lbw off the next. The decision was overturned on review as there was an inside edge, but Afridi trapped Allen in front off the third delivery.

Opener Devon Conway was run out for 21 off a direct hit by Shadab Khan from mid-off and the Kiwis suffered a big blow when Glenn Phillips was caught

and bowled by Mohammad Nawaz for six.

Daryl Mitchell and Williamson began taking more risks after reaching 59 for three at the 10-over mark. The first six of the innings came in the 13th over before Williamson was undone by an Afridi yorker when on 46. Mitchell remained unbeaten on 53 as 29 came off the final three overs. But 152 wasn't enough once Rizwan and Babar took over.

"It's a tough pill to swal-

low," he said. "I think if we want to be honest, we wanted to be more disciplined with our areas. Like I said, Pakistan deserved to win."

Babar, desperate for runs after scoring just 39 in five matches, was dropped first ball by wicketkeeper Conway off Trent Boult. But he found his rhythm as Pakistan raced to 55 for no loss in the PowerPlay.

"Thanks to the crowd," said Babar. "Feels like we are playing at home."



Steering the ship: Rizwan combined with Babar to script a smooth chase for Pakistan. GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD**NEW ZEALAND**

Finn Allen lbw b Afridi 4 (3b, 1x4), Devon Conway run out 21 (20b, 3x4), Kane Williamson b Afridi 46 (42b, 1x4, 1x6), Glenn Phillips c & b Nawaz 6 (8b, 1x4), Daryl Mitchell (not out) 53 (35b, 3x4, 1x6), James Neesham (not out) 16 (12b, 1x4); Extras (b-2, lb-4): 6; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 152.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Allen, 0.3 ov), 2-38 (Conway,

PAKISTAN BOWLING

Afridi 4-0-24-2, Naseem 4-0-30-0, Rauf 4-0-32-0, Wasim 2-0-15-0, Shadab 4-0-33-0, Nawaz 2-0-12-1.

PAKISTAN

Mohammad Rizwan c Phillips b Boult 5 (43b, 5x4), Babar Azam c Mitchell b Boult 53 (42b, 7x4), Mohammad Haris c Allen b Santner 30 (26b, 2x4, 1x6), Shan Masood (not out) 3 (4b), Iftikhar

Ahmed (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (b-4, lb-3, w-3); 10; Total (for three wkts. in 19.1 overs): 153.**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-105 (Babar, 12.4), 2-132 (Rizwan, 16.6), 3-151 (Haris, 18.6).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Boult 4-0-33-2, Southee 3.1-0-24-0, Ferguson 4-0-37-0, Santner 4-0-26-1, Hodges 4-0-26-0.

Toss: NZ; MoM: Rizwan.

Pakistan won by seven wickets with five balls to spare.

India's batting might against England's pace battery

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

ADELAIDE

Bright sunshine dapping on grass, a cathedral lending a solemn air, ducks preferring the slow-life on River Torrens that skirts around the Adelaide Oval and out in the middle, the roller was pressing the turf. This was the calm before the storm as the venue geared up for Thursday's ICC Twenty20 World Cup semifinal.

Riveting backstory

India and England throw up historical threads harking back to the Empire-colony duopoly, spice-trade, tea and the plunder of the Kohinoor. And the cricketing backstory is equally riveting.

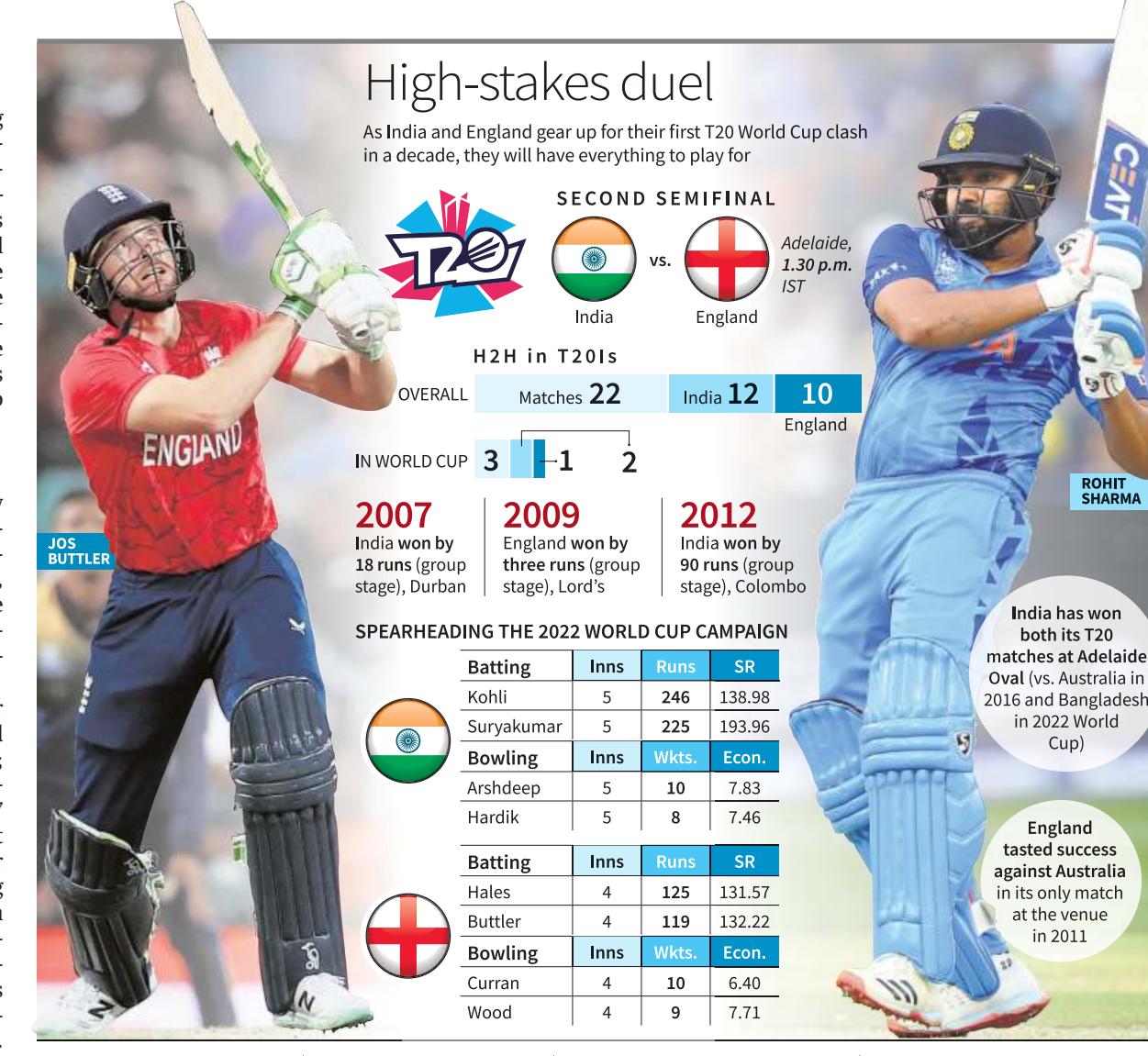
Be it the triumph over the host in the 1983 World Cup semifinal in England; or Graham Gooch sweeping India away in the 1987 World Cup semifinal at Mumbai, Bombay then; or Yuvraj Singh launching Stuart Broad for six sixes in an over during the inaugural 2007 ICC World Twenty20 in South Africa, this is a rivalry that had its moments in white-ball cricket.

Extreme pressure

Another chapter will be added when Rohit Sharma and Jos Buttler step out for the toss.

A semifinal will usher in extreme pressure as knockouts always unleash a thousand butterflies in queasy stomachs.

India has the momentum, riding on batting supremacy and largely effective bowlers while England



bats deep and has the pacers to test the best.

At Wednesday's pre-match nets, while former England captain, doughty opener and acclaimed sports writer Michael Atherton watched, Virat Kohli flexed his bat and unleashed a few shots.

In another corner reserve-player Shardul Thakur employed the slogan sweep against R. Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal.

The management was factoring in the venue's short-square boundaries and letting the spinners get a feel of what may be in

store. A few fans walked in, a conch was blown and the India-vibe was in vogue.

Whether leg-spinner Chahal will get a game is yet to be known while there is also the option of stretching the batting at the expense of Axar Patel.

It is also an indication of

how far Suryakumar Yadav has progressed that no press-conference gets a sense of closure until one of the correspondents raises a question about his fearless batting.

Meanwhile, England has its share of selection headaches as Dawid Malan

looks doubtful following an injury and Mark Wood has a niggle. The batting hasn't fired in unison and even Ben Stokes found his runs only in the last game involving Sri Lanka.

Ploughing on

However, it is creditable that England overcame the shock-loss to Ireland and ploughed on to reach the last-four stage.

Left-arm seamer and all-rounder Sam Curran and Buttler, if he gets a start like Bangladesh's Litton Das did, can affect the best-laid plans of the Men in Blue.

The weather could play a role too as briefly some clouds rolled in while Rohit's men did their fielding drills.

But overall there is a feel of a summer that demands wide-brimmed hats and out on the field, the rivals will try to grab their own share of the sun and sparkle their way into Sunday's climax at Melbourne.

The teams (from).

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), K.L. Rahul (Vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Deepak Hooda, R. Ashwin, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Harshal Patel and Arshdeep Singh.

England: Jos Buttler (Capt.), Alex Hales, Harry Brook, Phil Salt, Ben Stokes, Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, Adil Rashid, Liam Livingstone, Sam Curran, Tymal Mills, Mark Wood, David Willey, Chris Jordan and Dawid Malan.

Umpires: Kumar Dharmasena and Paul Reiffel.

TV umpire: Chris Gaffaney; **Match referee:** David Boon.

Match starts at 1.30 p.m. IST.

Surya hates playing on small grounds as he can't see the gaps: Rohit

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**

ADELAIDE

Suryakumar Yadav is the flavour of the cricketing season and inevitably a question about him was raised to Rohit Sharma. The Indian skipper was speaking to the media here on Wednesday, a prelude to Thursday's ICC Twenty20 World Cup semifinal against England.

Rohit had a fine input on Suryakumar's approach: "He likes to bat in a similar fashion whether we are 10 for two or 100 for two. He

hates playing on small grounds because he can't see the gaps. I believe that he likes to see big gaps (in big grounds), and that's where his strength is."

While he refused to be drawn into selection debates around Rishabh Pant, Dinesh Karthik and Axar Patel, the Indian captain reiterated the semifinal as another opportunity for India to push its trophy-pursuit in ICC events. "It's been a long process and it's important not to get ahead of ourselves, we have to play good cricket to win,"

Rohit said while also terming England as a 'dangerous' team.

As for the Adelaide Oval, Rohit said: "It is one ground where you have to go back and understand what sort of tactics you want. The last game we played in Melbourne, but here it is completely different and the side boundaries are a little shorter."

Earlier, Jos Buttler, while conceding that India is a strong outfit, also insisted on the confidence within his ranks. "Historically if you look at the stats, it shows about 165 being the par score here, but I am not interested in a par score, I am interested in a winning score," the England skipper said.

When queried about his vulnerabilities against Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Buttler countered: "There are always certain bowlers that you potentially find harder than others. I certainly don't fear anyone." And as for Suryakumar, the skipper praised the batter and then added: "As with any batsman, it takes one chance to create a wicket."

IN BRIEF



Savita to lead India in FIH Nations Cup

India named a 20-member team on Wednesday for the Women's FIH Nations Cup hockey tournament in Valencia from December 11 to 17 with midfielder Navjot Kaur making a return. Goalkeeper Savita Punia will continue to lead while Deep Grace Ekka will be her deputy.

The team: **Goalkeepers:** Savita (capt.), Bichu Devi Kharibam; **Defenders:** Deep Grace Ekka (vice-capt.), Gurjot Kaur, Nikki Pradhan, Udit, Ishika Chaudhary. **Midfielders:** Nisha, Salima Tete, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Monika, Neha, Sonika, Jyoti, Navjot Kaur. **Forwards:** Vandana Katariya, Lalremsimai, Navneet Kaur, Sangita Kumari, Beauty Dunglung.

Naeem Ansari beats Ziyauddin Ansari

Naeem Ansari beat Ziyauddin Ansari 19-25, 25-11, 25-16 in a men's league match of the 50th National carrom championship.

Important results (league): Men: Zaid Ahmed bt Atish Singh 25-0, 25-1; R.D. Dinesh Babu bt Mitesh Solanki 20-19, 7-25, 25-0; Balganga Putra bt Dharini Kumar 25-4, 18-19, 25-6; V. Naresh bt Samad Akhtar 25-13, 25-23; Mohd. Ghulshan bt Lakhan Soni 16-20, 25-5, 25-0; Shival Yadav bt A. Raja 25-14, 23-11; Abhishek Chavan bt Ajit Thanekar 25-3, 25-10.

Women: Janani Sri bt Disha Mulgaonkar 25-6, 25-3; D. Swarnalatha bt Sushmita Singh 25-0, 25-0.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 8.30 a.m.

Tamil Nadu vs Bangladesh XI: 3rd ODI, FanCode, 9 a.m.

Men's T20 World Cup: (2nd semifinal): Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.

ISL: Star Sports 3 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 11.30 p.m. & 2 a.m. (Friday)

Yubrani celebrates birthday with victory

Sai Samhitha regained a semblance of her strong game to beat Riya Uboveja in straight sets in group-D

TENNIS

Kamesh Srinivasan

NEW DELHI

Yubrani Banerjee wriggled out of the clutches of Kashish Bhatia for a 7-6(3), 6-2 victory in a group-C match of the UTR Pro \$25,000 women's tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Wednesday.

It was Kashish who was serving for the first set at 5-4 and 6-5, but Yubrani fought back to even the scores and pulled through in the tie-break with her energetic game.

It was her birthday, and Yubrani had that extra grit and keenness to have a winning performance to make it more memorable.

It was another chance missed for Kashish who had put up a fine performance the previous day against Farhat Aleen Qamar, before losing in three sets. Aleen had to quit the tournament owing to a painful forearm injury and her place was taken by Riya Sachdeva.

Riya was training at the venue in the morning when the call came to step on court for a match.

To her credit, Riya took up an attacking style of play against the hard hitting Jagmeet Kaur Grewal, who dropped four games on way to victory.

Jennifer Luikhamb was in a spot of bother against Be-



Gritty show: Yubrani came up with the goods when it mattered to get the better of Kashish. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

la Tamhankar but turned the tide in her favour at the crunch for a 7-6(3), 6-2 victory. In the match between two replacements in the group, Sachi Sharma beat Shruti Gupta.

National championship finalist Sai Samhitha regained a semblance of her strong game to beat Riya Uboveja in group-D, while Vanshika Chaudhary prevailed over Kavya Kherwar in an even contest.

The results:

Group-A: Jennifer Luikhamb bt Bela Tamhankar 7-6(3), 6-2; Sachi Sharma bt Shruti Gupta 6-3, 6-0.

Group-B: Sharmada Balu bt Himanshika Singh 6-0, 6-0; Avisha Gupta bt Ruma Gaikaiwari 6-1 (retired).

Group-C: Jagmeet Kaur Grewal bt Riya Sachdeva 6-1, 6-3; Yubrani Banerjee bt Kashish Bhatia 7-6(3), 6-2.

Group-D: Sai Samhitha bt Riya Uboveja 7-5, 6-0; Vanshika Chaudhary bt Kavya Kherwar 6-4, 7-5.

Karman beats Bayerlova to advance to the second round

Sports Bureau

Third seed Karman Kaur Thandi beat Michaela Bayerlova of the Czech Republic 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the \$60,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Calgary, Canada.

Other results: €67,960 Challenger, Bratislava,

Slovakia: First round: Viktor Durasovic (Nor) & patrik Niklas-Salminen (Fin) bt Purav Raja & Divij Sharan 6-3, 1-6, [10-8].

\$53,120 Challenger, Knoxville, USA: Prajesh Gunnswaran bt Blaise Bicknell (Jam) 6-1, 6-2.

\$53,120 Challenger, Matsuyama, Japan: Shintaro Mochizuki & Rio Noguchi (Jpn) bt Arjun Kadhe & Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-0, 6-3.

\$25,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Selina Dal (Ger) bt Saumya Vig 6-3, 6-1.

Yokohama, Japan: Aoi Ito (Jpn) bt Rutuja Bhosale 6-2, 4-6, 6-0.

\$25,000 ITF women, Sharjah El Sheikh, Egypt: Jia-Jing Lu (Chn) bt Vaidehi Chaudhari 6-1, 6-7(6), 7-6(4).

Doubles: Li Zongyu (Chn) & Lanlana Tararudee (Tha) bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty & Vaidehi Chaudhari 6-2, 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Selina Dal (Ger) bt Saumya Vig 6-3, 6-1.

New Delhi to host women's boxing Worlds

Sports Bureau

NEW DELHI

Gold medallists at the Women's World Boxing Championship to be staged in the capital next year will be awarded \$100,000.

The president of the International Boxing Association (IBA) Umar Kremlev and the president of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) Ajay Singh, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Wednesday to seal the deal.

Reigning World champion Nikhat Zareen, who was present on the occasion, said she was "super excited" about the chance to defend her title at home.

"Hosting an event of this stature is prestigious and would inspire millions of young girls. The countdown has already begun and I am looking forward to defending my title here in Delhi," said Nikhat.

Addressing the media, the IBA president said that



Packing a punch: IBA president Umar Kremlev flanked by BFI president Ajay Singh and Nikhat Zareen. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

he was happy with the maiden visit to India.

"India is very passionate about boxing. Conducting the World Championship here will be the perfect opportunity to celebrate the innumerable victories as well as inspire many more women to take up the sport. BFI has worked efficiently to develop boxing in the region. I am sure they will stage an event to remember", said Kremlev.

The World Champion-

ship will have a total prize purse of \$2.4 million.

"We are delighted with the chance to host the World Championship. A tournament of this stature helps empower women in India, giving them the belief to take up sports", said Ajay Singh. Indian women have clinched 39 medals in the Worlds, including 10 gold, with Mary Kom herself claiming six gold, a silver and a bronze in her glittering career.

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