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AYODHYA RAPE CASE
BJP leaders meet kin of 12-year-old victim
NEWS » PAGE 10

MP'S DEMAND
'Ladakh should be governed by Ladakhis'
NEWS » PAGE 11




FATALITIES RISE
44 killed in strikes on Gaza schools, hospital
WORLD » PAGE 14

EPIDEMIC THREAT
Stalked by polio, Gaza faces another siege
Medical conditions in Gaza must improve
EDITORIAL » PAGE 6



GOLDEN SLAM
Djokovic wins elusive Olympic singles crown
SPORT » PAGE 16

Kerala pushes for 'national disaster' tag for landslide

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has requested the Centre to declare the landslides that devastated at least three villages in Wayanad a national disaster. Addressing mediapersons in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the destruction had few parallels in recent times in the country.

Union Minister of State for Tourism Suresh Gopi, who toured the disaster zone on Sunday, said the Centre had to adhere to several modalities and was weighing the legality of the demand.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 5

Keeper of India's fortunes



Brilliant show: P.R. Sreejesh thwarts an effort by Britain's Phil Roper in the shoot-out to give 10-man India the advantage, and with Raj Kumar Pal scoring off the next attempt, Harmanpreet's team entered the semifinals at the Paris Games on Sunday. AP (FULL REPORT: PAGE 15)



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97 killed, hundreds injured as protests sweep Bangladesh

Clashes erupt between protesters calling for PM's resignation and ruling party supporters; Internet services cut off, nationwide curfew imposed

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

At least 97 people, 14 of them policemen, were killed and hundreds injured across Bangladesh on Sunday as clashes erupted between protesters demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation and the ruling party supporters. Authorities shut down mobile Internet and enforced a nationwide curfew for an indefinite period.

The clashes broke out in the morning when protesters attending a non-cooperation programme under the banner of the Students Against Discrimination with the one-point de-



Flare-up: Protesters set a vehicle on fire during a rally against Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka on Sunday. AP

mand of the government's resignation over a job quota system faced opposition from the supporters of the Awami League, Chhatra League, and Jubo League activists.

According to the police headquarters, more than 300 policemen were in-

jured across the country. Officials said that protesters attacked police stations and boxes, ruling party offices and residences of their leaders and burnt several vehicles.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

IN BRIEF



New criminal laws biggest reform of century, says Shah

CHANDIGARH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday termed the three new criminal laws the biggest reform of the century. He said the objective was to give people justice. » Page 10

Govt. jobs only for those born in Assam: Himanta

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said a new domicile policy will be implemented to make only those born in the State eligible for government jobs. He also said the CM's approval will be mandatory for the transfer of land between Hindus and Muslims. » Page 4

EDUCATION PLUS
» PAGE 17

IRCTC plugs passenger data vulnerability on insurance site

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has addressed a critical vulnerability on its insurance portal that previously allowed unauthorised access to passengers' travel details and enabled changes to nominee information in the insurance policy.

Cybersecurity researcher Nilabh Rajpoot discovered the bug after booking tickets on the IRCTC website and opting for travel insurance. He received a link through SMS that,

The portal previously allowed unauthorised access to passengers' travel details

upon entering the PNR and registered mobile number, opened the travel insurance policy provided by United India Insurance Co Ltd. The link included an option to update nominee details.

When Mr. Rajpoot entered random PNRs and fictitious mobile numbers, he found that the portal revealed passengers' travel details, such as journey

date, train number, berth/seat, email, mobile phone, and insurance policy information. It also allowed modification of nominee details without requiring an OTP or security question.

"Although the link issued an alert that the mobile number did not exist, it still provided the passenger data. I immediately reported the issue on July 23 to the Computer Emergency Response Team-India (CERT-In)," Mr. Rajpoot told *The Hindu*.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

NDA allies divided over SC ruling on sub-quotas

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Two key allies in the ruling NDA coalition – the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and Telugu Desam Party – have taken opposing positions on the Supreme Court judgment in favour of sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes, leaving the BJP in a tight spot.

The BJP has yet to come up with a clear response to the judgment.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10



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War over drains gets murkier as Saxena, govt. continue to spar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena on Sunday inspected three arterial drains in the Nizamuddin area and termed their condition "appalling and shameful", which he said is contrary to the claims by agencies responsible for their desilting.

The Barapullah, Kushak and Sunehri drains inspected by the L-G come under the Irrigation and Flood Control Department and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

Reacting to it, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) blamed Chief Secretary Naresh Sharma for the situation and sought action against him.

Taking to X, Mr. Saxena said the situation requires "urgent corrective measures to ensure smooth flow of water to mitigate flooding".

AAP said the Delhi High



The Barapullah, Kushak and Sunehri drains were inspected by the L-G on Sunday. ANI

Court had appointed the Chief Secretary as the chairperson of the integrated drain management cell. "The High Court assigned the responsibility of verifying the claims of desilting through a third-party audit to the Chief Secretary. However, he ignored these directions," a statement said. The party alleged that as the monsoon season is almost over, the L-G has come forward just to pay a "lip service" and engage in "dirty politics".

AAP flays L-G for medical staff crunch; BJP hits out at govt.

Health Minister says medical staff being deliberately kept thin under a conspiracy, Saxena did not act despite multiple letters flagging the issue; 'Delhi govt. searching for alibi as system is crumbling'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Sunday accused Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena of ignoring the acute shortage of medical staff in Delhi government-run hospitals despite multiple letters flagging the issue in the past year.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Bharadwaj said the medical staff is being kept thin "deliberately under a conspiracy".

The accusation by the Minister comes amid reports pointing out the shortage of medical staff at Asha Kiran shelter home following the death of 14 inmates in July. The L-G's office and the Delhi government have traded barbs over the issue.

There was no official response from the L-G office. However, Raj Niwas sources



Saurabh Bharadwaj



V.K. Saxena

said 10 years of "misgovernance, masqueraded by advertisements and propaganda, has begun to implode". "Now that the system is crumbling, Saurabh Bharadwaj is frantically searching for alibis. The Delhi High Court has taken suo motu cognisance of the pathetic state of affairs in Delhi government hospitals and has summoned Bharadwaj," a source said.

The Minister said after assuming the charge of the Health Department in

March last year, he wrote to the L-G over the issue for the first time on April 19, 2023, telling him that there was a shortage of 292 general medical duty officers and 234 specialists.

"No action was taken by the L-G. Instead, doctors who were holding high positions in Delhi government hospitals through the Central Health Services (CHS) were called back by the Centre," he said.

Mr. Bharadwaj said he wrote another letter to the

L-G on June 6, 2023, informing him that it would take very long time to recruit doctors through the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and suggested that for the time being, doctors be hired on contractual basis. The Minister said he again wrote to Mr. Saxena on July 26 this year and requested that doctors be hired on contractual basis as soon as possible.

'Functioning arbitrarily'
The BJP accused Mr. Bharadwaj of functioning in a "arbitrary manner" by seeking recruitment in hospitals on contractual basis. Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said, "According to constitutional provisions, government jobs should be filled through the UPSC, but Bharadwaj wants to employ contractual workers," the BJP leader said.

Basement deaths: little faith in police, say UPSC aspirants

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

Over a week after three Civil Services aspirants drowned in an inundated basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar, students protesting over the incident said they are still waiting for a fitting response from the authorities over the issues raised by them.

While the protesting students are demanding a total prohibition on the use of basements as libraries or classrooms, they also want a cap on the fee charged by coaching institutes and rent paid by them for paying-guest facilities.

Their other demands include a complete overhaul of the city's drainage system, impartial probe into the drowning incident, and a fair compensation to the victims' families.

A 26-year-old Civil Services aspirant from Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr said it is a sheer luck that she wasn't in the institute's basement at the time of the incident as she has been going there to prepare for the competitive exam for the past two years.

Her 28-year-old friend, who cleared his prelim-

Students say police did not act in time despite having full knowledge about basement libraries

ary exam this year in his third attempt and is set to take the Mains exam just over a month from now, said students are being charged a hefty amount by coaching institutes while they have been forced to live in crammed rooms even after paying rent anywhere between ₹7,000 and ₹25,000 per month.

"I have a little over a month to prepare for my exam. Despite that, I have been coming to the protest site every day as we no longer want to live in this hell," he said.

'Welcome CBI probe'

However, the students said they are partly relieved after the Delhi High Court handed over the probe into the drowning incident to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). "We had very little faith in the Delhi police because they had full knowledge about the functioning of the basement libraries but did nothing to stop the practice," said a student from Bihar's Patna.

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Monday, 5th August, 2024

Chief Guest

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Minister, Education and
Public Works Department, Delhi

Guest of Honour

Ram Niwas Goel,
Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly
MLA, Shahdara Constituency

Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi

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RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 78,55,460/- (Rupees Seventy Eight Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty only)** as on 09-06-2024 together with further interest to be charged from 10-06-2024 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors No.1) M/s. K.R.Agencies, D-16/295, Sector 7, Rohini, Delhi - 110085. Also at, M/s.K.R. Agencies, Shop No.52 and 61, Ground Floor, Sarja Village Naharpur, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi - 110085. No.2) Mr. Rajnish Bansal, S/o. Ram Babu, Bansal, D-16/295, Sector 7, Rohini, Delhi - 110085. No.3) Mrs. Santosh Bansal, W/o. Rajnish Bansal, D-16/295, Sector 7 Rohini, Delhi - 110085. No.4) Mr. Ankit Bansal, S/o. Rajnish Bansal, D-16/295, Sector 7, Rohini, Delhi - 110085.

Note : 1) That our 244-New Delhi-Rohini Branch has also extended Financial Assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR : 50181208009733) dated 04-07-2022 requested by No.1 of you represented by No. 2 of you as Partner for which No.2 of you stood as Co-obligant and No. 2 of you stood as Guarantor for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 26,00,000/-** at a ROI of **15.75%**. The same has been also classified as **NPA** on 28-10-2022 and the outstanding balance as on 09-06-2024 is **Rs. 36,22,665/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from 10-06-2024 till the date of realization.

2) That our 244-New Delhi-Rohini Branch has also extended Financial Assistance (OTHER EDUCATION LOANS/50112010002235) dated 03-11-2016 requested by No.4 of you for which Nos.2 & 3 of you stood as Co-obligants for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 23,50,000/-** at a ROI of **15.50%** and the outstanding balance as on 09-06-2024 is **Rs. 37,15,013/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from 10-06-2024 till the date of realization.

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Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mrs. Santosh Bansal, W/o. Rajnish Bansal)

1) All that piece of the Residential Flat, Entire Second Floor (without Roof right) of Property Bearing No.299, Block D, Pocket 16, Sector 7, Rohini with the proportionate rights of the land measuring 25.90 sq.mtrs in the name of Santosh Bansal which is bounded as under:- North : Property No.301, South : Property No.302, East : Open Area, West : Property No.300.

2) All that piece of the Residential Flat, Entire Second Floor (without Roof Right) of Property Bearing No.300, Block D, Pocket 16, Sector 7, Rohini with the Proportionate rights of the land measuring 25.90 sq.mtrs in the name of Santosh Bansal which is bounded as under:- North : Road, South : Property No.302, East : Open Area, West : Property No.301.

Schedule - C : (Property Owned by Mr. Rajnish Bansal, S/o. Ram Babu)

3) All that piece of the Residential Flat, Entire Second Floor (without Roof right) of Property Bearing No.301, Block D, Pocket 16, Sector 7, Rohini with the Proportionate rights of the land measuring 25.90 sq.mtrs. in the name of Rajnish Bansal which is bounded as under:- North : Road, South : Open Area, East : Property Nos.299 & 300, West : Open Area.

Reserve Price : Rs.75,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Five Lakh only) (For Schedule B & C)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS	
Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
28-08-2024	City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-Rohini Branch, C-9/115, Sector 8, Rohini, New Delhi, Delhi - 110085. Telephone No.011-27941336, Cell No.935001173.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-Rohini Branch, C-9/115, Sector 8, Rohini, New Delhi, Delhi - 110085.** (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before **12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.011-27941336, Cell No. 935001173.** (5) The properties are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever- there is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction if the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges / fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 03-08-2024 Authorised Officer

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All crops to be bought at MSP in Haryana, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini on Sunday sounded the poll bugle in the State ahead of the upcoming Assembly election with the announcement that all crops would be procured at the minimum support price (MSP). He also announced a waiver of ₹133 crore on outstanding canal water irrigation charges.

While the State usually procures 14 crops at MSP, this would now extend to all crops in Haryana, Mr. Saini said while addressing a rally at Thanesar in Kurukshetra.

"We have decided to waive the outstanding *abiana* (canal water for ir-



Nayab Singh Saini PTI

rigation) charge of ₹133 crore. It will benefit farmers to the tune of ₹54 crore per annum," he added.

The pending amount of ₹137 crore for compensation for crop damage caused by disasters before 2023 in the districts of Rohtak, Nuh, Fatehabad, and Sirsa would also be disbursed to farmers con-

cerned by Deputy Commissioners within a week, the Chief Minister said.

The decisions, which come ahead of the Assembly election due in October, were seen as an attempt to woo farmers even as the BJP found itself at the receiving end of their ire since their campaign for the recently concluded Lok Sabha poll.

Farmer groups had blamed the BJP for adopting an anti-farmer stance on their demands, which included a legal guarantee for MSP on all crops.

Mr. Saini also hit out at the Congress, accusing it of "fostering regionalism" in development matters and creating an atmosphere of fear and corruption during its previous regime.

SC ruling today on Delhi L-G's power to appoint aldermen

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled on Monday to pronounce its judgment on the Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi's power to nominate aldermen to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) without the aid and advice of the Delhi Cabinet.

The court in May 2023, while reserving the petition filed by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), had orally commented that such a power would arm the L-G with muscle to destabilise a democratically elected local body.

AAP had challenged notifications allowing the L-G

the authority to use his own discretion to appoint 10 aldermen to the MCD. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for AAP, had submitted that it was a practice to appoint aldermen only on the basis of the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Sanjay Jain, who had appeared for the L-G, had countered that there was a clear difference in the powers of the L-G under Article 239AA of the Constitution and his role as an Administrator of the national capital.

The judgment would be pronounced by a Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Sanjay Kumar.

Deshmukh responds to bribery charge

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) leader Anil Deshmukh on Sunday responded to

dismissed police officer Sachin Waze's allegations of bribery against him, saying Mr. Waze was "following the instructions" issued by Maharashtra Deputy CM

Devendra Fadnis. An inquiry conducted into similar allegations three years ago produced no evidence of corruption, he said.

Timings

DELHI

MONDAY, AUG. 05

RISE 05:46 SET 19:09
RISE 06:17 SET 19:58

TUESDAY, AUG. 06

RISE 05:46 SET 19:09
RISE 07:13 SET 20:27

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 07

RISE 05:47 SET 19:08
RISE 08:07 SET 20:54

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	36	27
Safdarjang	36	27
Palam	35	26

Delhi Palam Today
34°C Day will be warm with cloudy sky. Spell of light to moderate rain and thunder-shower with strong winds will occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be warm with cloudy sky. Night also will be comfortable. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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Army personnel deployed in Pune amid heavy rain

Press Trust of India
PUNE/MUMBAI

Army personnel were deployed at an inundated residential area in Pune amid heavy downpour and water discharge from Khadakwasla dam, officials said on Sunday.

In view of the discharge of water from the Khadakwasla, Mulshi, Pavana and other dams in the Pune region, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde directed authorities to be alert and shift people from dangerous zones to safer places with the assistance of the NDRF, SDRF and the Army, if needed.

"In wake of the Indian Meteorological Department's warning of heavy rain, the entire administration should be vigilant," Mr. Shinde said in a statement.

Gujarat govt. extends fishing ban

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government has extended the ban on fishing in the Arabian Sea by a fortnight till Au-

gust 15, a move the Congress termed "unfair and reckless". The decision was taken after hearing a representation by the fishermen's association to allow more time for fish to breed, officials said.

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• 31st July (One group in December examination - same year)
• 30th November (Both groups in June examination - next year)
• 31st January (One group in June examination - same year)

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IN BRIEF



Tripura CM announces relief package for violence-hit area

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Sunday announced a package of ₹239.10 crore for the development of the violence-hit Gandatwisa subdivision. About 145 families were rendered homeless in Gandatwisa after clashes broke out between two groups of people following the death of a college student on July 12. Accompanied by Chief Secretary J.K. Sinha and DGP Amitabh Ranjan, the CM visited the relief camps where the homeless families were lodged and interacted with them. He also visited the house of Parmeshwar Reang, the college student whose death triggered the clashes. PTI

School jobs scam: ED issues summons to Trinamool MLA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued summons to Trinamool Congress MLA Jiban Krishna Saha for questioning in connection with its ongoing investigation into alleged irregularities in school job recruitment in West Bengal, an official said on Sunday. Mr. Saha, who was arrested by the CBI last year for his alleged links to the 'scam' and later released, has been asked to appear before the ED sleuths at the agency's Kolkata office on Monday, he said. Incidentally, the Central probe agency had earlier questioned Mr. Saha's wife in connection with the alleged scam. PTI

Cong. urges Karnataka Ministers to unite, stand by CM in MUDA case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the Congress government is expecting Raj Bhavan to respond to a request for sanction of prosecution against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, central leaders of the party were in Bengaluru on Sunday to discuss with top government functionaries and send a message of unity in the State Cabinet.

Congress leaders K.C. Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala met Ministers apart from holding discussions with Mr. Siddaramaiah. Their visit came less than a week after the

party high command summoned Mr. Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to discuss political developments in the State and party affairs.

During the Delhi visit, the party functionaries had discussed the show-cause notice issued to the Chief Minister by the Governor on alleged irregularities in the distribution of sites by MUDA.

Though the Chief Minister's wife is a beneficiary of the 50:50 scheme envisaged for land losers, he has said that there has been no irregularities in it.

While the Council of Ministers advised Governor

Thaawarchand Gehlot to withdraw the notice and reject the request for sanction of prosecution last week, the party is expecting the Governor to act adversely in the next few days, party sources said.

'BJP-JD(S) conspiracy'

"It is unfortunate that the State Governor has become an instrument in a political conspiracy. We will not allow the conspiracy of the BJP-JD(S) to destabilise the Congress government to succeed. We have decided to fight this unitedly and we will explain facts to the people," Mr. Vengugopal said.



No entry: The locked gate of Dasani Studio in south Kolkata's Tollygunge during the protest by film technicians; (right) FCTWEI president Swarup Biswas and joint secretary Sujit Kumar Hazra addressing mediapersons at Technicians' Studio in Kolkata. DEBASISH BHADURI

hardship. I should be allowed to shoot peacefully," Mukherjee says.

"Halting shooting without reason is unfortunate, especially when 90% of the work in the film industry has dwindled," says actor and Trinamool Congress MP Dev, insisting that the technicians' boycott was not politically motivated.

Renowned filmmakers and actors such as Raj Chakraborty, Srijit Mukherjee, and Kaushik Ganguly feel the deadlock could have been avoided.

Krishna Narayan Daga, former president of the Eastern India Motion Pictures Association (EIMPA) and owner of the production company Daga Films, says producers are losing

'Waqf must come out of touch-me-not syndrome'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Former Minority Affairs Minister and senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Sunday said the Waqf system has to come out of the "touch-me-not" syndrome, and asserted that a "communal attack on inclusive reforms" is not right. His remarks came after it emerged that the government is all set to bring a Bill in Parliament to amend the 1995 law governing Waqf boards to ensure more accountability and transparency in their functioning and mandatory inclusion of women in

these bodies. Sources claimed that the move comes in the backdrop of demands from within the Muslim community.

The amendment Bill will make it mandatory for Waqf boards to register their properties with District Collectors to ensure their actual valuation.

Several Muslim organisations and clerics have opposed the proposed amendments in the Waqf Act, with the All India Muslim Personal Law Board saying that any interference with the legal status and the powers of the Waqf boards will not be tolerated.

interest in making movies because of the federation's strict conditions.

"The rules make it mandatory for us to hire women make-up artists even if there is no woman actor in a movie," he says.

"Only in Bengal are producers forced to hire more technicians than they require," says actor-director Parambrata Chakraborty.

FCTWEI president Swarup Biswas rejects the allegation that the federation's conditions are unfair. "There is an understanding across the country that an outstation unit shooting in Bengal should employ 30% of the technicians from among our members," he says.

Some technicians say

filmmakers complain about expenditure without paying them their due. "Technicians hardly make ₹1,000-₹1,500 a day after working double shifts," says Soumya Barik, a cinematographer who moved out of the Bengali film industry after a decade.

Actors, directors, and producers, however, say respect has to be earned, not demanded.

"A committee will be formed to change the federation's rules and make work smoother and more practical for all stakeholders," Dev says.

Fewer single screens
The Bengali film industry is also hamstrung by the shutting down of single-

Plan to amend Waqf Act intended to grab properties of Muslims: Owaisi

Syed Mohammed
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad MP and AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Sunday, while reacting to media reports about proposed amendments to the Waqf Act, said these would trample upon the freedom of religion and are intended to grab waqf properties from Muslims.

Mr. Owaisi said if media reports are to be believed, then the proposals are reflective of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the Bharatiya Janata Party's agenda to end waqf.

"The proposed amendments, as reported by the

media, show that the [Narendra] Modi government wants to snatch the autonomy of waqf boards, and interfere in the object of waqf, that of administering waqf properties. This itself is against the freedom of religion," he said.

'Make MPs aware'

He emphasised that at a time when Parliament is in session, it is imperative that these proposed amendments be brought to the attention of MPs first.

The AIMIM president said as per the Waqf Act, State governments appoint a survey commissioner of waqfs, who identifies waqf

properties, and prepares a list of waqfs. The list is then sent to the State government, which issues a gazette notification, which itself is an official Act. If unchallenged for a year, the final nature of the property becomes waqf.

"They want to change this. Meaning, the properties would have to be re-established that they are waqf. This is an impossibility. Secondly, you want to dilute the conclusive nature of the gazette. Many have illegally encroached upon waqfs. This means they will get a chance to claim that the property is theirs," Mr. Owaisi said.



No entry: The locked gate of Dasani Studio in south Kolkata's Tollygunge during the protest by film technicians; (right) FCTWEI president Swarup Biswas and joint secretary Sujit Kumar Hazra addressing mediapersons at Technicians' Studio in Kolkata. DEBASISH BHADURI

horrible movies are being made?" says Sunit Singh, owner of Paradise on Bentineck Street.

Struggle for inspiration
Bengali filmmakers and actors also admit that the quality of the craft has taken a hit.

Actor Deboprasad Halder says, "We have reached a saturation point with the type of content we are making here. We need to make way for new talent and new stories. Without involving the youth, we will never find new ideas."

Senior actor Paran Bandhopadhyay says, "Now it is more about business than the art of filmmaking. Producers want a movie to be completed in 15 days. It is not possible to ensure quality like this."

"Producers are not trusting new stories. Now we do remakes of south Indian movies; they are not our originals. These are mostly thrillers and detective stories that do not belong to our land. The biggest hits here are now generic formula movies," says actor Judhajit Sarkar.

Cinematographer Arindam Bhattacharjee finds no problem with repackaging Tamil or Telugu films

for a Bengali audience if they help sustain the industry. "Cinema is a language in itself. Bengali or Tamil does not matter."

Dwindling business
Producer K.K. Gupta of J.M. Films says it is becoming increasingly hard to make money from the once-bankable Bengali movie industry. A stumbling block is the State government's reluctance to subsidise production expenditure unlike at least a dozen other States, he says.

Daga says producers are unable to get back the money invested in a film and the GST of 18% on tickets is making things worse.

"Relying on remakes of Tamil films and generic detective stories will not help. We have to take risks with new stories," says Madhujit Mukherjee, professor of Film Studies at Jadavpur University.

A few in the Bengali film industry agree that it would be worth taking risks but only if all stakeholders work in synchronicity, without waving a set of rigid rules that strains a film project's budget.

LINK TO FULL STORY
» <https://bit.ly/3WYFFEh>

New domicile policy soon, govt. jobs only for those born in Assam: Himanta

State govt. will draw up policy to make CM's approval mandatory for transfer of land between Hindus and Muslims, introduce law prescribing life imprisonment for cases of 'love jihad', says Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said a new domicile policy will be implemented to make only those born in the State eligible for government jobs. He also said a policy will be drawn up to make the Chief Minister's approval mandatory for the transfer of land between Hindus and Muslims.

Addressing a State Executive Committee meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Guwahati, he said the coalition government has been sticking to a pre-poll promise to provide one lakh government jobs to indigenous people. "This will be evident when the complete list of selected candidates is published," he said.

The Chief Minister also announced a shift in policy regarding inter-religion land transfers.

"We cannot stop the buying or selling of lands [between Hindus and Mus-



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma addressing the BJP's State executive meeting in Guwahati on Sunday. ANI

lims]. However, the Assam government has now decided that no buying or selling of land between Hindus and Muslims will take place without the Chief Minister's approval," he said.

'Interfaith marriages'

In March, the State government restricted the grant of no-objection certificates for the sale of land between people belonging to different religions for three months. An order to this effect cited input from intelligence agencies about attempts to transfer land involving peo-

ple of different religious communities "by fraudulent means".

The Chief Minister also declared that his government will soon introduce a law prescribing life imprisonment for cases of "love jihad".

This follows the approval of a similar Bill by the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

"Love jihad" is an allegation used by the Hindu right-wing groups, including the BJP, to target interfaith relationships and marriages involving a Muslim man. "Individuals found

guilty of 'love jihad' will face severe legal consequences. The law we plan to bring in seeks to penalise those who exploit interfaith relationships for ulterior motives," he said.

'Changing demography'

Mr. Sarma underscored the need for population control measures to address the State's changing demography. He specified certain conditions to recognise Bengali-speaking Muslims who migrated from present-day Bangladesh as indigenous people of Assam.

Mayawati opposes apex court ruling on SC sub-classification

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati said on Sunday that her party does not agree with the Supreme Court's judgment allowing sub-classification within the Scheduled Castes (SC).

"Our party doesn't agree with the sub-classification within the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) that has been permitted," said Ms. Mayawati, a former four-time Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, while addressing a press conference.

She appealed to the Supreme Court to reconsider its verdict. "If the reservation provided by Babasaheb [Dr. B.R. Ambedkar] to crores of Dalits and tribals is abolished, it will become very difficult," she said.

'Bad condition'

Targeting critics who claim that the SCs and STs are economically strong, the BSP chief said the condition of 10% or 11% has improved, while that of "the remaining 90% is bad".

"This decision of the Supreme Court would mean that about 90% of the peo-



BSP chief Mayawati

ple who need reservations will be left far behind. It will be very bad," said the BSP chief.

'Amend Constitution'

She targeted the BJP and the Congress for their vague attitude and failing to advocate for the issue properly in the apex court. "The Union government and the BJP, who claim that they are supporters of the SC/ST community, should have advocated for them properly, which they did not. The Congress was also vague. We need to inform the BJP government that if their intention is clear, then whatever decision has come, they should amend the Constitution and include it in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution," Ms. Mayawati said.

Tollywood hamstrung by rules for hiring technicians, closure of single screens, 'low-quality' films

SPOTLIGHT

Shrabana Chatterjee

The unthinkable happened with Prosenjit Chatterjee on July 27. The actor, one of modern Bengali cinema's stars, left without shooting after a long wait for technicians to turn up at a film studio in south Kolkata's Tollygunge.

Celebrated director Raahul Mukherjee faced a similar situation at Technicians' Studio, among the oldest in eastern India. Mukherjee knew he was the primary reason behind the studio lockout that saw 50-60 people protest. The Federation of Cine Technicians' Workers of Eastern India (FCTWEI) had banned him from the Bengali film industry - casually called Tollywood - for three months for violating its norms during the filming of the Bangladeshi series, *Lohu*. The ban was lifted after Mukherjee apologised in writing.

The federation's first condition was that all Bengal-based filmmakers take local technicians to shoots outside West Bengal, in India or abroad. The second was that directors from

outside Bengal hire technicians locally if they shoot in the State. The justification was that these conditions would help sustain technicians as the Bengali film industry offers very little work these days. Film producers and directors complained that the conditions compelled them to hire certain technicians they do not need and pay them just to avoid being banned by the federation.

CM intervenes

Matters came to a head when some producers and directors defied the federation's diktat, leading to the studio lockout. Almost a week of uncertainty ended when Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee intervened, and the shooting of films resumed on July 31. "From directors to light boys and sound recordists and hair-dressers and spot boys - all stakeholders will henceforth act in cohesion, leaving no room for conflict or misunderstanding," veteran director Goutam Ghose said after meeting the Chief Minister.

But the impasse left a bitter taste in the mouths of many involved with the industry. "I'm trying to make a film through a lot of

Kerala govt. to scout for land for landslide-affected families

Industries Minister says State will take cue from Puthumala rehabilitation project to help survivors return to normal life; till now, 166 body parts have been retrieved during search and 172 bodies have been identified

The Hindu Bureau
WAYANAD/MALAPPURAM

A rehabilitation scheme modelled on the Puthumala rehabilitation project will be chalked out to bring back the families displaced by the Chooralmala and Mundakkai landslides to normal life.

Industries Minister P. Rajeev, who visited the disaster-hit Meppadi panchayat on Sunday, said the government was planning a safe township for the survivors. He called upon the people to join hands for the rehabilitation of the displaced. He addressed a meeting of plantation owners at Kalpetta.



Continuing efforts: Officials use drone-based detectors to search for bodies in the landslide-hit Chooralmala area in Wayanad district on Sunday. PTI

Funds & rehabilitation

The Minister said that the rehabilitation would be implemented through the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF). The Finance Secretary would be in charge of the fund. "Every rupee reaching the fund will be accounted for," said Mr. Rajeev, rubbishing the campaign against the CMDRF. The Minister said that the fund would be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG).

The State has entrusted the Land Revenue Joint Commissioner and former Wayanad District Collector A. Geeta with the task of finding suitable land for the rehabilitation. Many organisations and individuals have expressed willingness to be part of the rehabilitation process.

As many as 889 persons either rescued or evacuated

State forms redressal cell for CM disaster relief fund

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has constituted a complaint redressal cell (ph: 8330091573; e-mail cmdrf.cell@gmail.com) in the Finance Department for queries on donations to the

from the disaster-stricken area are being housed in eight relief camps in Meppadi. Among them are 350 men, 317 women and 222 children belonging to 274 families. Apart from ensuring fairly healthy conditions in the camps, the authorities are providing mental health support to the survivors.

Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. The police filed a case against Akhil Marar, reality show star, for a post allegedly saying he preferred not to contribute to the fund. Minister P. Rajeev said vested interests had mounted a baseless campaign against the fund.

Apart from Mr. Rajeev, Union Minister of State for Tourism Suresh Gopi, Kerala Minister for the Welfare of SC/ST and Backward Communities O.R. Kelu, and Local Administration Minister M.B. Rajesh visited Chooralmala on Sunday. An Indian Air Force helicopter airlifted the body of a vic-

tim found at Kadachikkunnu on Sunday.

An official statement confirmed 221 deaths, with 172 bodies being identified by the relatives. Among the deceased were 97 men, 87 women and 37 children.

As many as 166 body parts were recovered during the search.

Two more bodies and 10 body parts were recovered from the Chaliyar river during an extensive search conducted along the upstream areas in the forest on Sunday.

Eight unidentified bodies were buried at a plot belonging to Harrison Malayalam tea plantation on Sunday.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said that all the UDF MLAs will contribute one month's salary to the CM's Distress Relief fund.

Karnataka forms task force to clear encroachments in Western Ghats

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of a series of landslides, Karnataka Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Sunday announced the formation of a forest encroach-

ment task force to clear illegally developed resorts and homestays, and other encroachments in the Western Ghats, which covers 10 districts of the State.

Mr. Khandre said the task force would be headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of

Forests (Head of Forest Force), who will carry out encroachment clearance drives in the Western Ghats from Monday.

He said instructions had been given to carry out clearance drives in cases where an eviction notice has been issued.

THE HINDU
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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Sara Abraham

February 9, 1928 - August 4, 2024



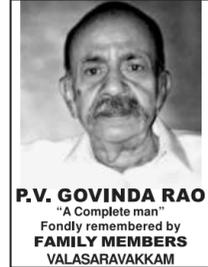
Sara Abraham, 96, well-known connoisseur and collector of modern Indian art who promoted and popularised the work of a generation of distinguished Indian artists, died in Chennai in the early hours of Sunday, August 4, 2024. Sara had a discerning eye and an unerring ability to spot artistic talent.

She is survived by her children, Mariam, Elisheba, and Kuruvilla, her grand-children, Yakov, Ana, Zara, and Ari, and her great-grandchildren, Sophia and Vir.

In keeping with her wishes, her body was cremated at the Besant Nagar crematorium on Sunday.

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THE HINDU AT THE GAMES PHOTO CONTEST

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A) Fresh-Tender Work :-

Sl. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (in Lacs.)
1	20/DGM/Sr.M.(E&M)-II/2024-25/ET	Renovation of fountain Rewiring of type-IV staff Quarter, Authority Building, Light Fixtures & Street Light, in sector-27, Noida.	Rs. 38.72
2	22/DGM (E&M)/S.M./E/M.-III/24-25	M/o Park Light (Annual Maintenance of park Light in Different block park) Sector-42, 43, 44 & 45 Noida.	Rs. 42.39
3	23/DGM (E&M)/S.M./E/M.-III/24-25	M/o Authority Building (AMC of different Type of A.C.'s & Heater installed in different office Sector - 19 & 20 Noida Library Sector-15), Noida.	Rs. 32.82

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 20.08.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 21.08.2024 at 11.00 AM.

B) R-Tender Work :-

Sl. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (in Lacs.)
1	14/DGM/Sr.M.(E&M)-II/2024-25/ET	Providing New Traffic Signals at 3-way Junction (4 Nos.) in Various Location, Noida.	Rs. 39.00
2	13/D.G.M. (E.M.) /Sr.M.(E/M)-I/E.T/2024-25	M/o Machine (Repairing work in Dozer I and Dozer II) Chain set, Transmission, Service Work, Noida.	Rs. 50.81

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 12.08.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 13.08.2024 at 11.00 AM.

Office: Sector - 39, Noida. Dy. General Manager (E&M) NOIDA

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Election overhang

Inflation remains a concern as price pressures broaden beyond food

Production in India's eight core infrastructure sectors remained largely dampened by the impact of a slowdown in state spending on public works in June, when the general election ended in the early part of the month leading to the formation of a new government at the Centre. The heatwaves that had impacted a wide range of economic activity in the country's northern and western parts in May, extended into June, adding to the overall slowdown in industrial production. Provisional data on the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on July 31 show output in five of the sectors suffered either sharp decelerations in growth or contracted from the year-earlier period, resulting in overall core sector growth slowing to a 20-month low of 4%. While the output of refinery products, which at 28% has the heaviest weight on the ICI, contracted year-on-year for the first time in five months, and shrank by 1.5%, electricity generation declined by 3.6% from May's all-time high level. The YoY expansion in the key electricity sector, which has the second-heaviest weight of about 20%, almost halved in pace to 7.7%, from May's 13.7%, as the start of monsoon rains in some parts of the country helped ease power demand. However, June's debilitating heatwaves, which the India Meteorological Department pegged at a 14-year high, sapped demand for steel as construction activity struggled to regain traction amid the scorching temperatures. Steel output slid 4% from the preceding month, depressing the YoY growth to just 2.7% following May's 6.8% pace. Coal offered the silver lining, as output growth accelerated to 14.8% in June, from May's 10.2%.

The more contemporaneous private survey-based HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for July appears to signal that manufacturing activity at a broader level eased marginally last month. Slightly softer increases in new orders and output resulted in July's PMI easing to 58.1, from 58.3 in June, the survey of purchasing managers at about 400 manufacturers by S&P Global shows. However, more than the marginal slowing in manufacturing activity, the PMI survey's truly disconcerting finding is that a significant strengthening in input costs led manufacturers to raise selling prices at the steepest rate in almost 11 years. With goods producers reporting having paid more for coal, packaging, paper, rubber and steel, the outlook for broader inflation – both at the wholesale and retail levels – is far from reassuring. The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee, which will meet to review its interest rate stance this week, has its task cut out. With clear signs that price pressures are broadening beyond food, policymakers can ill-afford to drop their guard in the battle to tame inflation.

Medieval-minded

Amendments to U.P.'s anti-conversion law worsen its unconstitutional features

The amendments adopted by the Uttar Pradesh Assembly to make its regressive anti-conversion law more stringent seems to have ease of its misuse as its principal aim. The original law, enacted in 2021, led to the registration of over 400 cases by 2023. The amendments seek to increase the jail terms prescribed under the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021. If minors, women or "certain communities" were the target of conversion through use of force, threat or coercion, it could entail imprisonment up to 20 years and even for life. It also prescribes a stiff sentence and fine for receiving funds from foreign organisations for the purpose of unlawful conversion. A concerning feature is the introduction of stringent requirements for grant of bail that enhance the purported gravity of the offence. The amended law states that a person accused under the Act cannot be granted bail, unless the public prosecutor has been given an opportunity to oppose it, and that there should be reason to believe that the accused is not guilty of the offence, and is unlikely to repeat it while out on bail. The section is similar to the bail-denying provisions in the NDPS Act and the PMLA.

Another new feature, by which anyone can file a complaint against supposedly forcible or fraudulent conversions, is reprehensible, as it gives communal organisations and sundry busybodies to get those opting for or supporting an inter-faith marriage arrested. Earlier, only an aggrieved person, that is, the victim or a close family member, could file a complaint against unlawful conversion. The move to amend the provision is likely motivated by the fact that bail has been granted to many arrested under this Act because the complainants were not aggrieved parties in those cases. The idea of giving more teeth to the law is rooted in the claim that the cases of "forced conversions" are on the rise in the State, but whether such a spike is a fact or a result of the widespread misuse of the Act against those opting for inter-faith marriages is something to be studied. The validity of the law has always been in doubt, inasmuch as it tries to criminalise inter-faith marriages by treating "conversion by marriage" as one of the means of 'unlawful conversion', by declaring marriages for the purpose of conversion as null and void, and mandating prior intimation to the authorities for those intending to change their religion. The amendments worsen the multiple violation of fundamental rights and betray a medieval-mindedness unbecoming of a democratic government functioning under a forward-looking Constitution.

If anything, the undignified display of wealth by a billionaire during and in the run-up to a recently held family wedding shows how vanity clouds the capacity of most Indian billionaires to recognise the stark contemporaneity of their *folies de grandeur*, inequality, and abject poverty. Economists Nitin Kumar Bharti, Lucas Chancel, Thomas Piketty, and Anmol Somanchi, in their March 2024 study titled "Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922-2023: The Rise of the Billionaire Raj", inform us that in 2022-23, the top 1% income and wealth shares were 22.6% and 40.1%, respectively.

A case of gross disproportion

In real terms, the top 1% possesses an average of ₹54 million in wealth (40 times the average Indian) while the bottom 50% and the middle 40% hold ₹0.17 million (0.1 times the national average) and ₹0.96 million (0.7 times the national average), respectively. If this was not stunning enough, the wealthiest 10,000 individuals (out of 920 million Indian adults) own an average of ₹22.6 billion in wealth which is a mind-boggling 16,763 times the average Indian.

Even more shocking is that nearly 90% of the billionaire wealth in 2022-23 was held by upper castes. Other Backward Classes owned less than 10% and Scheduled Castes a meagre 2.6% while Scheduled Tribes found no representation among the wealthiest Indians.

As for abject poverty, although the NITI Aayog reported that 135 million Indians successfully escaped multidimensional poverty between 2016 and 2021, of which nutrition is a component indicator, a report titled "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" (released on July 24 by a consortium of international organisations including the World Health Organization) stated that in 2022, a whopping 56.5% Indians were unable to afford "a healthy diet", the average cost of which for Asia was "4.20 PPP [purchasing power parity] dollars" per person per day.

To be specific, almost 790 million people in India are not in a position to spend ₹350 daily on healthy food. In this context, the reportedly massive \$600 million (about ₹5,000 crore) price tag of the wedding mentioned above may be contrasted with ₹1,271 crore (about \$152 million) a leading business group (which the family referred to above owns) spent on corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities in the financial year 2022-23.

This distressing reality begs the question: what motivates billionaires to spend several times more on orgies of extravagance than for social welfare?

The American economist, Thorstein Veblen,



A. Faizur Rahman

Secretary-General of the Islamic Forum for the Promotion of Moderate Thought



Santosh Mehrotra

Visiting Professor at the Institute for Policy Research, University of Bath, U.K.

Popular religions have tried to open the eyes of the deprived masses but there appears to be seemingly inexplicable appreciation of the rich by the poor and the middle-class

grappled with such questions in one of his scathing indictments of the profligacy of affluent American societies entitled "The Theory of the Leisure Class". Veblen wrote, "conspicuous consumption of valuable goods is a means of reputability to the gentleman of leisure", who, to "put his opulence in evidence" seeks "the aid of friends and competitors" by giving them "valuable presents and expensive feasts and entertainments."

The scale of this extravaganza is deliberately kept so large that it renders impossible what Veblen calls "pecuniary emulation" by others. It is this "invidious pecuniary comparison", he suggests, that motivates wealthy narcissists to stay above the rest through wasteful expenditure.

On entitlement and psychological capture

If Veblen's analysis explains the pomposity of billionaires, the political philosophy of Harvard professor, Michael J. Sandel, examines the mindset that claims the right to wasteful expenditure.

In his book, *The Tyranny of Merit*, Sandel blames the entitlement mentality of the rich for their claim to absolute ownership of their wealth, and the freedom to splurge it. To reach this conclusion, Sandel relies on John Rawls's "negative argument" (no individual can stake a sole claim to success because success depends on fortunate circumstances in early life for which one cannot claim credit), and Austrian economist Friedrich Hayek's "affirmative argument" (the successful are obligated to contribute to the common good of the community which makes their success possible).

Sandel argues that the refusal to recognise the realities highlighted in these two arguments has led the rich to believe that their talents entitle them to the bounty that the market bestows upon them, and, by extension, the poor deserve their fate for their lack of merit.

Sandel is right because it is the entitlement mentality of the rich that justifies their right to spend their resources following the whims of elitism to not just enhance their social standing among their peers but also to look down upon the economically disadvantaged as "losers" and make them feel almost unwanted.

It is no wonder that most wedding extravaganzas are hotbeds of classism where the poor and the ordinary are deliberately excluded to let a large section of the international high society celebrate the occasion in perverse isolation. If at all, members of the "lower class" may get entertained on a different day as if to remind them of their position in society and the billionaire host's magnanimity.

But what is astonishing is that the "lower

classes" seem to have undervalued themselves and, as a result, become resigned to their "lower status" and start believing in the upper class's absolute right to its wealth and wasteful expenditure.

An international newspaper covering the wedding mentioned above quoted a "middle-class mechanic" in Mumbai: "Look, [the billionaire] earned his money, and it's his right to spend it on his own children." The mechanic wanted the filling of potholes, and "a solution to the knee-deep floodwater that ruined businesses during every monsoon and turned alleys into canals of floating trash." Nothing more.

Sociologist Michèle Lamont speaks of this middle-class peculiarity in her book, *The Dignity of Working Men*. She writes that a large section of the middle class American "white blue-collar workers" have little resentment toward those who do well. This attitude, she points out, is consistent with surveys showing that many Americans believe that the current distribution of rewards is fair, that opportunity is available to all, and that people can make it if they work at it.

This seemingly inexplicable appreciation of the rich by the poor and the middle-class amounts to a kind of psychological capture of the poor and the middle-class by the rich, made possible by the unabashed propagation of the myth of meritocracy, despite popular religions having tried for centuries to open the eyes of the deprived masses.

Rights of the underprivileged

For instance, almost a millennium-and-a-half ago, the *Koran* issued a radical statement on the rights of the underprivileged which warned that wealth is god-given and the rich only hold it as trustees (*mustakhlafeen*) on behalf of the poor. Hence, the supplicant (*saa'il*) and the deprived (*mahroom*) have, "a recognised right" (*haqqun ma'lumun*) in it. (57: 7 and 70: 23-25) By introducing the doctrine of trusteeship, and using the word "right" in place of "charity", the *Koran* not just redefined the idea of wealth-ownership but expanded the rights of the poor to bring them on a par with the rich in every aspect of life, thus restoring their dignity. The *Koran* even suggests that human miseries and happiness result from circumstantial randomness. (2:155)

This is perhaps what Sandel meant when he concluded his book with an aphorism to sober up the meritocratic rich: "There, but for the grace of God, or the accident of birth, or the mystery of fate, go I."

One can only hope that Michael Sandel's moral philosophy will sooner rather than later get the better of the atomistic individualism that shapes the billionaire-mindset.

Stalked by polio, Gaza faces another siege

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs describes biological weapons as those that "disseminate disease-causing organisms or toxins to harm or kill humans, animals or plants".

War itself is a nasty thing during which humans, animals, and plants are killed en masse. We often contend today with the death of animals and plants in the context of climate change – mindful of the role of animals in maintaining ecosystem services and the carbon sequestration potential of plants – and know that the remains of incendiary explosives and building debris drive toxic effects, often entrenched enough for their effects to last for generations. This is separate from the large carbon footprints of armies in motion plus the operations required to equip them.

Climate change can also create environments conducive to the spread of some disease-causing microbes. The chemically toxic outcomes of war can diminish people's and the beleaguered state's ability to respond optimally to this challenge, allowing these dysfunctional environments to persist and sow more threats. The operations of the conflict itself can finally strike a killing blow by bombing hospitals, blocking medical aid, and cutting off water and electricity supplies – such as what Israel has been doing in Gaza.

Israel's statement

In the third week of July, Israel's Health Ministry said it had found poliovirus particles in the sewage flowing out of Gaza. Haaretz reported that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) responded by initiating a campaign to vaccinate its soldiers in Gaza and those slated to enter the territory. As of July 21, the IDF reportedly said it had not recorded any clinical cases of poliomyelitis but expected there to be an outbreak.

This is a debatable statement for two reasons. First, according to the UN, as of May 21, 2024,



Vasudevan Mukunth

Should Israel continue to sustain harmful living conditions in Gaza, the outcomes of its actions will be indistinguishable from those of biological warfare

"only around one-third of Gaza's 36 hospitals still function, leaving critical health care facilities inaccessible to patients and healthcare workers impacted by the violence or evacuation orders." As Israeli bombs have devastated hospitals and civilian shelters and ground forces have restricted access to medical aid, a Gaza is not likely to be diagnosed with a poliovirus infection except by aid workers at shelters, which are also grossly overcrowded, or in areas outside the conflict zone.

Second, the poliovirus is an obligate human pathogen, meaning it can replicate only inside cells of the human body. This virus has no other known animal reservoirs. So, if Israeli researchers have detected poliovirus in Gaza's sewage, the virus must already have infected some residents of Gaza. On July 29, Gaza's Health Ministry declared a polio "epidemic" in the Gaza Strip.

The severity of infections is of course unknown. But equally, allowing the virus to spread is irreconcilable with the efforts of most of the rest of the world to eradicate polio, which – after three decades of intense efforts – is currently limited to cases of wild poliovirus type 1 in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. The virus circulating in Gaza is believed to be vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2.

The danger of spread

If medical conditions in Gaza do not improve post haste, the infectious poliovirus may win back one more territory for itself and endanger the Israeli population as well. According to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's Global Polio Surveillance Action Plan (GPSAP) 2022-2024, "The capacity to consistently detect and respond to poliovirus detection is ultimately dependent on existing within-country capacity – and fragile states, especially those with ongoing conflict, are especially vulnerable." The virus itself is unforgiving: by 2022, Malawi and Mozambique in

Africa had reported their first cases of wild poliovirus infections in three decades after the COVID-19 pandemic dented local childhood immunisation drives for a year. In late 2023, the World Health Organization had recorded Gaza's immunisation rates to have declined to 89% from 99% a year earlier. But while Israel has claimed to have delivered 0.3 million vaccines to the Palestinians in Gaza since its offensive began in October 2023, according to the BBC, the IDF also plans to continue its military operations and has instructed its soldiers to steer clear of consuming water in Gaza. They will be supplied with millions of units of bottled water instead.

Damaged infrastructure

On the other hand, Israel has damaged or destroyed water infrastructure in the embattled parts of Gaza such that they no longer have the ability to treat wastewater. Marwa Daoudy, the Seif Ghobash Chair in Arab Studies at Georgetown University, told *The Hindu* last year that as a result, "raw sewage water [flows] straight into the sea". "I saw the line going down to the sea and children bathing not far away from it," she added. Note that the poliovirus may also spread through contaminated water.

Some public health experts in Israel have already called for a ceasefire to prevent what they have dubbed a "polio epidemic among Gazan and Israeli babies". So did WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who on July 26, added that the organisation is sending more than one million polio vaccines to the region. Should Israel continue to deny these pleas and sustain harmful living conditions for the millions of Gazans, and deny them access to health care and better standards of living, the outcomes of its actions will be indistinguishable from the outcomes of biological warfare.

mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Conduct an inquiry

With the toll mounting in the Wayanad landslide, there needs to be a complete study into the root causes. There needs to be a court of inquiry instituted to look into the subject of warnings having been issued and the allegations of them having been disregarded.

Mani Natarajan,
Chennai

Yamini Krishnamurthy

Yamini Krishnamurthy made

Indian classical dance forms well known across the world. Her expressions were what stood out and left a mark.

C.K. Subramaniam,
Navi Mumbai

Yamini Krishnamurthy exemplified the truth, in the words of Havelock Ellis, that "Dancing is the loftiest, the most moving, the most beautiful of the arts, because it is no mere translation or abstraction from life; it is life itself." Ms.

Krishnamurthy is the 'crowning glory' of Indian classical dance.

Kelath Gopakumar Menon,
Mukkatukara, Thrissur, Kerala

Ms. Krishnamurthy captivated audiences with her expressive *abhinaya* and intricate *footwork*. Her performances were marked by a deep understanding of rhythm, grace, and a strong connection to the spiritual essence of classical dance.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Banking woes

Banks including nationalised ones, have begun adopting a practice of issuing fixed deposit advice on a plain sheet of paper without any authentication instead of issuing fixed deposit receipts which are usually printed on security paper with due authentication. Fixed deposit advice has no legal sanctity and cannot be honoured even in a branch other than the one in which it is issued. This is cause for

worry in the minds of depositors.

Dr. V. Purushothaman,
Chennai

Indian Bank has switched to a new banking app called "IndSMART". There was no email or message about this and I got to know about it when I visited my branch to complain about the functioning of the now phased out and earlier app, "IndOASIS". I was asked by the bank staff to download the new app from Playstore.

However, the app is a complete nightmare. It takes time to load. If it loads it is only after one restarts the mobile phone several times. The mode of registration is by using one's mobile number or CIF. This too does not work. One cannot use the older app either. When private banks have such wonderful apps, why do government bank products end up being so pathetic?

V.S. Raghavan,
Chennai

Balancing competition and sustainability for India

Markets are the centre of the economy, evolving from the barter system to today's digital marketplaces. The forces of supply and demand are primarily responsible for price determination and consumer preferences. Climate change disturbs the supply side of the market leading to a mismatch between supply and demand, which in turn impacts consumer demand and the overall economy.

In 2023, the Securities and Exchange Board of India introduced a framework for reporting actions towards sustainability by corporates. The revised framework for the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report requires companies to account for their value chain's environmental impact, enhancing transparency, combating greenwashing, and ensuring that sustainability benefits permeate through the value chain.

Globally, competition authorities have expressed doubts about competitors' need to neutralise the potential disadvantages of being a pioneer of change, and also reach sustainability goals. Many authorities were hesitant to embrace sustainability considerations fearing that competitors were looking for an excuse to collude. However, authorities must focus on encouraging companies to pursue sustainability goals jointly and assess cooperation where enterprises can demonstrate the objective of a sustainable goal.

Japan's Anti Monopoly Act approach towards the realisation of a 'green society' were guidelines brought to help private businesses navigate themselves in horizontal collaborations. These guidelines suggest that most activities seeking environmental sustainability are unlikely to restrict competition. These activities have pro-competitive effects that might result in consumer benefits.



Vallari Dronamraju
Research Fellow,
Corporate Law and
Financial Regulations,
Vidhi Centre for Legal
Policy

For India, to reach its pledged state of net zero emissions, every economic sector must contribute to greener means of production

The European Commission recently published the draft of revised guidelines on horizontal agreements which now has a specific section on sustainability agreements. This will only raise concerns if they entail serious restrictions of competition in the form of restrictions by object, or produce appreciable negative effects on competition contrary to Article 101(1). The objectives are to address climate change, reduce pollution, limit the use of natural resources, and promote resilient infrastructure and innovation.

While several countries across the globe have been including sustainability policies for competition law in the form of coop between competitors and guidelines, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) may also explore the possibility of including sustainability policies in its evaluations. India has pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, but in 2023, it ranked fifth on the list of contributors to global warming. The CCI chairperson, Ravneet Kaur, recently stated that the CCI will look into sustainability policies for markets.

During the pandemic, the CCI issued an advisory and acknowledged that COVID-19 had caused disruptions in supply chains. It also noted that information sharing may be required by businesses to ensure fair distribution of products and services. The Competition Act, 2002 has built-in safeguards to protect businesses from sanctions. The CCI only considered such businesses that were necessary to address concerns arising from COVID-19. The CCI can consider releasing advisories where enterprises can be exempted if collaborations are for sustainable goals or greener technological innovations when necessary and proportionate.

Under Section 49(3) of the Competition Act, 2002, the CCI may take measures to promote competition advocacy and awareness. It may also participate in formulating economic policies

that will touch upon competition and sustainability. The CCI can emphasise on sustainability policies and enterprise collaboration for greener innovations and release guidance notes on sustainability agreements and exemption methods under the Competition Act, 2002.

In the U.K., the Competition and Markets Authority launched a market study into the electric vehicle charging sector to consider the development of competition alongside innovation, more choice, lower prices, greater investment, and improvements in quality. A similar comprehensive study on green initiatives and market feasibility would benefit the Indian market. In 2011, the TRAI released recommendations such as sustainability practices must be a part of the then-proposed National Telecom Policy and that promoted an environmentally friendly telecom sector. The CCI can also consider including sustainability practices in the National Competition Policy in the future.

Competition cannot remain insulated from sustainability. Combating climate change requires adapting and adopting newer technology that reduces resource consumption and increases innovation through sustainability policies. For India, to reach its pledged state of net zero emissions, every economic sector must contribute to greener means of production. The CCI can enforce competition policies that improve innovation while considering environmental concerns. Competition policy should integrate sustainability economics while considering market failures and collective action problems. Through actions like issuing guidelines, the benefits of sustainability will outweigh the potential negative effects on competition. Including sustainability considerations in assessments of cooperation among competitors can be a strong measure of benefitting sustainability in markets.

A brake on the bulldozer

In U.P., Yogi Adityanath's bulldozer policy has backfired, causing internal conflicts

STATE OF PLAY

Anuj Kumar
anuj.kumar@thehindu.co.in



In the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls, the BJP described the improved law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh under the Yogi Adityanath government as an important cog in keeping the 'double engine' government on track.

However, following the BJP's dismal performance in the State in the Lok Sabha polls, it seems that in its bid to dismantle mafia empires and free government land of illegal encroachments, Mr. Adityanath's bulldozer crashed into the political interests of the party and its allies.

It would appear that, in the hands of a bureaucracy eager to put the stamp of Bulldozer Baba on the ground, government machinery has found that its own script is not always aligned with the goals of Hindutva.

It reflected in the opposition to the Nazul Land Bill by the BJP legislators, including the BJP State chief Bhupendra Chaudhary, which forced the government to refer it to a select committee. The Bill notified as an Ordinance in March, prohibits the conversion of Nazul land, State-owned land that is not directly managed as State property, into freehold for private individuals. The contention is on a provision allowing the government to terminate existing leases based on compliance with lease terms.

The stated aim is to reclaim land from the mafia but the party seems wary of the implementation. During the Assembly polls, bulldozers were showcased at Mr. Adityanath's rallies across the State, symbolising his idea of instant and

visible justice. At one rally in eastern Uttar Pradesh, this journalist asked small shopkeepers who had visibly encroached on the road if they feared the yellow machines. They said the bulldozers were meant to show only the Muslim squatters their place.

However, during the campaign for 2024, it became clear that the bulldozer's impact was not unidimensional. BJP MP Brijbhushan Sharan Singh criticised his government for demolishing homes of the poor without due process, arguing that officials who allowed illegal construction should be held accountable.

BJP ally and Union Minister Anupriya Patel has described the Bill as against the sentiments of the people. Another key partner Sanjay Nishad, has held the berserk bulldozer responsible for the NDA's poor performance in the State.

A section of the BJP cadre felt the administration's high-handedness and using the bulldozer for posturing negatively impacted the Hindutva experiment. In March, a Prajapati Samaj Yatra was lathi-charged by Uttar Pradesh Police for rioting. The Prajapatis fall into the Most Backward Caste bracket and were successfully brought into the BJP fold before the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. However, the community felt their demands for greater electoral representation and SC status were unmet. The lathi charge meant that the president of

Prajapati Mahasabha contested and secured over 140,000 votes on the BSP ticket. Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan's margin of defeat was around 24,000 votes.

It is not that the previous dispensations were impervious to paper leaks and job irregularities but students and teachers could raise their voices in front of the Vidhan Sabha. Now they run the risk of life and limb and being branded anarchists or *andolanjeevi*.

That Mr. Adityanath is not keen on taking the foot off the accelerator became clear when an impractical order of Muzaffarnagar Police asking eatery owners to put their nameplates on their establishments was given backing by the CMO before the Supreme Court granted a stay. Several non-Muslim owners have let out their eateries to Muslim vendors and some Muslim owners have non-Muslim partners and workers. Not all eateries have proper papers and many fear that an order on nameplates opens their gate for official scrutiny and rent-seeking. Many non-Muslim food stall owners from marginalised communities complained that the order meant more visits by officials which invariably meant free lunches.

From time to time, vernacular papers reported that local BJP leaders were meeting deputy CMs to complain about officials' cavalier attitudes in the name of creating smart cities and crime control. Insiders say that this voice from the ground eventually got reflected in Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya's speech during a review meeting when he said that the organisation is bigger than the government or when he flagged "rising corruption" while addressing senior police officials to salvage the situation before the bypolls.

Swimming medallists' timings don't show a drastic change in Paris

With many Olympic Records being set, notable slowdowns were only recorded in some events

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The lack of "World Records" set in the Paris swimming pools in the 2024 Olympics has become a hotly debated issue. Many are pointing out the "shallow depth" of the pools in this Olympics.

For instance, Shane Keating, an associate professor at UNSW Sydney, has argued that when swimmers dive into a pool, some of the waves they create will travel downward and bounce off the bottom and create turbulence, which could slow down swimmers. So, in theory, a shallower pool means more waves bouncing back to the surface creating more turbulence.

While records have not tumbled down this Olympics season, a holistic analysis of the medallists in 2024 compared with the previous five Olympics shows the finishing times have not drastically slowed down. In many events, new Olympic Records have been set. **Charts 1 and 2** show the finishing times of the women and men medallists in six Olympics including 2024. In 2024, Olympic Records were created in 100m and 200m backstroke, 200m freestyle, and 200m butterfly events among women. Even in other events, data does not show that medallists have slowed down much. For instance, in the 100m freestyle and 200m breaststroke, the Gold medallists in 2024 would have struck gold in all editions except in 2020. A notable slowdown was seen in 100m breaststroke and to an extent in 400m freestyle. Among men, 100m freestyle, 200m butterfly, and 200m breaststroke have all resulted in Olympic Records. In 50m freestyle and 100m butterfly, the 2024 gold medallists would have struck gold in all editions except Tokyo. A slowdown was seen in 100m breaststroke, 200m backstroke, and to an extent in 200m freestyle among men.

No increase in timings

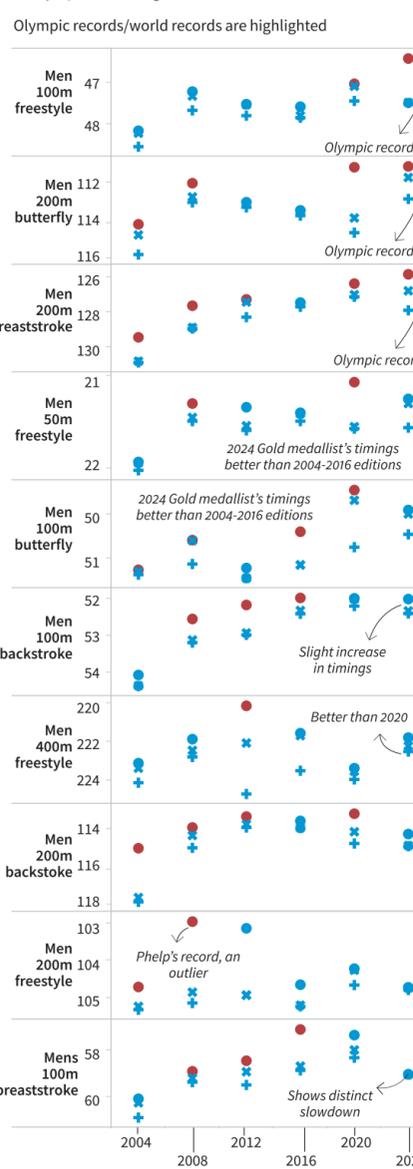
The data for the charts are sourced from World Aquatics. In the charts, each circle corresponds to a finishing timing of an Olympic Gold medallist in swimming. A cross denotes finishing timing of a silver medallist while a plus shows figures for a bronze medallist



Chart 1: The finishing times of the women medallists in the last six Olympics including 2024



Chart 2: The finishing times of the men medallists in the last six Olympics including 2024



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 5, 1974

Lisbon to give freedom to its colonies

Lisbon, August 4: Portugal to-day officially agreed to grant independence to each of its African territories a Government communique said here.

The territories named were Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Angola, the Cape Verde Islands and the Islands of Sao Tome and Principe.

The official communique was given to the press by the U.N. Secretary-General Dr. Kurt Waldheim, on his departure from Lisbon after a two-day stay during which he had talks with Portuguese leaders.

The Government was ready to sign agreements with the State of Guinea-Bissau for the immediate transfer of power, the communique said. Guinea-Bissau has already declared its independence and has since been recognised by several countries, besides gaining admission to the Organisation of African Unity - OAU.

President Spinoza's regime would enter into immediate agreements with the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo) for transfer of power in the southeast African territory. An unofficial ceasefire had already been in operation in some parts of the territory, a Mozambique high command communique said yesterday.

In Angola, the government would establish contacts with the liberation movements in the very near future, the Lisbon communique said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 5, 1924

Huge landslides in Wynad.

Calicut, August 2: Compared to North and South Malabar the damage done to the planting tract of Wynad is practically little. The most remarkable feature, however, of the floods in Wynad is the occurrence of five landslips, of which two have covered roads to a distance over one and a half furlongs while two bridges connecting some important estates with the main country have been washed away. Houses have also collapsed at Mananthoddy, Meppars and other places. These landslips which have stopped active traffic between Calicut and Wynad and Tellicherry and other places in the plains are now being removed by a number of coolies engaged for the purpose. Never before in the history of Wynad had there been such a large number of landslips as on this occasion.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of people killed in fresh round of clashes in Bangladesh

50 The fresh round of clashes erupted days after over 200 people were killed in violent clashes between the police and student protesters demanding an end to the quota system that reserved 30% of government jobs for relatives of veterans. PTI

Number of people arrested in violent clashes across the U.K.

100 Wales-born Axel Muganwa Rudakubana, 17, from Lancashire, has been charged with the stabbing attack on a dance workshop in Southport, north-west England, which was the first site of the unrest earlier in the week. PTI

The Indian students pursuing higher studies abroad in 2024

13.35 in lakh. For 2023, the figure was 13.18 lakh. Of the 13.35 lakh students in 2024, 4.27 lakh were in Canada, 3.37 lakh students in U.S., 8,580 in China, eight in Greece, 900 in Israel, 14 in Pakistan and 2,510 in Ukraine. PTI

Number of polio cases recorded in Pakistan this year

12 The latest case is the first in the Punjab province in four years and takes the country's tally to 12, double last year's total of six cases. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries in the world where polio remains endemic, according to the WHO. PTI

Number of MGNREGA job cards deleted in last five years

4.43 in crore. Among the States, 99 lakh job cards were deleted in Bihar, 91 lakh in Uttar Pradesh, 42 lakh in Odisha, 24 lakh in West Bengal and 37 lakh in Madhya Pradesh. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What do scientists make of the Budget?

While in the Budget presentation the Finance Minister listed many priority areas, such as productivity and resilience in agriculture, energy security, and manufacturing and services, there are also concerns about the sidelining of basic research and stagnation in research funding as a percentage of GDP

FULL CONTEXT

T.V. Padma

The previous two terms of the Narendra Modi government saw the launch of some major national advanced technology missions, including for supercomputing, cyber-physical systems, and quantum technologies. These were coupled with initiatives to boost private sector participation in space and geospatial policies. India became the fourth country to have a spacecraft's lander touch down successfully on the moon. In parallel, there were concerns about the sidelining of basic research and stagnation in research funding as a percentage of GDP, and the nitty-gritties of operating the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

What do leading scientists make of the new Budget in Modi's third term?

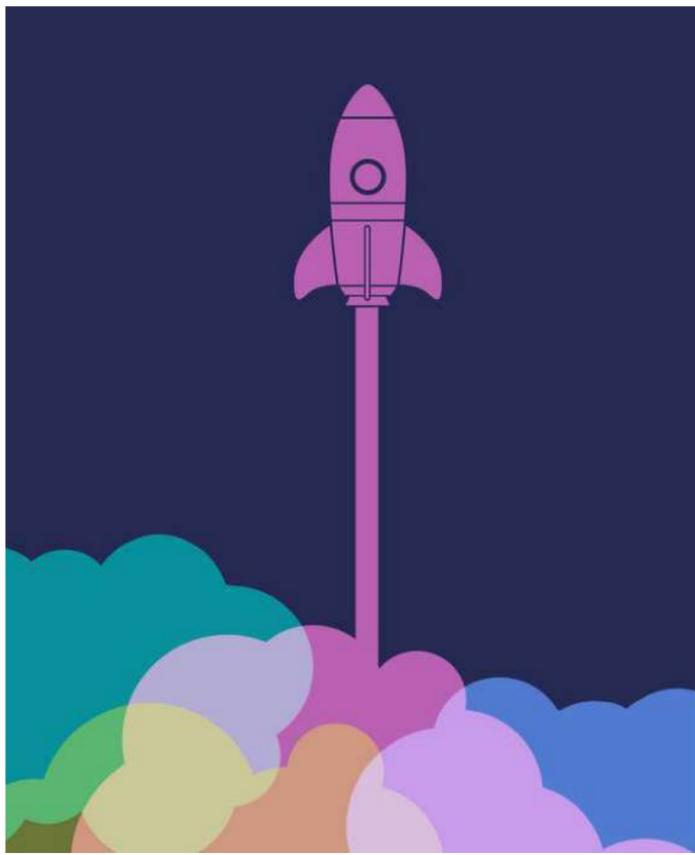
According to N. Kalaiselvi, Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), continuing with the focus on 'Viksit Bharat' like last year, this year's Union Budget also spurs research and development in important areas such as climate-resilient agriculture, critical minerals, miniature and modular nuclear energy technology, energy-efficient technologies, etc. Under the Budget priority entitled "Innovation, Research and Development", the Finance Minister has clearly emphasised basic research and prototype development, including innovation and industry linkages.

While in the Budget presentation the Finance Minister listed nine priorities, in addition, there are a few other priority areas, such as "Productivity and Resilience in Agriculture", "Energy Security", and "Manufacturing and Services", which are also focus areas of CSIR. The proposed "Critical Minerals Mission" and the exemption of customs duties on 25 critical minerals will significantly boost critical minerals research. Another area of national importance and global relevance is clean energy. Water supply, sewage treatment and solid waste management also figure as priority areas. CSIR is into technology development in all these areas.

The plan for "plug and play" industrial parks in 100 cities and the creation of a dozen industrial parks under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme will provide significant opportunities for the uptake of indigenous technologies like those from CSIR labs. Importantly, there is a clear focus on commercialising technologies with the involvement of private sector-driven research.

To meet the fund requirements for various R&D activities as mandated by the Government of India, during the Financial Year 2024-25, the Finance Minister has earmarked an allocation of ₹6,323.41 crore for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The CSIR budget has increased by 10%, above last year's. We will put in our best efforts to sustain our R&D activities in the allotted budget, and in case of further need, we will approach the Ministry of Finance at the time of revised estimates.

Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) said that the Union Budget presented by the Finance Minister lays emphasis on transforming agriculture research in the country. The focus is on productivity and climate resilience in agriculture. The DBT established "speed breeding platforms" in



GETTY IMAGES

the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)'s South Asia Regional Centre in Varanasi; Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana; and the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute, Mohali, to shorten the developmental cycles of agricultural crops with improved attributes and climate resilience. Take for example the rice crop. In field conditions, rice can be grown for a maximum of two to three generations in a year's time. In a speed breeding facility, four to six generations of rice crop is grown in a single year.

Further, several agricultural crop varieties with climate resilient and high productivity traits are being developed through phenotyping and genotyping the genetic resources pertaining to rice, wheat, chickpea, linseed, niger, safflower, sesame, green gram, cowpea, black gram, moth bean, horse gram, and rice bean. Skilling of human resources to mobilise young minds towards futuristic innovations is also required at doctoral/PhD training [levels], which is traditionally an individual enterprise. The recently launched i3C BRIC-RCB PhD programme, designed to solve national problems through collaborations, espouses multi-disciplinary learning. This will inculcate innovation as well as skilling and create scientists with cross-disciplinary expertise in areas of biosciences and biotechnology.

The angel tax abolition is a major incentive for start-ups raising private capital. For the high risk biotechnology sector, the angel tax was a discouragement to attract investments. The 2024 Budget announcement will pave the way for investment inflow – a very welcome step for promoting deep-tech life sciences start-ups. When seen in conjunction with provisions for FDI promotion in the Budget, this will create a robust pipeline of angel-funded portfolio companies ready to be picked up by VC firms post-BIRAC funding for high-risk and early-stage ideas. [BIRAC is the

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council.]

R&D efforts in our country are primarily academia-centric. Most often the innovations that occur at the laboratory level fail to get commercialised. To bridge this gap, R&D efforts in private companies on equal footing is required. In this direction, operationalisation of the ANRF for basic research and prototype development with a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore will pave the way for private sector-driven research and innovation.

However, Subhash Lakhota, Distinguished Professor, Banaras Hindu University remarked that the actual expenditure of Science and Technology (S&T) and higher education in 2023-2024 was much less than the initial allocation for that year. The suggested allocations for 2024-2025 are not very different from that in 2022-2023 because of this reason. They may deceptively appear much greater than last year, but in most cases the increase appears to be less than 10% of that in 2022-2023. This is indeed disappointing since this nominal increase would be, if it is not already, offset by inflation.

Additionally, because of increasing numbers of public and private institutions, the level of competition has substantially increased. Therefore the quantum available per capita would become much less than in 2022-2023. An additional worry is whether the actual available funds would really match the allocated Budget.

The ANRF could make a small difference if and when this becomes operational. Additionally, it does not seem, as a percentage of the GDP, that the allocation this year has shown any increase. Unless that happens, we will continue at the same level or actually go down. The zero budgeting system (ZBS) and quarterly reports also remain a problem. Quality basic research projects

cannot have a one-to-one correlation between 'targets planned' and 'targets achieved' because in any research effort, there is a lot that remains unknown. Thus the mandated quarterly reports put unnecessary burden and stress on researchers. It is only when the actual results are different from the expected that a real quantum advance happens.

Tapasya Srivastava, professor, Department of Genetics, University of Delhi South Campus said that the previously announced ANRF is to be made operational with a focus on both basic science research as well as prototype development. The interim Budget had already announced a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore for R&D and innovation, to be led by the private sector. The establishment of a separate venture capital fund for space technology also has the potential to spur start-ups. However, given the enormous capital requirements of space tech, the allocation of ₹1,000 crore seems inadequate.

The Budget has announced measures to step up clean energy generation, including solar and nuclear energy, with concerted measures such as reducing taxation on critical input raw materials and minerals. The allocation for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for pharmaceuticals increased to ₹2143 crore; it will help boost domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing. But specific announcements for the health of the youth along with employment generation would have been welcome.

The stress on employment generation and the internship scheme would undoubtedly help many students of science get into well-known companies. In the long run, this will encourage students to take up science as a career with opportunities beyond academia.

C.P. Rajendran, National Institute for Advanced Studies, observed that the government plans to set up a venture capital fund of ₹1,000 crore to promote space technology. The government will partner with the private sector to set up small reactors and develop technologies for nuclear energy.

The Finance Minister said they will operationalise the ANRF for basic research and prototype development. What is intriguing is the mention of "prototype" development along with "basic research". Generally, prototype development means the "initial stage of software development" before finally releasing the product in the market or for users. It's not clear as to what prototype development has to do with research in basic sciences. Does it mean the government is only interested in translational research with technological applications? That goes against the stated objectives of the ANRF.

The ANRF was purportedly created to prioritise research facilities in universities and colleges. Most of India's 40,000 higher education centres are run by States and have limited funding opportunities. State establishments get only about 11% of the funds provided by the Department of Science and Technology and 65% of funding goes to IITs under the Union Government. The ANRF wants to change this disparity, but what is the mechanism?

Overall, the Budget allocation has some nominal increases, nothing exciting. A long-standing demand from the scientific community is to arrange for higher government funding because the private sector has not shown much interest in investing in basic research.

T.V. Padma is a science journalist based in New Delhi.

THE GIST

The previous two terms of the Narendra Modi government saw the launch of some major national advanced technology missions, including for supercomputing, cyber-physical systems, and quantum technologies.

Most often the innovations that occur at the laboratory level fail to get commercialised. To bridge this gap, R&D efforts in private companies on equal footing is required. In this direction, operationalisation of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) for basic research and prototype development with a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore will pave the way for private sector-driven research and innovation.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES



In ruins: The NDRF and the Fire and Rescue team along with volunteers search for bodies in the trail of devastation left by landslides at Chooralmala in Wayanad on August 1. THULASI KAKKAT

How victims of the Wayanad landslides may experience 'climate trauma'

Tales of terror, trepidation, and trauma after climate-induced disasters aren't uncommon. Scientists are piecing together the mental-health consequences of disasters caused by climate change, down to the molecular level

Sayantana Datta

In the pre-dawn hours of July 30, multiple landslides following heavy rains virtually flattened three villages in Wayanad district in Kerala. Two days later, as rescue operations continued in unceasing rain, the death toll had risen past 200. Photos from the area showed tired and shell-shocked people milling around, with little to show for the villages that once lay there. Tales of terror, trepidation, and trauma after climate-induced disasters aren't uncommon. For example, after the 2021 Chamoli floods, people reported being afraid to work at night. One media report quoted a 62-year-old woman dreaming that her son – buried under the debris from the flood – pleaded with her to “dig out his body”.

Distressing dreams and flashbacks are well-known symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a mental health condition that often affects individuals who have recently experienced a distressing event. Climate-induced disasters aren't the only cause of a higher incidence of PTSD, but they pose unique challenges to people at risk of being affected by these disasters for two reasons: (i) unlike other natural disasters, climate-induced ones often get progressively worse, and (ii) these disasters unsettle people's daily lives in visceral, prolonged ways. Jyoti Mishra, associate professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego, said residents of a climate change-hit place often face a dilemma: whether they should stay there and potentially face another disaster or leave the place even if they have sunk roots there.

Climate trauma
Experts told *The Hindu* that as

climate-induced disasters become more frequent and more intense, they could even change the way people think.

In California, increasing aridity has sent the number of forest fires soaring. Dr. Mishra and her team investigated the mental-health impact of several fires here in 2018 and found people exposed to them had more symptoms of PTSD, major depressive disorder, and general anxiety disorder. Sanjay Kalra, an endocrinologist working in Karnal, Haryana, said three neurotransmitters are produced in response to stress: dopamine, adrenaline, and noradrenaline. In the short-term, these chemicals are secreted only intermittently, in response to stressors.

But when they are secreted continuously, the body's response becomes maladaptive. “As these chemicals are secreted 24/7 ... their levels remain so high and they remain high so continuously that they just lose their impact,” Dr. Kalra said.

Thus an individual's ability to cope with stress drops significantly over time, leading to PTSD-like symptoms.

Interference processing

In 2023, Dr. Mishra & co. checked whether the brain functions of people affected by a major 2018 fire in California had changed. They used a series of cognitive tests to evaluate an individual's selective attention and working memory. Selective attention is when individuals focus on one stimulus and suppress others. Working memory is a kind of short-term memory that lets us hold and manipulate information temporarily.

They also tested for changes in interference processing, including emotional-interference processing, supplementing their study with electroencephalogram (EEG) data. Interference is the process by which

memories steep into each other, making it difficult to retrieve accurate information over time. Emotional interference is what researchers call the process by which some stimuli with emotional connotations – like foreboding danger – affect the cognitive control required to complete a task. In their study, Dr. Mishra & co. reported that people affected by the blaze were less accurate at tasks involving interference processing versus those who had never experienced such fires.

“If you're asking people to pay attention to something, then everything else is distracting them much more,” Dr. Mishra said.

Disaster, displacement, rehabilitation

Rehabilitation and displacement are inevitable consequences of a natural disaster in a peopled area.

In 2016, about a million people were displaced in Indonesia by raging floods and landslides. Since landslides fragment communities and block access to healthcare, researchers in the U.S. and Indonesia studied the effects of landslides on people in the archipelago.

In a 2021 *Environmental Health Perspectives* paper, researchers found 41.1% of study participants who had been displaced reported being economically less stable while 32.1% reported feeling the contrary. They also found that while most participants who had been displaced reported better mental well-being, those living in unstable and/or temporary housing were “less likely to report perceived increases in mental well-being”.

Dr. Mishra said the growing evidence for climate-induced disasters worsening mental health crises indicates a need for people at risk to cultivate resilience. It requires “switching our processing of a disaster from an emotional response to a

more logical cognitive response”. As a first step, she said it's important to have a detailed disaster-management plan. “Say my house did collapse today. What are my next steps? Who are my next of kin? What resources do I have? Where will I get support from?”

Psychological first aid

Dr. Kalra said it's important to train people at risk in coping skills and Psychological First Aid (PFA). According to the American Psychiatric Association, PFA involves “an initial disaster response intervention with the goal to promote safety, stabilise survivors of disasters and connect individuals to help and resources.”

After the 2004 tsunami, the American Red Cross and the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society trained about 8,000 people in the island nation. PFA has five steps: meeting basic needs of the victims/survivors of the disaster, listening to them, accepting their feelings, assisting them to move on, and referring them for treatment.

Notably, the PFA model doesn't offer on-site therapy and is separate from clinical intervention because it “focuses on knitting together communities that have become unravelled after a disaster has struck and equipping them to face future calamities”, per one report.

Dr. Kalra also spotlighted the importance of health vigilance. According to him, the government is responsible for following up on standard health indicators – mental and physical – of people affected by such disasters.

This is important because, he added, disasters increase the risk of both metabolic and communicable diseases alongside mental health conditions.

Sayantana Datta is a science journalist and a faculty member at Krea University. They tweet at @queersprings.



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I cannot work anymore. Let's call it a day

Both of them got to this position in the company by skulduggery, deceit and lies

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of 'skulduggery'? How is the word pronounced? (L. Nagesh, Kochi)

The word consists of four syllables; the first is pronounced like the word 'skull', while the second, sounds like the word 'dug'. The following 'e' sounds like the 'a' in 'china', while the final 'y' is like the 'i' in 'chit', 'knit' and 'spit'. The word is pronounced 'skull-DUG-e-ri' with the stress on 'dug'. Some people reduce the word to three syllables by dropping the vowel in the third syllable. They pronounce the word 'skull-DUG-ri'. The word comes from the Scottish 'sculdudrie' meaning 'adultery'. This rather old-fashioned word is mostly used to refer to the dishonest activities or practices that an individual indulges in, in order to get ahead in life. It is also possible to spell the word 'skulduggery'.

In politics, especially during elections, there is always skulduggery going on.

The CEO of our company was found guilty of financial skulduggery.

What is the meaning and origin of 'call it a day'? (Sudesh, Jodhpur)

This is an expression that has been in existence for over two centuries, and it is mostly limited to informal contexts. When you have been working on something for some time, and decide to 'call it a day', what you are suggesting is that you will stop doing the activity for the rest of the day – you will perhaps return to it the following day or a few days later.

We've been packing all day, and I'm just exhausted. I'd like to call it a day.

The original expression was 'call it half a day', and it was normally used when an employee decided to quit working or leave office much before the working day was over. When he did this, he was paid for only half a day. The expression 'call it a night' is frequently heard nowadays; it means to stop participating in the leisure activity that you have been taking part in – you've had enough for the day. You could have gone out for dinner with your friends, and after a heavy meal you might decide to call it a night because you are exhausted. The expression suggests that you will be going home to bed. In other words, you are done for the day.

We have a very busy day ahead of us tomorrow. Let's call it a night.

What do you call a man who looks after the house while the wife goes to work? (S. Ravindran, Chennai)

When the husband goes to work and the wife stays at home, she is referred to as a 'housewife'. Common sense, therefore, suggests that the man should be called a 'househusband' – it is also possible to use the gender-neutral term, 'homemaker'. Other terms sometimes used to refer to this individual are 'stay at home dad/parent' and 'full-time dad/father'.
upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

On this day 110 years ago, the world's first electric traffic light was installed in Ohio in the U.S. What do you know about these everyday systems we take for granted?

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
The world's first traffic light (electric or not) was installed in London in 1868, to be operated by a policeman. It exploded the next year. Name the building it was installed in front of.

QUESTION 2
What is the apparatus that creates signals visible to the human eye across large distances called? The traffic light is one example of such an apparatus, as is a lighthouse.

QUESTION 3
The first traffic light to use _____ was installed in Detroit in Michigan in 1920 in order to account for the effects of multiple

signals on the traffic. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4
In 1966, _____ received its first traffic signal. Unlike its Western counterparts, this one had a single bulb while a switch below could cover or uncover it with a red filter, creating one red light. Fill in the blank with the name of an Indian city.

QUESTION 5
Name the type of traffic intersection urban planners around the world today consider to be a better alternative to traffic lights because it eliminates queuing, and reduces vehicle idling and the chance of head-on collisions, and allows pedestrians to consider one road at a time while crossing.



Visual question: This setup shows a notifier and a receiver used to achieve what? Hint: Achieving this allows an operator to override a signal nearby to, say, allow an ambulance to pass.

Questions and Answers to the August 2 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The Indian who won the first ever medal at the Olympics.

- Ans: Norman Pritchard**
2. This person won the first individual medal for India after independence. **Ans: K.D. Jadhav**
3. This person scored a hatrick for India in the Olympic Football match. **Ans: Neville Stephen D'Souza**
4. This father and son duo won medals in the Olympics for India in the same sport. **Ans: Dhyun Chand and Ashok Kumar (Hockey)**
5. This father and son duo won medals in the Olympic Games for India in different sports. **Ans: Father Vece Paes in Hockey and son Leander Paes in Tennis**
6. The captain of the team the last time India won a gold medal in hockey in the 1980 Moscow games. **Ans: V. Bhaskaran**
7. The first Indian woman to win an individual medal at the Olympics. **Ans: Karnam Malleswari**
8. The only Indian women to have won multiple medals in Olympic Games. **Ans: P.V. Sindhu and Manu Bhaker**
Visual: This athlete became the first Indian woman athlete to qualify for a semi-final at the Olympics. **Ans: Shiny Abraham at the 1984 Los Angeles Games**
Early Birds: C. Saravanan | Vineet Giri | Aditi Anandita | Debarati Kar | Tamal Biswas

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

Word of the day

Satirist:
a humorist who uses ridicule and irony and sarcasm

Synonyms: ironist, ridiculer

Usage: *The political satirist had the audience in stitches.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/satiristpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: \ˈsætəɪrɪst\

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

Despite profits, NTA did not upgrade its facilities: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency (NTA) earned a profit of ₹448 crore in the past six years, but did not use the money to upgrade its testing facilities or bolster regulatory and monitoring capabilities for its vendors, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on Sunday.

In a post on X, he flagged a recent reply by the Union Education Ministry to the Rajya Sabha which revealed that the NTA collected ₹3,512.98 crore and spent ₹3,064.77 crore on the conduct of examinations, securing a profit of ₹448 crore.

"The future of millions of India's youths has ultimately become a mere revenue-raising exercise for the non-biological PM's Government," he said.

"It is a body of the Education Ministry whose only purpose is to function via outsourcing to private vendors. Not only do these vendors very often have dubious credentials, but the NTA itself is headed by a person who presided over the Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission, which has seen mega scams," Mr. Ramesh said.

Ladakh should be governed by Ladakhis: MP Mohamad Haneefa

No recruitment since 2019 as Public Service Commission ceased to exist in Ladakh, says Independent MP; demanding reservation for local residents, he says educated youth are frustrated and that Ladakhi culture is threatened

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Five years after Ladakh was turned into a Union Territory without a Legislative Assembly, not a single recruitment for a gazetted position has been completed, Ladakh MP Mohamad Haneefa said in an interview with *The Hindu* on Sunday.

Mr. Haneefa, an Independent who defeated the Bharatiya Janata Party's candidate in the Lok Sabha election, said the educated youth in the Union Territory had been hit the hardest over the past five years, as the Constitutional safeguards once provided under Article 370 and Article 35A no longer existed.

The special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution was revoked by Parliament on August 5, 2019, and the former State was split into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

After initial euphoria in Ladakh, residents took to the streets to demand that their culture, identity,



Independent MP Mohamad Haneefa greeting the Lok Sabha Pro-tem Speaker Bhartruhari Mehtab after taking oath. FILE PHOTO

land, and jobs be protected from outsiders. In 2020, two influential civil society groups from two different regions – the Leh Apex Body (LAB), and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) – came together to demand Statehood, as well as the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution which deals with the protection of tribal areas.

They also sought job reservations for residents and more parliamentary representation, with two Lok Sabha seats and one Rajya Sabha seat for

Ladakh. A high-powered committee (HPC) chaired by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai was constituted in January 2023 and later revived in December to address their grievances.

Members of the civil society groups met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on March 4, but said that the "meeting did not result in any positive outcome". No meeting has taken place since.

"The Public Service Commission ceased to exist in Ladakh [after the



We want the dialogue with the government to be revived. There should be a way forward. Such agitations are not good for Ladakhis or the country

MOHAMMAD HANEefa
Ladakh MP

abrogation of Article 370]. Due to this, no recruitment has taken place. Graduates, postgraduates are frustrated. The candidates should be given a relaxation in age criterion when recruitments take place. Last time, the HPC assured us that on the lines of Arunachal Pradesh, 80% reservation can be given to locals," Mr. Haneefa said.

He said that the Ladakh Resident Certificate (LRC) should be mandatory for jobs, but said there has been no clarity from the government so far.

"Ladakh University advertised for jobs last year; LRC was not mandatory. The Scheduled Tribe quota

was kept open for J&K residents also, whereas in J&K, Ladakhis cannot apply for jobs under the quota. People are not happy. A medical college and an engineering college were announced, land was identified by councillors, but there is no movement on it," he said.

'Culture under threat'

"Ladakhis want that Ladakh should be governed by Ladakhis. Every area has its unique culture; it is under threat. Ladakh has a population of around four lakh; if one lakh people from outside come and settle here, then we fear the erosion of our culture," the MP said.

The KDA and LAB will soon convene a meeting, as the leadership of the civil society groups wants to reach a solution through dialogue with the government, Mr. Haneefa said.

"We want the dialogue with the government to be revived. There should be a way forward. Such agitations are not good for Ladakhis or the country," Mr. Haneefa added.

IN BRIEF



Telangana govt. forms panels for resolving issues with A.P.

The Telangana government has constituted committees of Ministers and officials to negotiate with similar committees of Andhra Pradesh for resolving bilateral issues arising out of the A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka will head the committee of Ministers, which will include D. Sridhar Babu and Ponnamp Prabhakar as its members. The panel of officials will be led by Chief Secretary A. Santhi Kumari and includes Special Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao and Principal Secretary in the CMO V. Seshadri.

Any change in Wakf Act will not be tolerated, says AIMPLB

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has hit out at any proposed changes to the Wakf Act, 2013. "Any change in the Wakf Act which alters the nature of Wakf properties or makes it easier for the government or any individual to usurp them will not be acceptable," AIMPLB spokesperson SQR Ilyas said on Sunday. The Board is contemplating legal redress if the government makes any "sweeping changes" to the Act. He said a Bill may be introduced in Parliament next week on the matter. He appealed to the allies of the NDA and Opposition parties to reject any proposed changes and make sure the Bill is not passed by Parliament.

Monitor water release from Jharkhand dams, Mamata tells Hemant

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee held talks with her Jharkhand counterpart, Hemant Soren, on Sunday to discuss the excessive water flow from the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) dams in Jharkhand, which is causing a floods in parts of southern Bengal.

"I discussed with him the case of sudden and huge release of water from Tenughat, which has already started flooding Bengal. I told him that Jharkhand waters have been flooding Bengal, and this is man-made! I requested him to please take care of this," the Chief Minister said in a post on X after the talks.

"I have, meanwhile, been monitoring the situation and have spoken to all the DMs concerned in south Bengal as well as in north Bengal," Ms. Baner-

jee said in her post. "I have asked the DMs to be particularly vigilant and take proper care of the calamity situation in the next 3/4 days. I told them to take all precautionary measures so that there is no untoward incident anywhere," she added.

When the Tenughat dam, managed by the Jharkhand government, releases water, pressure also increases on the DVC dams at Maithon and Panchet, as they are on the Damodar river. On Saturday, the two DVC dams had already released around 75,000 cusecs of water. According to official DVC records, they released another 1,20,000 cusecs of water at 7.44 a.m. on Sunday. This back-to-back heavy outflow led to flooding in many areas in southern Bengal.

Sukanta Kumar Paul, Trinamool Congress MLA, visited the area to assess the gravity of the situation.

Human rights body calls for immediate announcement of Assembly election in J&K

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

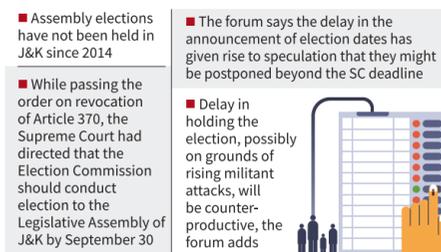
The Forum for Human Rights in Jammu and Kashmir, led by a group of concerned citizens, has called for an immediate announcement of the dates of Assembly election in the Union Territory, much before the Supreme Court's September 30 deadline, arguing that "security should not be a consideration given that elections have been held in far worse security situations".

The forum was formed after August 5, 2019, when the special status of J&K under Article 370 of the Constitution was revoked by Parliament.

Former Union Home Secretary G.K. Pillai and Radha Kumar, former member, Group of Interlocutors for J&K, chair the forum. Its members include Justice Ruma Pal (retd), former Supreme Court judge; Justice A.P. Shah (retd),

Call for polls

The Forum for Human Rights has called for immediate announcement of dates for the Assembly election in J&K



former Chief Justice of the Madras and Delhi High Courts; Justice Bilal Nazki (retd), former Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court; Nirupama Rao, former Foreign Secretary; Major General Ashok Mehta (retd); Air Vice-Marshal Kapil Kak (retd); and Lieutenant-General H.S. Panag (retd).

"Delay in the announcement of election dates has given rise to speculation

that the election might be postponed beyond the Supreme Court's deadline of September 30, 2024, possibly on grounds of rising militant attacks. Analysts point out that delay would be counterproductive. It will increase alienation and might play into the hands of spoilers," the forum said in its report "Jammu and Kashmir: a human rights agenda for an elected administration".

J&K has been under Central rule since June 2018 when the PDP-BJP alliance collapsed. The Assembly election was last held in 2014.

Locus for militancy

The report said that after decades of peace, the bordering areas of Poonch and Rajouri districts in the Jammu division re-emerged as a locus for militancy with cross-border infiltration from Pakistani-held territories of the former State.

"Armed attacks on civilians and security forces have now spread through Poonch-Rajouri to Doda and Kathua and further, to bordering districts of south Kashmir such as Pulwama. The forest belts connecting these districts have been traditional routes of infiltration since the 1948 invasion by Pakistani tribals supported by the Pakistan army," the report stated.

The forum expressed dismay over the pre-elec-

tion grant of overweening powers to the Lieutenant-Governor.

"There are worrying indications of pre-emptive actions to limit an elected administration's capacity to govern even before legislative assembly elections are held. The new administrative rules issued on July 12, 2024, allocate key powers over the police, bureaucracy, attorney-general and prosecutorial services to the L-G, setting up a potential stand-off between the elected administration on one side, and a nominated authority, civil and police services on the other, as happened in Delhi," the report said.

It added that the new rules also cast doubt on whether Statehood will be restored, when and in which form.

"The new rules suggest the Union administration is contemplating a Delhi-type hybrid instead," the forum said.

EC rejects report on difference in voter turnout

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Sunday rejected the analysis by a citizens' platform about unusually big difference between voter turnout figures declared initially and the final figures in the Lok Sabha election. It said a "false campaign" was being run to discredit the polls.

The development comes a day after the Congress cited a report by 'Vote for Democracy' which raised questions about substantial hike in the Lok Sabha voting turnout percentages and urged the EC to address the concerns. It said "unfounded attempts" were made to compare turnout figures at 7 p.m. on poll day when many stations might be closing poll or voters waiting in queue with 'End of Poll' turnout available a day after poll day.

Trinamool asks Minister to resign for abusing officer

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Sunday directed West Bengal Minister Akhil Giri to resign and apologise to a forest officer whom he had verbally abused.

Trinamool spokesperson Santanu Sen told presspersons that the party did not condone Mr. Giri's behaviour.

The Minister, however, refused to apologise. "I admit that how I spoke to the officer as a Minister was inappropriate. But there is no question of me apologising to her," Mr. Giri said. In a viral video, Mr. Giri is seen verbally abusing the officer on the Tajpur beach in Purba Medinipur for trying to remove shops encroaching on forest land.

SP president joins protest over 'insult' to U.P. Brahmin leader

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Amid an uproar over the demolition of a platform meant to install the statue of Brahmin leader and former Minister Hari Shankar Tiwari in his village of Tanda in Gorakhpur district on his birth anniversary, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday announced that he would address an event organised on Monday in protest against the government's action.

Earlier this week, the Opposition had termed the demolition "unfortunate", and accused the government of refusing to honour the leader.

The SP alleged that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was indulging in caste

politics, which was dividing society.

"Not acceptable" He had disappointed and angered Brahmins, Dalits, Backward Classes, Muslims and the business class with his casteist attitude, the party said. It said insult of Pandit Harishankar Tiwari in Gorakhpur and atrocities on Brahmins, Dalits, Backward Classes and Muslims had been continuously going on for the past seven years and it was unacceptable.

Recently, some villagers submitted a representation to the Sub-divisional Magistrate, expressing opposition to the installation of the statue on public land. Acting on it, the local administration demolished the platform on July 31.

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BIOM/BC/Contracts/Publication/2024-25/089/ Date : 05/08/2024
Bailadila Iron Ore Mines, Bachel Complex, NMDC Ltd. invites e-bids for the following works. Intending tenderers may visit and download Tender Documents from CPP Portal or www.nmdc.co.in or <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/prochome/nmdc/>. Any corrigendum/addendum to be issued, the bidder must visit the online portal from time to time to notice the same. Corrigendum/addendum will not be published in any newspaper. The offer has to be submitted online at the given MSTC portal only till 03:30 PM and will be opened on 04:00 PM on respective last dates.

MSTC Ref. No. NMDCL/Bachel/24-25/ET/	NMDC Tender. No. BIOM/BC/CONTRACTS/OTEMP/24-25/	Short Description of Work	EMD (Rs.)	Last Date of Sub'n	
1	84/356	C-369	DISMANTLING OF OLD TYPE II/DS/217- 296, 10 BLOCKS QUARTERS (IIND PHASE) AT BIOM BACHELI COMPLEX	88,104/-	19/08/2024
2	85/357	C-298	CONSTRUCTION OF BUTTRRESS WALL OF 260 METERS BELOW SG STOCKPILE AT DEP-S MINE, BIOM BACHELI COMPLEX.	51,600/-	05/09/2024
3	86/358	E-035	REWIRING OF OLD TS-DS STORY TYPE II-III-IV, 40 NOS QTRS OF BACHELI TOWNSHIP.	52900/-	05/09/2024
4	87/360	E-037	ELECTRIFICATION OF GODOWN AT CSD, BACHELI COMPLEX	16,200/-	06/09/2024

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E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED:-

NT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/200 MVA Trf./24-25/04 Date: 05.08.2024	Procurement of 200 MVA, 220/132/33 kV, 3 Phase Auto Transformer.
NT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/315 MVA Trf./24-25/05 Date: 05.08.2024	Procurement of 315 MVA, 400/220/33 kV, 3 Phase Auto Transformer.

Bid documents can be downloaded from 05.08.2024, 12:00 Noon and bids shall be submitted online up to 04:00 P.M., 02.09.2024. Visit the following websites: www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details. ICA-113312/3/2024

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
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(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites bids through KPP Portal from eligible Bidders for Supply, install, configure, commissioning and maintenance of backup storage appliance with all required software license & accessories along with backup software at Data Centre for all ESCOMs of Karnataka against Enquiry No.: **BESCOM/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT178**. Date of Publication of RFP: **05.08.2024, 4:00PM**. Pre-bid Meeting: **16.08.2024, 11:30AM** at Chamber of GM-IT, BESCOM, Corporate Office, Belaku Bhavana, 5th Floor. **Last date of Receiving Queries/Clarification:** Queries if any may be sent to gmit@bescom.co.in on or before **13.08.2024, 11:00AM**. Last Date of Submission of bids: **04.09.2024, 4:00 PM**.

Bid documents can be downloaded through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from the Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Aspiring Bidders need to register in the KPP Portal. Further bidders can take the assistance of the e-procurement help desk at **+91-80460 10000, +91-80-2263 1200**.

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INBRIEF



SC to hear Sisodia's bail pleas in excise policy cases today

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the pleas filed by AAP leader Manish Sisodia on Monday, seeking bail in corruption and money-laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavi and K.V. Viswanathan will take up for hearing both the pleas. On July 29, Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, appearing for the Central Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement Directorate, had told the Bench that while the CBI had filed its response on Mr. Sisodia's plea, it had not come on record. Mr. Raju had said it was the second special leave petition challenging the same Delhi High Court order. PTI

Manipur suspends policeman over assault on journalist

The Manipur government on Saturday suspended a police sub-inspector for allegedly assaulting a journalist covering a violent protest rally brought out by internally displaced people in Imphal on August 1. An order issued by K. Meghachandra Singh, Imphal East district's Superintendent of Police, said disciplinary action was being contemplated against sub-inspector Nikhil Singh for "his grave misconduct not expected from a member of (a) disciplined force". The order said the sub-inspector would remain suspended with immediate effect until further order. He has also been restricted from leaving the headquarters.

Ensure safety and livelihood of Tamil fishermen: Vasan

TMC (Moopanan) president G.K. Vasan on Sunday condemned the mid-sea arrest of four fishermen from Pudukottai district by the Sri Lankan Navy, and urged the Centre to take measures to ensure the safety and livelihood of Tamil fishermen. In a statement, he said the Sri Lankan Navy had arrested four fishers from Jegathapattinam in the district on charges of crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line and poaching in the Sri Lankan waters. "These incidents should stop, and the Union government should hold talks with the Sri Lankan government to ensure the safety of fishermen," he added.

Telugu actors donate to Kerala CM's Relief Fund

Telugu actor K. Chiranjeevi and his son and actor, Ram Charan, donated ₹1 crore to the Kerala Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to support the victims of the Wayanad landslide. Mr. Chiranjeevi posted on 'X' that they were deeply distressed by the devastation and loss of hundreds of lives caused by nature's fury in the last few days in Kerala. Actor Allu Arjun also donated ₹25 lakh to the CMRF. In a message on 'X' on August 4, Mr. Arjun said he was saddened by the landslide in Wayanad, and as Kerala has always given him much love, he wanted to do his bit by donating ₹25 lakh to CMRF for supporting the rehabilitation work. He mentioned that he was praying for the safety of the people.

Sara Abraham, doyenne of Indian Art, passes away

Geeta Doctor

Sara Abraham, the doyenne of contemporary Indian Art in the early 1970s, passed away in Chennai in the early hours of Sunday.

Her daughter Mariam Ram, accompanied by her husband N. Ram, was with Sara during her last hours.

Born into the distinguished family of Chalakuzhy Paulose Matthen and his wife, Eliamma Matthen, in Travancore, Kerala, as it was then known, Sara was one of eight children.

Her father, K.P. Matthen, was managing director of the Quilon Bank, which eventually became one of the largest private banks in India, the Travancore National and Quilon Bank.

Sara's father eventually moved to Madras, the financial hub of South India which was then the British



Sara Abraham

capital of the Madras Presidency.

Sara, who was then eight years old, remembered the time the family lived in a large Madras Garden house, as these were

known, on the tree-lined suburb of Chetpet bordering the Cooum river.

In time, Sara and her four sisters were sent to an Anglican boarding school in Darjeeling. This is where

Sara discovered art under the guidance of an inspired art teacher. That early initiation created in Sara the singular eye and instinctive ability to recognise original talent during her later years as a collector and promoter of Indian Art in its post-Independence evolution.

Later, she was a part-time student at the Government School (now College) of Arts and Crafts, Madras. K.C.S. Paniker, the principal who went on to found the Cholamandal Artists' Village, included Sara in his vibrant collegiate of artists.

In a similar way, she was able to connect with K.G. Subramanyam, or Manida, as he was to remain her mentor, when she went to Calcutta.

Journey of discovery

An early marriage to P.Z. Abraham allowed her the privilege of living in Bom-

bay where she had perhaps the most exhilarating encounter with the young M.F. Husain. It was a time when modern Indian art and a new generation of art collectors were just beginning to recognise the explosion of creativity in the country.

It could not have been a better moment for Sara with her unique vision to be able to nurture and create what would become her journey of discovery. The Kala Yatra, as she named it, became a moveable feast of contemporary Indian Art in all its manifold variety.

Sara Abraham spent her last day playing 'Single Patience' surrounded by her Kala Yatra friends framed across the walls at her home in Chennai, not far from the Adyar river.

She leaves behind her daughters, Mariam and Elisheba, son, Kuruvilla, and their families.

Sara has left an indelible mark, says T.N. Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday condoled the death of Sara Abraham.

In his condolence message, Mr. Stalin said he was deeply saddened by the passing of Ms. Abraham.

"Her profound impact on the art world, exemplified through significant exhibitions like 'Kala Yatra', has left an indelible mark on our cultural landscape," he said.

"In this time of sorrow, my heartfelt condolences go out to her family, friends, and all who were touched by her remarkable legacy. I have called Thiru N. Ram and his wife to share my condolences with them," Mr. Stalin said.

MGNREGS: States fall behind in paying unemployment aid

Only ₹90,000 released in 2023-24 as allowance for workers who are not provided jobs under the scheme; report says such figures do not reflect true demand and rural economic distress

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Going against one of the key objectives of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), only ₹90,000 was released by various States in 2023-24 as "unemployment allowance", which is provided to workers in case of unmet work demand. The corresponding figure was ₹7.8 lakh in 2022-23.

The Economic Survey, 2024, tabled in Parliament on July 22, pointed out that these figures were clearly deficient and did not reflect the correct picture with regard to unmet work demand. The survey noted that work was often unavailable for beneficiaries and that block-level functionaries may not register demand for work in real time. "Consequently, formal data showing MGNREGA work demand may not reflect the true demand and current rural economic distress," it said.

The survey also pointed out the flaw in the reporting system of MGNREGS, underlining that work demanded is only reported on the portal when employment is actually pro-



Major problem: In 2022-23 and 2023-24, only six States paid the unemployment allowance to workers. FILE PHOTO

vided. "Presumably to save on the State government's liability towards unemployment allowance."

Under Section 7(1) of the MGNREGA, 2005, "If a person applying for employment under the scheme is not employed within 15 days, he shall be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance." The law states that this allowance shall be one-fourth of the wage rate for the first 30 days of the financial year and half of the wage rate for the remainder.

Low disbursement of unemployment allowance is one of the chronic problems in implementation of the Act. In 2022-23 and 2023-24, only six States paid the al-

lowance. In the two financial years before that - 2021-22 and 2020-21 - only three and four States, respectively, disbursed the allowance. In 2019-20, no State disbursed funds.

Nikhil Dey of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS), one of the authors of the Act, said "unemployment allowance" was introduced in the law to fix accountability for the States and is a key tool to ensure that States provide work under the law that rests on the assured employment principle. It also remains one of the most underutilised clauses because of several administrative deficiencies. "The short answer to the ques-

tion, 'who is responsible for such low figures of unemployment allowance?', is of course the States, but the long answer is more complicated. One of the key reasons MGNREGS job cardholders are unable to receive the allowance is that they rarely are handed out the receipt registering their demand. This could be blamed on antipathy or inefficiency of the block-level administration. But often we find that the State governments are squeezed between the beneficiaries and chronic under-budgeting for the scheme by the Centre," he said.

In a report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development tabled in February this year, other than providing a State-wise account of the allowance disbursement, the only response available from the Ministry of Rural Development on this issue was that they will "look into it". The Standing Committee recommended that the Centre should take up the matter at the "highest level" with the States and Union Territories concerned "so that the State governments do not fail in their statutory duties to provide the unemployment allowance".

SC asks banks to find MSME stress before accounts turn to NPA

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held that banks or creditors are required to identify the incipient stress in the accounts of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) before their accounts turn into non-performing assets.

A Bench headed by Justice Bela Trivedi pronounced the recent order on a batch of appeals filed by MSMEs, represented by advocate Mathews J. Nedumpara, focusing on a notification - "Instructions for the Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises" - issued on May 29, 2015 under Section 9 of the MSME Act, revised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in March 2016 in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 21 and 35(A) of the Banking Regulation Act.

The court held that the May 2015 notification has "statutory force binding to all Scheduled commercial banks, licensed to operate in India by the RBI".

"The entire exercise as contained in the 'Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation of MSMEs' is required to be carried out by the banking companies before the accounts of MSMEs turn into non-performing asset (NPA)," the



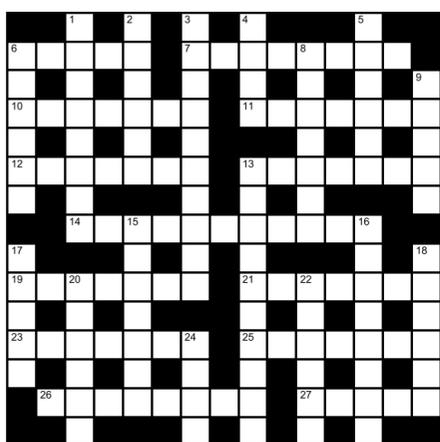
court held. However, the Bench directed that it would also be incumbent on the part of the MSMEs concerned to produce authenticated and verifiable documents/material for substantiating its claim of being MSME before its account is classified as NPA.

"If that is not done, and once the account is classified as NPA, the banks i.e. secured creditors would be entitled to take the recourse to Chapter III of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI) Act for the enforcement of the security interest," it ordered.

The MSMEs had challenged a Bombay High Court decision of January 11, which dismissed their writ petitions. The High Court had held that banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies were not obliged to adopt the restructuring process as contemplated in the May 2015 notification without any specific applications for the purpose from MSMEs.

THE CROSSWORD+ 14245
(set by Arden)

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



- 14 Fall in centre's output, sad (11)
19 Dacoit gang seizes the equipment (7)
21 They were ambitious and died, so many returned (7)
23 Records work on board, that is never ending (7)
25 Cover girl, warm hearted (7)
26 Mary Cole turned into a killer of men (8)
27 Country gets first governor for this African city (5)
Down
1 Storing Sulphur in the warehouse - extremely idiotic and autocratic (8)
2 Married women in India wear it, top removed in private (6)
3 Caught in a difficult situation - even paid the bill (10)
4 Comfortable lifting arms (4)
5 Quietly come and give a sermon (6)
6 Lady Jeanne, shy, holding undergarment up (6)
8 Friendly drink? (7)
9 Opener gets third century, supported by a cricketing nation (5)
13 "Flourishes"- name under which she is working (10)
15 Enriched banks, a city displaying greed (7)
16 They identify the man who came up on stage, staggering (4,4)
17 Accept book in attache case (5)
18 American Navy gets her, she shows people their place (6)
20 Slight margins, ultimately accepted (6)
22 Enlightened organization, thing missing is the pointer (6)
24 Three of them went from top to bottom creating trouble (4)

- Across**
6 Can take leave, vacation complete (5)
7 Flowers make Caroline happy (8)
10 Bond with some music and wine (7)
11 Get up on time - that's rubbish (7)
12 Central Canada loves to get running train (7)
13 Clue in Times for Great Britain (7)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆



FAITH

Navarasa in the Ramayana

Sage Valmiki was the first to introduce poetical format, hence he is called *Aadhikavi* and his work *Ramayana* is called *Aadhi Kavya*. A *Kavya* should contain *Navarasas* - nine types of emotions and the sage had perfectly quoted them. Sri Kesava Vajapaya Swamy said in a discourse how Valmiki had described the nine emotional qualities through a sloka. "*Shringaram Kshithi Nandhini Viharane, Veeram Dhanur Bhanjane, Karunyam Bali Bhojane, Athbutha Rasam Giri Sthapane, Hasyam Rourpana Muke, Bayavaha Bheebhityamany Mukhe, Roudram Ravana Mardhane, Munijane Shantham Vapu: Pathuna.*"

Shringaram - Love and affection: Rama and Sita were affectionate with each other; Veera - Valour: breaking the bow like an elephant calf playing with sugarcane grass; Karuna - Mercy: extending compassion to Kakasura; Athbutham - Wonder/surprise: construction of the Sethu bridge with the help of monkey legions; Hasya - Humour/laughter: maiming and mutilating Surpanaka's nose; Lajja - Shyness: when Rama happened to see other women, he used to feel shy; Roudra - Anger: Rama was furious with Ravana until killing him; Shantham - Politeness/Tranquility: upon seeing Maharshis, Rama used to be calm and polite; Bhaya - Fear: Rama was not afraid of anyone and hence it was omitted to be mentioned.

MONEYWISE



Gold shines on Fed rate cut hope, silver dims

PRECIOUSMETALS

The widespread expectations of an interest rate reduction by the U.S. Federal Reserve and the fresh escalation in geopolitical tension in West Asia acted as a trigger to bolster the prices of gold

B. Krishnakumar

After being confined to a narrow range in the prior months, the price of Comex gold staged a breakout in July and managed to scale new all-time highs recently. Comex silver, however, remains subdued and did not share the enthusiasm displayed by the yellow metal.

The expectations of an interest rate cut by the U.S. Federal Reserve and the fresh escalation in geopolitical tension in West Asia acted as a trigger to bolster gold's price.

Comex gold gained 6.7% in July to settle at \$2,493.4 an ounce. Comex silver, however, was subdued and closed lower by 0.93% to end the month at \$29.16 an ounce.

Customs duty cut

The positivity witnessed in the global markets did not, however, resonate in the domestic markets. The domestic prices took a knock owing to the sharp reduction in basic customs duty on gold and silver announced in the recently-presented Union Budget.

As a result, MCX gold fell 3.09% in July and closed at ₹69,670 per 10-grams. MCX silver witnessed a slightly deeper cut of 6.65% to end the month at ₹83,600 per kilogram.

The Comex gold price moved in sync with last month's expectations and the price managed to reach the then-mentioned target zone of \$2,500-2,515. The short-term outlook remains positive, and the price could head to the next target zone of \$2,575-2,585. This view would be invalidated on a close below \$2,340.

Comex silver price continued its recent range-bound price action in July. As observed last month, the overall trend is still positive for silver and a move above \$31.2 would signal the start of the next leg of the up move. The positive outlook would be under threat if the price falls below \$26.1. The sharp cut in customs duty on gold has altered the technical structure in the MCX gold chart. The short-term trend appears positive but with a modest target potential of ₹72,100-72,900. Only a move above ₹73,200 would impart momentum to the upside. Until then expect a range bound price movement with modest upside potential in MCX gold.

Similar to gold, the MCX silver price structure too was affected by the sharp drop in the price triggered by the customs duty reduction.

While there is a case for a short-term rally to ₹87,800-88,500 zone, the price has to move past ₹95,000 to impart positivity. Until the price moves above ₹95,000, expect a range bound price movement with a downward bias.

To summarise, the short-term outlook for gold appears positive while silver could continue its recent range-bound price movement. Keep an eye on the upside trigger levels for further cues.

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

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ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

Self-control, the key to long-term investing

Individuals seeking instant gratification are unable to make investments for the long term; even those who plan initially for the long term, end up terminating their investments after a point

FUND MANAGEMENT

Gaurav Mashruwala

As a practising financial planner, it is quite common for me to interact professionally with individuals having 'self-control bias'.

Possessing traits of this kind of a bias is becoming extremely common nowadays. More and more individuals want instant gratification and hence are unable to make investments for the long term.

Even those who initially plan to invest for the long term, invariably end up breaking, redeeming or terminating their investments after a while.

Plethora of excuses

An older cousin of mine, who is now settled in our native place, would end up breaking his investments prematurely most of the time.

He would justify it on the pretext of some 'unplanned expense' either in the form of fees for his daughter's education, or a wedding in the family, guests from overseas, or breakdown of white goods. And the list of reasons would go on and on.

Align goals, investments

The best option, of course, is to decide on financial goals and make investments aligned to them. Along with that, keep reviewing your financial goals and the investments



It is extremely important to maintain a contingency fund for unforeseen expenses so that long-term investments would not have to be altered

linked to it, every three months, and make appropriate modifications. I keep encouraging this once-in-three months review with family participation with the coinage 'financial date'.

It is extremely important to maintain a contingency fund for unforeseen expenses so that long-term investments would not have to be altered.

Another option is to break the investments in baskets. This could be in the form of two or three baskets, namely short-term, medium-term, and long-term. This will ensure that even when there is a genuine need, long-term investments are not disturbed.

To illustrate my point, I used to give the example of a train journey to my cousin, who is now settled in Ahmedabad. I would tell him "if you board a Duronto from Mumbai to Ahmedabad and suddenly decide to get down at Surat, there are two options - either jump off the train - which may cost you your life - or miss the station." Obviously, the example might have had only a tem-



Rate of interest on borrowed funds is pre-decided and invariably fixed. Returns on investment, usually long-term, are not certain

porary impact on him.

The bias in mind is difficult to change as long as the individual is steadfast on it.

The primary reason this bias is present in all of us in some form or the other is twofold - firstly, while we all are aware of the fact that long-term investments yield much superior returns than near term investments. With the lure of higher returns, we all make investments for longer tenure. Secondly, there is an urge for instant gratification. To satisfy our urge, we terminate our long-term investments.

I have also come across several individuals who make long-term investments and to fulfil their immediate desires, borrow money. Since borrowings are now easily possible, this should be avoided. The rate of interest on borrowed funds is pre-decided and invariably fixed. On the other hand, returns on investment, usually long-term, are not certain.

Let us understand with two examples. Assume the investment is in an equity-based mutual fund. Returns from this kind of in-

vestment are subject to market risk and uncertain. On the other hand, if there is any outstanding loan, the rate of interest on this is certain. When both borrowing and investing happen simultaneously, there arises a situation where against uncertain returns there is the burden of a certain rate of interest.

In the case of fixed deposit or bonds or any other debt-based instrument, even if the scenario is different whereby the rate of interest on loan is less than the rate of interest on a debt instrument, if both have similar tenure, there can be a situation whereby upon maturity, the renewed investment may not yield similar returns.

The solution

While it is not possible to eliminate self-control bias, in order to reduce its impact, invest based on your financial goals. Do name it after the person whom it is meant for, for example daughter Laxmi's higher education mutual fund.

This will act as a red signal in your mind when you feel the need to redeem money for upgrading your car or to go on an overseas trip. Always keep aside funds for emergency, and lastly go on a financial date every quarter. Biases do not go away because we are human beings and are prone to emotions, but with little effort its impact can be diluted.

(The writer is a financial planner & author of Yogic Wealth)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)				Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure		Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks									
AU Small Finance Bank	8	7.25	7.5	7.25	Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7	7	6.5	6.5
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.5	8.2	8	7.25	Karur Vysya Bank	7.5	7	7	7
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.25	6	6.75	6.25	Karnataka Bank	7.25	7.1	6.5	6.5
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	8.25	7.25	Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.4	7.1	7	6.2
NorthEast Small Finance Bank	9	7	9	6.25	RBL Bank	8	7.5	7.5	7.1
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.65	6.85	8.6	8.25	SBM Bank India	8.25	7.05	7.3	7.75
Ujivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	7.2	7.2	South Indian Bank	7.25	6.7	6.7	6
Unity Small Finance Bank	9	7.85	8.15	8.15	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.5	7	6.5	6.5
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.5	8	8.5	7.75	YES Bank	8	7.25	7.25	7.25
Private Sector Banks									
Axis Bank	7.2	6.7	7.1	7	Bank of Baroda	7.25	6.85	7.15	6.5
Bandhan Bank	7.85	7.85	7.25	5.85	Bank of India	7.3	6.8	6.5	6
City Union Bank	7.25	7	6.5	6.25	Bank of Maharashtra	7.25	6.75	6.5	6.5
CSB Bank	7.75	5	5.75	5.75	Canara Bank	7.25	6.85	6.8	6.7
DBS Bank	7.5	7	6.5	6.5	Central Bank of India	7.3	6.85	6.5	6.5
DCB Bank	8.05	7.1	7.55	7.4	Indian Bank	7.25	6.1	6.25	6.25
Federal Bank	7.4	6.8	7	6.6	Indian Overseas Bank	7.3	6.9	6.5	6.5
HDFC Bank	7.4	6.6	7	7	Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.75	7	6.5
ICICI Bank	7.2	6.7	7	7	Punjab & Sind Bank	7.3	6.3	6	6
IDFC First Bank	7.75	6.5	7.25	7	State Bank of India	7.25	6.8	6.75	6.5
Indusind Bank	7.75	7.75	7.25	7.25	Union Bank of India	7.25	6.8	6.7	6.5

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.)			Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.)		
	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh		Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
Public Sector Banks							
State Bank of India	8.50-9.85	8.50-9.85	8.50-9.85	Karnataka Bank	8.50-10.62	8.50-10.62	8.50-10.62
Bank of Baroda	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.90	Federal Bank	8.80*	8.80*	8.80*
Union Bank of India	8.35-10.75	8.35-10.90	8.35-10.90	Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50
Punjab National Bank	8.45-10.25	8.40-10.15	8.40-10.15	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.60-9.95	8.60-9.95	8.60-9.95
Bank of India	8.40-10.85	8.40-10.85	8.40-10.85	Bandhan Bank	9.16-15.00	9.16-13.33	9.16-13.33
Canara Bank	8.50-11.25	8.45-11.25	8.40-11.15	RBL Bank	8.90*	8.90*	8.90*
UCO Bank	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	CSB Bank	10.49-12.34	10.49-12.34	10.49-12.34
Bank of Maharashtra	8.35-11.15	8.35-11.15	8.35-11.15	HDFC Bank Ltd.	8.75*	8.75*	8.75*
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00	City Union Bank	8.25-9.50	8.50-10.00	8.75-10.50
Indian Overseas Bank	8.40-10.60	8.40-10.60	8.40-10.60	Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
Central Bank of India	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80	LIC Housing Finance	8.50-10.35	8.50-10.55	8.50-10.75
Private Sector Banks							
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.70*	8.70*	8.70*	Bajaj Housing Finance	8.50*	8.50*	8.50*
ICICI Bank	8.75*	8.75*	8.75*	Tata Capital	8.75*	8.75*	8.75*
Axis Bank	8.75-13.30	8.75-13.30	8.75-9.65	PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-14.50	8.50-11.45
HSBC Bank	8.50*	8.50*	8.50*	GIC Housing Finance	8.80*	8.80*	8.80*
South Indian Bank	8.70-11.70	8.70-11.70	8.70-11.70	SMFG India Home Finance	10.00*	10.00*	10.00*
Karur Vysya Bank	9.00-11.05	9.00-11.05	9.00-11.05	Aditya Birla Capital	8.60*	8.60*	8.60*
				ICICI Home Finance	9.10*	9.10*	9.10*
				Godrej Housing Finance	8.55*	8.55*	8.55*

*Onwards Rates as on July 31 Source:Paisabazaar.com

ABUJA

Nigerian President calls for an end to protests that has claimed 13 lives



Nigeria's President Bola Ahmed Tinubu called for the suspension of nationwide protests and an end to "bloodshed" on Sunday. Thousands took to the streets last week to protest government policies and the high cost of living. Amnesty International accused the security forces of killing at least 13 demonstrators. AFP

TEHRAN

Jordan Minister holds discussions in Iran as West Asia tensions soar



Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi held talks on Sunday with officials in Iran, as fears of an escalation between Tehran and Israel grew following the killing of Hamas chief Ismael Haniyeh. Mr. Safadi "met and held consultations with" acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri after landing in Tehran for a rare visit. AFP

MANILA

Philippines and Germany agree to broaden defence agreement



The Philippines and Germany have agreed to deepen military cooperation, as Manila pushes back after a series of confrontations with China. German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius and his Philippine counterpart Gilberto Teodoro met in Manila and pledged to sign a defence cooperation agreement by the end of the year. AFP

DUBAI

Strike by Houthis hits container ship in first attack in two weeks



A missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels on Saturday struck a Liberian-flagged container ship traveling through the Gulf of Aden, the first assault by the group since Israeli airstrikes targeted them. The rebels separately claimed to have shot down another U.S. military spy drone, without offering evidence. AP

At least 44 killed as Israeli air strikes hit Gaza schools, hospital compound

Dozens wounded and several structures destroyed in the attack on the education facility while casualties include children; Gaza officials say Israel had struck 172 designated shelters, mostly schools, housing thousands of displaced families so far

Reuters
CAIRO

An Israeli airstrike hit two schools in Gaza City on Sunday, killing at least 25 people, the Palestinian official news agency said, while the Israeli military said it struck a Hamas military compound embedded in the schools.

An Israeli air strike hit a tent camp inside a hospital in central Gaza earlier in the day. Gaza health officials said at least 44 Palestinians were killed on Sunday, the day after a round of talks in Cairo ended without result.

Footage circulated on Palestinian media showed



Same narrative: People stand among the rubble in the courtyard of the al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir el-Balah on Sunday. AFP

bodies scattered inside the yard of one of two blast-wrecked schools as residents rushed to carry casualties, including children, and loaded them into ambulance vehicles that

took them to at least two nearby hospitals.

The Palestinian officials news agency Wafa and Hamas media said dozens were wounded in addition to the 25 fatalities in the

schools of Hassan Salama and Al-Nasser, which housed Palestinian displaced families.

They said the strike destroyed several structures inside the facilities.

'Attack on Hamas'

The Israeli military said it struck militants inside a Hamas command embedded within the schools, accusing Hamas of operating from within civilian property.

Hamas denies using civilian institutions for military purposes.

The Hamas-run government media office said Israel had struck 172 designated shelters, mostly schools, housing thou-

sands of displaced families since October 7.

Earlier in the day, an Israeli strike inside the al-Aqsa Hospital compound started a fire, and wounded at least 18 persons as well as killing five, medical authorities said.

The hospital compound is in Deir Al-Balah, an area crowded with thousands of people displaced by fighting in other parts of the enclave.

Elsewhere in Deir Al-Balah, three Palestinians were killed when an Israeli missile struck a house.

Separate Israeli strikes killed eight others inside their home in Jabalia camp in northern Gaza City and three inside a car.

Foreign nationals told to leave Lebanon as fears surge

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Urgent calls for foreign nationals to leave Lebanon grew on Sunday with France warning of "a highly volatile" situation as Iran and its allies ready their response to high-profile killings blamed on Israel.

Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement, which has traded near-daily fire with Israeli forces since the Gaza war broke out in October, announced its fighters had fired a barrage of rockets at Israel's north overnight.

The Israeli military said 30 projectiles were launched from Lebanon, with most of them intercepted.

With Israel on high alert anticipating major military action from Tehran-aligned armed groups in-



Flash point: Rockets fired from Lebanon intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome defence system over the Upper Galilee region on Sunday. AFP

cluding Hezbollah and Hamas, medics and police said two persons were killed on Sunday in a stabbing attack in a Tel Aviv suburb.

Tel Aviv stabbing

The assailant, a Palestinian from the occupied West Bank, was "neutralised" by

police and taken to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

France, Canada and Jordan were among the latest governments to call for their citizens to leave Lebanon.

The United States and Britain have issued similar warnings.

Would be 'foolish' not to have good ties with Army: Imran

Reuters
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister, Imran Khan, who blames the military for his ouster and 12-month-old imprisonment on what he calls trumped-up charges, said on Sunday it would be "foolish" not to have "excellent" relations with the Army.

Ahead of Monday's anniversary of his jailing on dozens of charges ranging from corruption to leaking state secrets, Mr. Khan also said in written responses to Reuters questions that he held no grudges against the U.S., which he has also blamed for his 2022 ouster

Former Pak. PM says he held no grudges against the U.S., which he blamed for his ouster from office

from office.

"Given Pakistan's geographical position and the military's significant role in the private sector, it would be foolish not to foster such a relationship," Mr. Khan wrote. "We are proud of our soldiers and armed forces," he said.

Mr. Khan said his criticisms since his ouster had been directed at individuals, not the military as an institution.

Ukraine orders evacuation as Russia hits Donetsk towns

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Ukraine on Sunday announced the mandatory evacuation of children and their guardians from areas in the Donetsk region, where Russia has been claiming advances.

Just hours earlier, Russia said its forces had seized a nearby village, after claiming a string of villages in recent weeks - many just consisting of a few streets.

"The enemy is bombing the towns and villages of these communities every day, so it was decided to evacuate children with their parents or other legal representatives," Donetsk

Governor Vadym Filashkin said, listing the towns and villages to be evacuated.

Mr. Filashkin cited the town of Novogradovka, about 20 km from the village of Novoselivka Persha that Russia claimed to have captured on Sunday. The Donetsk Governor said 744 children and their families had to be relocated to four regions of Ukraine.

F-16s received

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday Ukraine has received its first batch of U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets, adding that more are needed to beat back Russian forces.

U.K. grapples with its worst riots in 13 years spurred by far-right agitators

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

U.K. authorities faced growing pressure on Sunday to put an end to England's worst rioting in 13 years after disturbances linked to child murders and involving far-right agitators flared across the country.

They were fuelled by false rumours on social media about the background of British-born 17-year-old suspect Axel Rudakubana, charged with several counts of murder and attempted murder over the attack at a Taylor Swift-themed dance party.

Rudakubana is accused of killing Bebe King, six, Elsie Dot Stancombe, seven, and Alice Dasilva Aguiar,



Mounting tension: A protester holding a piece of concrete walks towards riot police in Bristol in Britain on Saturday. AFP

nine, and injuring another 10 persons.

Police have blamed the violence on supporters and associated organisations of the English Defence League, an anti-Islam organisation founded 15 years ago whose suppor-

ters have been linked to football hooliganism.

The unrest spread to multiple towns and cities on Saturday as anti-immigration demonstrators clashed with police.

The violence is posing a major test for Prime Minis-

ter Keir Starmer, who was elected only a month ago.

About 90 people were arrested after skirmishes broke out at far-right rallies in numerous places including Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Blackpool and Hull, as well as Belfast in Northern Ireland.

In some instances, rioters threw bricks, bottles and flares at police - injuring several officers - looted and burnt shops, while demonstrators shouted anti-Islamic slurs as they clashed with counter-protesters.

The violence is the worst England has seen since the summer of 2011, when widespread rioting took place following the police killing of a mixed-race man in north London.

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क्रमांक-विशा/स्टोर/2024-25(280), दिनांक-01/08/2024
निविदा सूचना का शुद्धि पत्र (CORRIGENDUM)
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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
I Dilip Rout S/o Praphulla Rout residing at R-55, Gali no 17, Sharma Colony, Budh Vihar, Phase - II, Delhi 110086 have adopted the daughter (name Liza Nayak) of Lt. Duryodhan Nayak and Bengalata Nayak R/O Saluni, Chamapattipur, Nayagarh, Odisha 752068 on Dated 23 December 2022. From Above Date, she will be known as my daughter & the new name is Liza Rout.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

To All Persons, Let it be known that We Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte Ltd do REVOKE IN ITS ENTIRETY all the Power of Attorneys ("POAs") made in the Republic of Singapore for use in the territory of India as identified below:

1. The POA dated 8th March 2024 that was granted to Dr. Tanmoy Tarunkumar Bhattacharya (Passport No. 27165316) son of Tarun Kumar Bhattacharya and presently residing at A-51, Parwana CGHS Plot No. 1, Mayor Vihar PH1, Extn., New Delhi 110091, who was employed with us and holding the position of Director (Operations) and Mr. Satyajeet Roy Gupta (Passport No. L9422354) son of Mr. Satyadulal Roy Gupta currently residing at M-21 GF M Block, Pocket 52 Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi, India who is presently employed with us and holding the position of Vice President Planning and Co-ordination.

2. The POA dated 21st November 2023 that was granted to Dr. Tanmoy Tarunkumar Bhattacharya (Passport No. 22906978) son of Tarun Kumar Bhattacharya and presently residing at A-51, Parwana CGHS Plot No. 1, Mayor Vihar PH1, Extn., New Delhi 110091, who was employed with us and holding the position of Director (Operations) and Mr. Gouda Apruroo (Passport No. R4543551) son of Mr. Gouda Prasada Rao and presently residing at D22, 202, Freedom Fighters Enclave, Saket, New Delhi-110017, India who was employed with us and holding the position of Assistant Vice President - Projects & Transaction Advisory.

3. The POA dated 4th October 2022 that was granted to Dr. Tanmoy Tarunkumar Bhattacharya (Passport No. 22906978) son of Tarun Kumar Bhattacharya and presently residing at A-51, Parwana CGHS Plot No. 1, Mayor Vihar PH1, Extn., New Delhi 110091, who was employed with us and holding the position of Director (Operations) and Mr. Gouda Apruroo (Passport No. R4543551) son of Mr. Gouda Prasada Rao and presently residing at D22, 202, Freedom Fighters Enclave, Saket, New Delhi-110017, India who was employed with us and holding the position of Assistant Vice President - Projects & Transaction Advisory.

4. The POA dated 27th August 2021 that was granted to Dr. Tanmoy Tarunkumar Bhattacharya (Passport No. 22906978) son of Tarun Kumar Bhattacharya and presently residing at A-51, Parwana CGHS Plot No. 1, Mayor Vihar PH1, Extn., New Delhi 110091, who was employed with us and holding the position of Director (Operations) and Mr. Gouda Apruroo (Passport No. R4543551) son of Mr. Gouda Prasada Rao and presently residing at D22, 202, Freedom Fighters Enclave, Saket, New Delhi-110017, India who was employed with us and holding the position of Assistant Vice President - Projects & Transaction Advisory.

This Revocation of the POAs above should be conclusive of all purposes from the date of execution as set forth below.

We Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte Ltd for good cause, do hereby revoke, cancel and make void the POAs therein given and contained, for all matters granted to the Attorney(s). Nothing herein shall affect any authorized, bona fide and lawful actions taken by the Attorney(s).

In witness whereof the Common Seal of Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte Ltd was hereunto affixed this 21st day of June 2024.

The Common Seal of Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte Ltd was hereunto affixed in the presence of

Dr. Shahzad Nasim (Managing Director)

(Seal) Riddhi Karmacharya (Director)

TENDERS

Tender Notice

SATSAR COOPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD.
(REGD NO: 1318/GH) NO.SATIFS/July/2024
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Satsar CGHS Ltd. is intending to replace and repair the existing firefighting system already installed in the society. Expression of interest, through local competitive bidding is invited from reputed vendors who can carry out the above work with finesse. The interested vendors must have:

1. An experience of minimum 10 years in the respective field in a cooperative group housing societies with more than 200 members/units

2. Executed minimum 3 similar projects in large group housing societies during the last 7 years with one of them of the value of at least 35 lacs.

3. Minimum turnover of Rs. 50 lacs during each of the last three Financial years. Detailed tender document can be collected personally or by mail/email after paying a fee of Rs.500/- The applications must be sent to the undersigned within ten days from the date of publication of this notice.

President/Secretary
Satsar Cooperative Group Housing Society, Plot no 6, Sec - 7, Dwarka, N. Delhi - 110075, Cont. : 9818666415, 9811998303
Email: satsarsarwarka@gmail.com

TENDERS

Oushadhi

The Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanellur, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Ph: (0487-2459841, 2459807, 2459842
E-mail: purchase@oushadhi.org

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for the supply of 1) Raw materials and 1) Containers & Packing Materials for the period 1st October 2024 to 31st March 2025. Tenders can be downloaded from the website www.tenders.kerala.gov.in. For more details, please visit our website www.oushadhi.org or contact our Purchase Division at Kuttanellur.

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HISTORY-MAKER

Ledecky retains 800m freestyle for record-equalling 9th Olympic gold



GETTY IMAGES

American superstar Katie Ledecky powered to a fourth straight 800m freestyle title on Saturday to claim a ninth career Olympic gold and equal gymnast Larisa Latynina's record for the most ever won by a woman athlete in any sport. She won in 8m 11.04s, ahead of Australia's Ariarne Titmus and compatriot Paige Madden.

FAB FOUR

USA takes mixed 4x100 medley title in world record time



REUTERS

The United States broke the world record in winning the 4x100m mixed medley relay gold at the Paris Games on Saturday, outgunning China and Australia. The team of Ryan Murphy, Nic Fink, Gretchen Walsh, and Torri Huske touched in 3min 37.43 seconds to narrowly better the 3:37.58 set by Great Britain at the Tokyo Games.

PIONEER

Nemour becomes first African to win an Olympic gymnastics medal



AP

Algeria's Kaylia Nemour became the first African gymnast to win an Olympic medal when she secured gold with a breathtaking routine on the asymmetric bars that wowed the crowd. China's Qiu Qiyuan, the 2023 World champion, took silver ahead of USA's Sunisa Lee, who claimed a second successive bronze on the apparatus.

BEST ON SHOW

World No. 1 Scheffler edges Fleetwood to the golf victory



AFF

USA's Scottie Scheffler claimed the golf gold with a thrilling one-stroke victory over Great Britain's Tommy Fleetwood. The World No. 1 secured his seventh win of the year with a course record-equalling 62 to edge Fleetwood on 19-under-par for the tournament. Japan's Hideki Matsuyama took bronze.

Gallant 10-man India shoots out Great Britain

Harmanpreet's men win 4-2 on penalties after regulation time ends 1-1; Rohidas' early red card doesn't deter the Tokyo Games bronze medallist as it books a semifinal meeting with Germany



Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

A 10-man India — toughened by sessions of mental training with Paddy Upton and adventurer Mike Horn — showed character in a nerve-wracking quarterfinal to edge past Great Britain via penalty shootout in the Olympics at the Yves du Manoir Stadium here on Sunday.

The Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist defeated the Britons 4-2 in a tense shootout following a 1-1 deadlock in the regulation period and claimed its spot in the semifinals.

Playing with one man down for nearly three quarters, India quickly adapted to the situation and displayed one of its best shows of clinical and compact defence in a do-or-die situation.

In the gripping encounter in front of a near-capacity house, Great Britain applied pressure early to secure two penalty corners and created two more moves from the right, which were superbly blocked by a dashing P.R. Sreejesh.

India impressed with a couple of moves as well.



All together: Sreejesh, left, is mobbed by his mates after the penalty shootout against Great Britain. AP

Hardik Singh and Mandeep Singh combined beautifully while the well-coordinated trio of Harmanpreet, Hardik and Abhishek, too, showcased their attacking prowess.

Great Britain earned another short corner, while India secured three consecutive ones towards the end of the opening quarter.

In the action-packed second period, India received a major setback in the 17th minute when Amit

Rohidas' stick hit William Calnan's head. Rohidas — carrying out the triple responsibility of a defender, a penalty corner defender and scorer — was shown a red card and it put a huge burden on India.

The goals

Manpreet then moved to the backline, and India not only guarded its citadel well, but also counter-attacked with more determination. Harmanpreet precisely found a gap to

convert the fourth penalty corner and pumped up the whole team.

Great Britain's effort on the right flank bore fruit as Lee Morton capitalised on a cross and his shot was deflected from Sreejesh's left hand and into the goal.

The Britons maintained pressure after the change of ends and picked up three penalty corners but their attempts were foiled by the alert Indian defenders.

India was down to nine

men at the stroke of the third break when Sumit was issued a green card for a dangerous clearance amid a round of booing from the British supporters.

Coach Craig Fulton's stress on defence and flexibility worked wonders. Even as Great Britain relentlessly pushed the Indian defence from both flanks, the Harmanpreet-led backline stood as firm as a rock. When the regulation period ended at 1-1,



We had no option but to keep the score tied till the end. We played to a structure and the communication between the players was pretty good today
HARMANPREET

the Indian camp punched the air.

Harmanpreet, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Upadhyay and Raj Kumar Pal scored for India in the shootout, which had more drama in store than one would expect in a thriller movie.

There was a halt prior to Sukhjeet's attempt as British goalkeeper Ollie Payne appeared to have used an iPad on the pitch, which apparently is not allowed in the rule books. The device was removed before action resumed.

After Conor Williamson shot the ball over the bar, Sreejesh — who made 20-plus saves despite a hamstring issue, which had to be tended to by applying a spray before going into the penalty shootouts — made an excellent save off Phillip Roper's last attempt. Raj Kumar beat Payne to trigger wild celebrations on the pitch and in the stands. India will meet Germany which won 3-2 against Argentina.

The result: India 1 (Harmanpreet 22) drew with Great Britain 1 (Morton 27); **Penalty shootout:** India 4 (Harmanpreet, Sukhjeet, Lalit Upadhyay, Raj Kumar Pal) bt Great Britain 2 (James Albery, Zach Wallace).

Coach Fulton heaps praise on Indian team

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Coach Craig Fulton was delighted to see the Indian hockey team, despite playing nearly three quarters with 10 men, executing his ideas into action against Great Britain.

"We've been talking about defence for (the last) 14 months and we dug deep and Sree(jesh) was immense. When you talk about defence, it's also about showing your love for your teammate by covering him and helping him. And Sree did that for us and we did that for him," said Fulton.

About Rohidas' red card after his stick hit William Calnan's head, Fulton said,

"If someone gets hit to the head, something's wrong. But I will stand up for Amit. He's not that kind of player. You've always got to look where there's smoke, there's fire. So, what happened first, for that to happen. We'll just look to that. Not the other way."

Harmanpreet Singh said with only 10 men his team was bound to defend hard. "We had no option but to keep the score tied till the end. We focussed on defence, we played to a structure and the communication between the players was pretty good today. It was a team effort," Harmanpreet said.

The Indian captain said they had to forget the red card and move forward.



Cock-a-hoop: Fulton, Sukhjeet and Raj Kumar celebrate after the final goal of the shootout. AP

'Sreejesh was God of hockey today'

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Former India captain and Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh, who made several saves including in the penalty shootout, was the 'God of hockey' for the national team.

Tirkey, who was present at the stadium to witness the match, praised the Indian team for defending well after Amit Rohidas' expulsion.

"I can understand how difficult it is to play with 10 men. That's why we didn't see many attacks. The team planned in the right way with the intention to defend (every attack from the opposition)," said Tirkey.

"It kept the defence crowded. If we had attacked again and again, there would have been a lot of gaps in our defence. And they would have taken advantage of that.

"Sreejesh was the God of hockey for us today.

"He saved well. We were able to play a better match



Flashpoint: Calnan goes down after Rohidas' challenge, resulting in a red card. REUTERS

because of his performance."

In an apparent reference to defender Rohidas' red card suspension, Tirkey said, "At this level people want to see a better match and players want to play a better match. The level of umpiring should be balanced.

"In today's match something happened that should not have happened

because of umpiring. But we won the match and we are celebrating."

Meanwhile, Hockey India officially raised concerns about the quality of umpiring and decision-making in the India-Great Britain match.

The complaint focused on "several inconsistencies in officiating potentially influenced the game's outcome."

The key issues highlighted by HI include i) inconsistent video umpire reviews, particularly regarding the red card decision for an Indian player, which has eroded trust in the video review system, ii) coaching of a goalkeeper from behind the goalpost during the shoot-out and iii) use of a video tablet by a goalkeeper during the shoot-out.

Axelsen dashes Lakshya's hopes

BADMINTON

Jonathan Selvaraj
PARIS

The heavy Indian contingent in the spectators gallery at Arena Porte De La Chapelle was in a state of excitement as it sensed an upset in the court below. Indeed, Olympic men's singles badminton champion Viktor Axelsen looked to be in real trouble against India's Lakshya Sen.

Axelsen tried to block out the noise. Down three game points in the opening set of his semifinal match, Axelsen leaned forward in his stance and tried to keep his mind blank.

On the other side of the net, Lakshya's mind was in overdrive. What should have been obvious now seemed anything but. Should he play a short serve or hit the shuttle high? Axelsen knew the Indian's mind was all over the place.

Lakshya would freeze with all that information overload and wouldn't



Fine margins: Lakshya had his moments but his errors came back to haunt him. RITU RAJ KONWAR

place the shuttle high or dribble it over the net. Instead, the shuttle is pushed into the top of the cord and bobbled over for a foul serve. One game point saved. Two more unforced errors would follow. Axelsen earned a game point of his own and converted it right away.

Lakshya's shoulders slumped as he walked back to pick up his bag and change sides. The Indian

never really recovered although he got off to a strong start in the next game.

Axelsen pulled things back and took the game easily in the end, winning 22-20, 21-14.

As the Indian walked off the court in stunned silence, he would be playing over what had happened. Lakshya, too, had his fair share of chances — leading 15-9 in the opening game

then having three game points saved in the opening set before storming off once again to a 7-0 lead in the second.

Each time though, Axelsen came back, counting on the Indian to make a mistake at a critical time.

"Lakshya was better than me for many parts of the game. He could have won the match on the court but I won the match up here. He should have won but he tensed up because of his nerves." Axelsen said tapping the side of his head for emphasis.

"I've gone through what Lakshya had before. But he's going to be a real contender for the 2028 Olympics. I think the difference in experience made a difference today."

Lakshya will have to pick himself up and prepare for Monday's bronze medal match against Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia.

The Indian is aware about what he has to do. "I have to forget what has happened. I have another match to prepare for," Lakshya said.

INBRIEF



Norway's Rooth secures stunning decathlon win

Norway's Markus Rooth won gold in the men's decathlon with a score of 8,796 points after defending champion Damian Warner's title defence ended when he failed to clear a height in the pole vault. Germany's Leo Neugebauer won silver with 8,748 and Lindon Victor of Grenada captured bronze with a 8,711. The 22-year-old Rooth, seventh after day one, beat Neugebauer to the 1,500m finish line by about five seconds to seal the biggest win of his career.



Triple jumper LaFond creates history for Dominica

Dominica's Thea LaFond won the Olympic women's triple jump title in Paris on Saturday, a historic first medal for the tiny Caribbean country. The World indoor champion hopped, skipped and jumped to a national record of 15.02 metres for victory. Jamaica's Shanicka Ricketts took silver with 14.87m, American Jasmine Moore claiming bronze (14.67).



Finke retains men's 1,500m freestyle gold in WR time

American Bobby Finke smashed the world record on Sunday as he retained the men's 1,500m freestyle crown. After 30 lung-busting laps, Finke touched the wall in 14 minutes, 30.67 seconds, eclipsing Sun Yang's previous mark of 14:31.02. Italy's Gregorio Paltrinieri took silver and Ireland's Daniel Wiffen the bronze. Finke became the first male to go back-to-back in the event since Australia's Grant Hackett in 2000-04.

GOLDIES

- Kristof Milak (Hun):** Men's 100m Butterfly
Rhys McClenaghan (Irl): Men's Pommel Horse
Thea LaFond (Dma): Women's Triple Jump
Markus Rooth (Nor): Decathlon
Remco Evenepoel (Bel): Cycling Road Men
Carlos Yulo (Phi): Men's Floor Exercise
France: Judo Mixed Team
Katie Ledecky (USA): Women's 800m
USA (Ryan Murphy, Nic Fink, Gretchen Walsh and Torri Huske): Mixed 4x100m Medley Relay
Kim Woojin (Kor): Archery Men's Individual
Liu Yang (Chn): Men's Rings
Kaylia Nemour (Alg): Uneven Bars
Carlos Yulo (Phi): Men's Vault
Jessica von Bredow-Wernnd (Ger): Dressage Individual GP Freestyle
Novak Djokovic (Srb): Tennis Men's Singles
Fan Zhendong (Chn): Table Tennis Men's Singles
Francisca Crovetto Chadid (Chi): Women's Skeet
Scottie Scheffler (USA): Men's golf
Kristen Faulkner (USA): Cycling Women's Road Race
Lee Yang & Wang Chi-lin (Tpe): Badminton Men's Doubles
Bobby Finke (USA): Men's 1500m Freestyle
Sarah Sjoestrom (Swe): Women's 50m Freestyle
China (Xu Jiayu, Qin Haiyan, Sun Jiajun, Pan Zhanle): Men's 4 x 100m Medley Relay
USA (Regan Smith, Lilly King, Gretchen Walsh, Torri Huske): Women's 4 x 100m Medley Relay
Sara Errani & Jasmine Paolini (Ita): Tennis Women's Doubles
Yaroslava Mahuchikh (Ukr): Women's High Jump
Ethan Katzberg (Can): Men's Hammer Throw
Noah Lyles (USA): Men's 100m

GOING FOR GOLD

- 3x3 Basketball:** Women & Men
Artistic Gymnastics: Men's Parallel Bars, Women's Balance Beam, Men's Horizontal Bar, Women's Floor Exercise Final
Athletics: Men's Pole Vault, Women's Discus, Women's 5000m, Women's 800m
Badminton: Women's & Men's Singles
Canoe Slalom: Men's & Women's Kayak Cross
Cycling Track: Women's Team Sprint
Shooting: Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol, Skeet Mixed Team
Triathlon: Mixed Relay

Lyles streaks to greatness in 9.79s; Thompson loses out by a whisker

Canada's Katzberg wins men's hammer gold with a monster first throw; Ukraine's Mahuchikh leaps to glory in women's high jump



Agencies
PARIS

World champion Noah Lyles roared to victory in 9.79sec to claim the men's Olympic 100m gold on Sunday.

Lyles became the first American, man or woman, to win the event since Justin Gatlin won in the 2004 Athens Games.

Kishane Thompson of Jamaica took the silver and Fred Kerley of the U.S. claimed bronze.



As close as it gets: American Lyles, left, crosses the finish line just a smidgen ahead of Jamaican Thompson, second right. AFP

Canadian world champion Ethan Katzberg won the men's hammer, uncorking a mammoth heave

with his first throw to clinch the gold medal.

The charismatic 22-year-old from British Co-

lumbia registered 84.12m with his opening effort to leave his rivals trailing throughout the competi-

tion at the Stade de France. Katzberg's superb first round toss was more than four metres further than

his nearest rival, Hungary's Bence Halasz, who took silver with a throw of 79.97.

Ukraine's Mykhaylo Kokhan took bronze with a throw of 79.39.

Ukraine's Yaroslava Mahuchikh lived up to her pre-Paris Games billing to win the women's high jump.

The world champion and world record holder managed a best of 2.00 metres to win on count-back from Australia's Nicola Olislagers.

Another Australian, Eleanor Patterson, claimed joint bronze with another Ukrainian, Iryna Gerashchenko, both on 1.95m.

Wearing her trademark blue and yellow eyeliner Mahuchikh was nowhere near her 2.10m world record form of the Paris Diamond League last month.

But her Paris performance on Sunday was enough for Olympic gold.



Finally! Djokovic said Sunday's triumph was his biggest sporting success. AFP

Peerless Djokovic adds a golden sheen to his career

Reuters
PARIS

Novak Djokovic described beating Carlos Alcaraz to claim the Olympic singles gold medal at the fifth attempt as the biggest achievement of his career on Sunday.

The 37-year-old Serb ended an eight-month trophy drought with a vintage display to win 7-6(3), 7-6(2) and complete his career Golden Slam in memorable fashion, not dropping a set in six matches at Roland Garros.

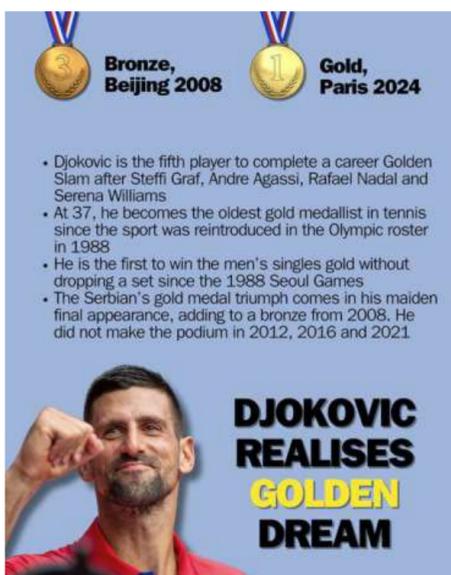
He is the oldest man to win the Olympic singles title since tennis returned to the Games in 1988 and remarkably he did it 21 days after being pummeled by Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final and two months after undergoing knee surgery.

"I won the bronze in my first Olympic Games (2008) and ever since then failed to win the medal and played three out of four Olympic Games in semifinals and couldn't overcome that obstacle," Djokovic, proudly wearing his medal, told reporters.

"And then now at age 37, with a 21-year-old that is probably the best player in the world right now, winning Roland Garros and Wimbledon back-to-back and playing incredible tennis.

"When I take everything into consideration, this probably is the biggest sporting success I've ever had in my career."

The 24-time Grand Slam champion produced a level of tennis that has been missing this year to fight off Alcaraz. Djokovic saved eight



break points during a match of stunning quality and intensity – the Serb describing the duel as like few others he had ever experienced.

After belting away a forehand winner to end a ferocious, near three-hour battle, the emotion poured out of Djokovic as he sobbed on court before embracing his family, including wife Jelena and son Stefan, and his team.

"Until today I thought that carrying the Serbian flag at the 2012 opening ceremony in London is the best feeling that an athlete could have," he said.

"This kind of supercedes everything that I imagined, that I hoped that I could experience and that I could feel." Djokovic did not rule

Boxers Lovlina and Nishant bow out in quarterfinals

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

World champion boxer Lovlina Borgohain, who had claimed a bronze medal in 69kg in the Tokyo Olympics, fell to Asian Games champion Li Qian of China-4 in a hard-fought women's 75kg quarterfinal at the North Paris Arena here on Sunday.

With Lovlina's exit, the Indian campaign in boxing came to an end without a medal.

The lanky boxer missed a chance to secure a rare Olympic double for herself.

Earlier, India narrowly missed out on a podium finish following Nishant Dev's 1-4 loss to Pan American Games champion Marco Verde in a 71kg quarterfinal bout on Saturday night.

The fight between eighth-seeded Lovlina and top-seeded Li took off on expected lines.

The Indian fought from a distance using her jabs while the Chinese landed some clean and solid combinations.

The power and accuracy in her punches helped Li take the first round with a split 3-2 verdict.

Even though Lovlina, who defeated 2022 World junior champion Sunniva Hofstad in her opening bout, tried her best, Li maintained an upper hand in a physical second round and managed another 3-2

THE INDIA SHOW

A look at some of the Indian performances on Sunday:

Athletics: Women's 3000m steeplechase (round 1): Parul (eighth in heat 1), DNQ for final; Men's long jump qualification: Jeswin Aldrin (26th overall), DNQ for final.

Badminton: Men (semifinal): Lakshya lost to Axelsen (Den) 20-22, 14-21.

Boxing: Women's 75kg (quarterfinal): Lovlina lost to Li (Chn) 1-4.

Golf: Men's Individual Stroke Play (final placings): Shubhankar (T40), Gaganjeet (T45).

Hockey: Men (quarterfinal): bt Great Britain 4-2 in shootout (full-time: 1-1).

Sailing: Men's Dinghy: Vishnu Saravanan (18th overall after eight races); Women's Dinghy: Nethra (25th overall after eight races).

Shooting: 25m Rapid Fire Pistol: Men's qualification: 9. Vijayveer and 13. Anish, DNQ for final; Skeet: Women's qualification: 14. Maheshwari and 23. Raiza, DNQ for final.

INDIANS IN ACTION

A look at some Indians who will compete on Monday (all times IST):

Athletics: Women's 400m: Round 1 (Kiran), 3.25 p.m.; Men's 3000m steeplechase: Round 1 (Avinash Sable), 10.30 p.m.

Badminton: Men (bronze medal match): Lakshya vs Lee (Mas), 6 p.m.

Sailing: Women's Dinghy (Nethra), 3.45 p.m.; Men's Dinghy (Vishnu Saravanan), 6.10 p.m.

Shooting: Skeet: Mixed team qualification (Maheshwari & Anantjeet), 12.30 p.m.

Table tennis: Women's team (round-of-16): vs Romania (1.30 p.m.).

Wrestling (session begins at 6.30 p.m.): Women's freestyle 68kg (1/8 final): Nisha vs Rizhko (Ukr).

disappointed with her ouster. "I fought well and expected to go ahead. I am sad at the outcome. I will analyse where I need to improve," said Lovlina.

Worlds bronze medallist Nishant, who saw off Ecuador's seventh-seeded Tenorio Rodriguez in his first fight, got off to a fine start employing his jabs and combinations against second-seeded Verde to win the opening round 4-1 despite being served a standing count.

However, the Mexican, who had lost to Nishant in the 2021 World championships in Belgrade, showcased his explosive game in the next two rounds and ensured a podium finish.

Medals table

Country	G	S	B	T
1 China	19	15	11	45
2 USA	18	26	25	69
3 France	12	14	18	44
4 Australia	12	10	7	29
5 Great Britain	10	12	15	37
6 Korea	10	7	7	24
7 Japan	8	5	10	23
8 Italy	7	9	5	21
9 Netherlands	6	5	4	15
10 Germany	5	5	2	12
57 India	0	0	3	3



Blow for blow: Nishant took an early lead, but Verde's perseverance paid off in the end. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Vandersay's six-wicket haul bowls Sri Lanka to series lead

Leg-spinner turns back the clock to trigger an implosion that saw the visitors lose six wickets for 50 runs after skipper Rohit's second half-century in as many games; Wellalage and Kamindu revive the hosts after a familiar collapse

INDIA IN LANKA

S. Dipak Ragav
COLOMBO

For the Indian fans, the memories of Sri Lankan bowlers like Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralitharan and Ajantha Mendis running through the Men in Blue in ODIs would trigger painful memories.

Leg-spinner Jeffery Vandersay joined that list (10-0-33-6) when he spun a web around the Indian batting line-up to bowl his side to a 32-run win in the second ODI at the R. Premadasa Stadium on Sunday.

Vandersay was an eleventh-hour addition to the squad after Wanindu Hasaranga was ruled out on Saturday following a hamstring injury. Playing his first ODI match since January, the 34-year-old had the Indian batters like a cat on a hot tin roof, scalping six in his first seven overs.

It was a case of spectacular implosion from visitors after Rohit Sharma (64, 44b, 5x4, 4x6) lit up the Colombo night sky through his sensational stroke-play in pursuit of 241.

Belligerent mood

The Indian skipper welcomed Dimuth Wellalage by cutting the left-arm spinner twice and slog-swept him to the square-leg fence in the fourth over. The 37-year-old was in a belligerent mood, pulling Akila Dananjaya over long-on



Spinning a web: Vandersay polished off the top-order after India began well. PTI

and then lofting Kamindu Mendis through extra-cover to bring up his second half-century of the series in style.

But India's innings crumbled once Rohit was dismissed, caught at point trying to reverse-sweep Vandersay. Shubman Gill was the next to go, edging the leg-spinner to first slip, where Kamindu Mendis pulled off a one-handed blinder. In the same over, Shivam Dube was trapped plumb in front.

Vandersay got his leg-

breaks buzzing on a surface that offered grip and turn.

He put his side firmly on top when he removed Virat Kohli leg-before and completed his maiden five-for by rapping Shreyas Iyer on the pads with a googly. Rohit's men plummeted from 97 for no loss to 147 for six in the space of 9.5 overs when K.L. Rahul dragged one onto his stumps.

Lankan skipper Charith Asalanka (three for 20) then weaved his magic again, dismissing Axar Patel (44) and Washington

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

Pathum Nissanka c Rahul b Siraj 0 (1b), Avishka Fernando c & b Washington 40 (62b, 5x4), Kusal Mendis lbw b Washington 30 (42b, 3x4), Sadeera Samarawickrama c Kohli b Axar 14 (31b, 1x4), Charith Asalanka c Axar b Washington 25 (42b, 3x4), Janith Liyanage c & b Kuldeep 12 (29b), Dunith Wellalage c Dube b Kuldeep 39 (35b, 1x4, 2x6), Kamindu Mendis run out 40 (44b, 4x4), Akila Dananjaya run out 15 (13b, 2x4), Jeffrey Vandersay (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (b-9, lb-8, w-7): 24; Total (for nine wkts. in 50 overs): 240.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Nissanka, 0.1 overs), 2-74 (Avishka, 16.6), 3-79 (Kusal Mendis, 18.1), 4-111 (Samarawickrama, 26.4), 5-136 (Liyanage, 33.4), 6-136 (Asalanka, 34.5), 7-208 (Wellalage, 46.1), 8-239 (Kamindu, 49.5), 9-240 (Dananjaya, 49.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Siraj 8-1-43-1, Arshdeep 9-0-58-0, Axar 9-0-38-1, Dube 2-0-10-0, Washington 10-1-30-3, Kuldeep 10-1-33-2, Rohit 2-0-11-0.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Nissanka b

Vandersay 64 (44b, 5x4, 4x6), Shubman Gill c Kamindu b Vandersay 35 (44b, 3x4), Virat Kohli lbw b Vandersay 14 (19b, 2x4), Shivam Dube lbw b Vandersay 0 (4b), Axar Patel c & b Asalanka 44 (44b, 4x4, 2x6), Shreyas Iyer lbw b Vandersay 7 (9b, 1x4), K.L. Rahul b Vandersay 0 (2b), Washington Sundar lbw b Asalanka 15 (40b), Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 7 (27b), Mohammed Siraj lbw b Asalanka 4 (18b), Arshdeep Singh run out 3 (4b); Extras (b-4, lb-6, w-4, nb-1): 15; Total (in 42.2 overs): 208.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-97 (Rohit, 13.3), 2-116 (Gill, 17.1), 3-116 (Dube, 17.5), 4-123 (Kohli, 19.4), 5-133 (Shreyas, 21.5), 6-147 (Rahul, 23.1), 7-185 (Axar, 33.1), 8-190 (Washington, 35.3), 9-201 (Siraj, 40.2).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Asitha 7-0-31-0, Wellalage 6-0-41-0, Dananjaya 10-1-54-0, Kamindu 3-0-19-0, Vandersay 10-0-33-6, Asalanka 6.2-2-20-3.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka won by 32 runs to lead three-match series 1-0.

Third and final ODI: August 7, Colombo, 2.30 p.m.

wicket.

Washington (three for 30) got India into the game, removing the two set-batters in successive deliveries across two overs. From 74 for one, Sri Lanka slumped to 136 for six. But like in the first game, Dunith Wellalage's (39, 35b) late charge helped the Lions get past 200. Wellalage got good support from Kamindu Mendis (40) and forged a 72-run alliance for the seventh wicket as Sri Lanka finished strongly.

Blazing Gun for feature

HYDERABAD: Trainer Magan Singh's ward Blazing Gun, who impressed with a strong performance in his last start, looks set to deliver another victory in the S. Rangarajan Memorial Cup, the main event of Monday's (Aug. 5) races here.

1. PALAMPET PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1.25 p.m.:

1. Briar Ridge (2) Kuldeep Sr. 60, 2. D Yes Boss (7) P. Ajeeth Kumar 58.5, 3. Wind Sprite (5) Abhay Singh 55.5, 4. Santa Barbara (1) Md. Ekram 53.5, 5. Splendour On Grass (4) Ajay Kumar 53.5, 6. Only The Brave (3) Surya Prakash 53, 7. Fara (6) Rafique Sk. 52 and 8. Pontefract (8) Afroz Khan 52.

1. D YES BOSS, 2. PONTEFRACT, 3. SANTA BARBARA

2. ASCOT PLATE (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.55:

1. Bellingham (6) B.R. Kumar 56, 2. Exclusive Black (3) Md. Ismail 56, 3. Rolls Royce (4) R.S. Jodha 56, 4. Sargent (1) Mukesh Kumar 56, 5. Talking Stick (7) Santosh Raj 56, 6. Ambossell (8) Abhay Singh 54.5, 7. Anahita (5) G. Naresk 54.5, 8. Arlette (2) Neeraj 54.5 and 9. Linda (9) Akshay Kumar 54.5.

1. LINDA, 2. ARLETTE, 3. AMBOSELLI

3. JANGAON PLATE (1,600m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.30: 1. Grand Duke (7) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. Ampere's

Touch (6) Neeraj 59.5, 3. Ashwa Gajraj (8) Kuldeep Sr. 57.5, 4. Voice Of A Dream (1) Surya Prakash 57.5, 5. Caraxes (4) Shivansh 55.5, 6. Exclusive Spark (3) Mohit Singh 55, 7. Federer (2) Ashad Asbar 53 and Sweet Whisper (5) Md. Ekram 52.5.

1. CARAXES, 2. AMPERE'S TOUCH, 3. ASHWA GAJRAJ

4. SHAMIRPET CUP (1,200m), Maiden 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.05: 1. Great Giver (7) Surya Prakash 60, 2. Assured Success (1) Kuldeep Sr. 57.5, 3. Antidote (5) Abhay Singh 55.5, 4. Definite (6) Kuldeep Jr. 55, 5. Mix The Magic (2) Mohit Singh 55, 6. N R I Dheera (4) B.R. Kumar 55, 7. That's My Love (7) Akshay Kumar 55 and 8. Pancho (3) Shivansh 53.

1. PANCHO, 2. THAT'S MY LOVE, 3. ANTIDOTE

5. PALAMPET PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 10 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.40: 1. Proud Mary (1) Ajay Kumar 60, 2. Adhbut (8) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 3. Dyanooosh (9) M. Mark 57, 4. Worcester (3) Afroz Khan 53.5, 5. Burgundy Black (2) Mohit Singh 53, 6. Knotty Senorita (6) Md. Ismail 52.5, 7. Sangreal (7) P. Sai Kumar 52.5, 8. Hoping Star (4) G. Naresk 51.5 and 9. Warwick (5) Ashad Asbar 51.5.

1. ADHUBT, 2. WARWICK, 3. PROUD MARY

6. S. RANGARAJAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.15: 1. Blazing Gun (7) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Malibu (6) Md. Ekram 60, 3. N R I Doublepower (3) Suraj Narredu 59, 4. Reigning Beauty (1) Afroz Khan 59, 5. Decoy (5) B.R. Kumar 57.5, 6. Kings Best (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 52.5, 7. Sopranos (8) Md. Ismail 52.5 and 8. Just Incredible (2) Rafique Sk. 51.5.

1. BLAZING GUN, 2. N R I DOUBLEPOWER, 3. DECOY

7. FAIRWAY PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 4.50: 1. Alcohol Free (5) Rafique Sk. 60, 2. Desert Sultan (10) Mukesh Kumar 59.5, 3. Muaser (9) P. Ajeeth Kumar 59.5, 4. Planet Super (8) Kuldeep Sr. 59, 5. Soorya Vahan (1) Md. Ismail 59, 6. Bien Pensant (7) Surya Prakash 57.5, 7. Stoli (11) Md. Ekram 56.5, 8. Reigning Queen (6) Kuldeep Singh Jr. 55.5, 9. Pair Of Wings (3) Shivansh 54.5, 10. Char Ek Char (4) P. Sai Kumar 54, and 11. Politics (2) G. Naresk 53.

1. PLANET SUPER, 2. BIEN PENSANT, 3. SOORYA VAHAN

Day's Best: ADHUBT

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 5, 6 & 7.

Tanala: All races.

Hugh Capet wins Royal Revive Plate

HYDERABAD: The 10-to-1 long-shot Hugh Capet, ridden by Kuldeep Singh Sr., upset the favourite Last Wish in a close finish to win the Royal Revive Plate in a close finish, the main event of Sunday's (Aug. 4) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula and trained by Mr. G. Sandeep.

1. BAKHTAWAR PLATE (DIV. III): IMPERIA (Deepak Singh) 1, Cosmic (Mukesh) 2, Noble Heart (Likhit Appu) 3 and Lights On (R.S. Jodha) 4. 5-1/2, Neck and Neck. Im, 7.80s. ₹13 (w), 10, 12 and 11 (p). SHP: 25, THP: 33, SHW: 11 and 12, FP: 33, Q: 27, Tanala: 59.

Favourite: Imperia. Owners: M/s. Kapil Agarwal & Mr. Shailendra Singh. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

2. MALAKPET PLATE: KING IMMORTAL (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Secret Saint (Suraj Narredu) 2, Desert Hero (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and Sunny Day (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 1, 6 and 1 Im, 26.55s. ₹34 (w), 19, 10 and 13 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 45, SHW: 20 and 10, 10, FP: 79, Q: 28, Tanala: 208.

Favourite: Secret Saint. Owner: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

3. BAKHTAWAR PLATE (DIV. II): STAR FOREVER (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Challenger (Md. Ekram) 2, Golden

Inzio (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and Star Medal (R.S. Jodha) 4. Not run: Arthisha. 1-1/2, 6-1/4 and 1-1/4. Im, 8.43s. ₹13 (w), 10, 12 and 13 (p). SHP: 23, THP: 30, SHW: 11 and 13, FP: 31, Q: 25, Tanala: 62. Favourite: Star Forever. Owners: Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. Bollinnee Krishnaiah, Mr. Sesahdri Reddy Pochana, M/s. Teegala Sumant Reddy, Teegala Vijender Reddy, Satish Kumar Reddy Poonla, Mr. Giri Prathamesh Mahadev & Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

4. BASARA CUP: DECCAN SPIRIT (Mohit Singh) 1, Get Lucky (Md. Ekram) 2, Oliver's Mount (Afroz Khan) 3 and Clare (Suraj Narredu) 4. 2-3/4, 3/4 and 3-3/4. Im, 26.93s. ₹30 (w), 12, 11 and 12 (p). SHP: 40, THP: 44, SHW: 20 and 23, FP: 116, Q: 40, Tanala: 324. Favourite: Oliver's Mount. Owners: M/s. Shalendra Singh & K. Ram Gopal Rao. Trainer: Magan Singh.

5. ROYAL REVIVE PLATE: HUGH CAPET (Kuldeep Sr.) 1, Last Wish (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Alexina (Ajay Kumar) 3 and Anzio (Suraj Narredu) 4. 3/4, 2-1/4 and 3. Im, 26.87s. ₹98 (w), 20, 12 and 55, SHP: 35, THP: 96, SHW: 29 and 14, FP: 427, Q: 136, Tanala: 11,173. Favourite: Last

Wish. Owner: Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula. Trainer: G. Sandeep.

6. P.G. REDDY MEMORIAL CUP: HURRICANE BAY (Afroz Khan) 1, Alpine Girl (Kuldeep Jr.) 2, Sundance Kid (Abhay Singh) 3 and Golden Gazelle (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 2-3/4, 2 and Neck. Im, 40.63s. ₹35 (w), 15, 26 and 24 (p). SHP: 116, THP: 71, SHW: 22 and 109, FP: 711, Q: 237, Tanala: 6,072. Favourite: Golden Gazelle. Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

7. BAKHTAWAR PLATE (DIV. I): CALISTOGA (Afroz Khan) 1, Final Judgement (Ashad Asbar) 2, Decan Daisy (Santosh Raj) 3 and Catchme If You Can (Mohit Singh) 4. 1-1/4, 3-1/2 and 3-3/4. Im, 7.97s. ₹19 (w), 11, 10 and 26 (p). SHP: 29, THP: 40, SHW: 10 and 17, FP: 40, Q: 28, Tanala: 175. Favourite: Calistoga. Owners: M/s. M. Ramakrishna Reddy, Bharat Venkat Epur & Mrs. Rajini Meka. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

Jackpot: 70%; ₹12,061 (26 tkts.) & 30%; 1,841 (73 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 244 (130 tkts.), (ii) 1,781 (29 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 377 (112 tkts.), (ii) 6,556 (8 tkts.).

EDUCATION PLUS

GET THE EDGE Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Nina Huntemann

With an estimated 40% of its population under 25 years, India has immense potential to shape its economic future. Combined with a significant investment in education, the nation's prospects for continued growth are vast. We have already seen quality elementary education made universal through the Right to Education Act, boosting overall literacy levels from 61% in 2001 to 76% in 2022. Over 90% of the urban youth between six and 17 years attended school in 2021, and currently higher education enrolment has soared to 43 million students, up nearly two million in just one year.

Intense debates

Now, with the advent of AI, we are entering an era with the potential to build on such gains and further improve learning outcomes provided that we navigate it with care. There is no doubt that the rise of Generative AI tools such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google Gemini has shaken the world of education. Their emergence has prompted intense debates among teachers, administrators, and students about whether they should be deployed to support learning inside and outside the classroom and, if so, under what guidelines.

As the debate continues, student adoption of GenAI has been swift. A recent global student survey shows that 44% of Indian undergraduates have used GenAI for their university studies and, of those who do, 60% input a question one or more times a day. However, while adoption is broad, stu-

Supplemental support

The next wave of AI-powered learning tools can not only reinforce a teacher's classroom activities but also elevate how students learn



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dents are aware of the limitations of current GenAI tools. The same study found that, of the 44%, 28% are concerned about receiving inaccurate or incorrect information, while 49% of all Indian students surveyed said they would like to see the involvement of human expertise in generating answers.

These findings show that excitement for the technology's possibilities must be weighed against its limitations. Rapid advancements are underway and, as large language models (LLMs) verticalise for education, the next wave of AI-powered learning tools can both serve as an invaluable supplement to a teacher's classroom activities and elevate how students learn. So, what might we

expect from GenAI-powered learning tools that get it right, and how will they truly personalise learning?

Way forward

First, students could have a learning assistant that anticipates their needs and adapts to their strengths and weaknesses. The promise of adaptive learning has been unfulfilled for decades in part because creating on-demand variations of learning materials for each individual student was too costly. GenAI tools for learning—when fine-tuned and evaluated rigorously to align with education outcomes—can respond instantaneously and in a more natural, back-and-forth conversational interface with students.

Conversational AI, designed for learning, can recognise the type of question a student is struggling with and provides the most relevant and effective response. For example, discerning when a procedural question needs to be broken down step-by-step or when a conceptual question could be illustrated with a real-world example. Conversational AI can encourage more active engagement by suggesting prompts that students might ask to deepen their learning. Guiding students to create useful follow-up prompts will also teach them how to interact with GenAI systems.

By integrating learning analytics that measure how students are learning, an AI learning assistant can also help

students improve their study habits and up-level their learning such as finding the optimal time of day to learn and generating just-in-time learning aids such as practice problems personalised to individual need. AI's immediate feedback capabilities can correct errors in the moment, provide adaptive hints to help students get unstuck, and encourage them to push through difficult concepts.

Such innovations will support students on their individualised learning journey. However, in order to deliver on the promise of AI-enabled personalised learning, the next generation of GenAI models for education need to be fine-tuned on high-quality educational content and evaluated by both human subject-matter experts and students themselves.

As the application of AI in education emerges, the teacher's role remains critical. A student's unique developmental path cannot be facilitated solely by algorithms and large language models. However, when AI tools are deployed thoughtfully and strategically, they can deliver a personalised learning experience that adapts to students' pace and needs, offering supplemental support when and where most needed.

With more students enrolling for higher education, it is imperative to find the best way to help learners succeed. The synergy between human and artificial intelligence offers a promising path that leverages the best of both sides to help learners fulfil their potential in a rapidly changing world.

The writer is a former tenured professor at Suffolk University, Boston, and is currently the Chief Academic Officer at Chegg Inc.

Reduce the stress

A few suggestions to make the NEET-UG exam more student-friendly

P.V. Navaneethkrishnan

The Supreme Court's ruling that the NEET-UG 2024 should not be cancelled should not be viewed as approval of the modus operandi adopted by National Testing Agency. The idea of resorting to a two-tier exam, like the JEE (Main) and JEE (Advanced), seems to be a consequence. Students who opt for the JEE have found this stressful. A two-tier NEET will increase the load on students. Another aspect is that the score in the JEE Main allows candidates to enroll in engineering colleges. Will taking the first part of NEET allow students to enroll in medicine or dentistry courses?

Possibilities

With many students opting to take both exams, the suggestion to merge NEET first part and JEE Main has been made earlier, with a common exam for Chemistry and Physics. Those who want to take JEE can choose Maths and those who want to take the NEET can opt for Biology. Those who want to take both can take all four papers.

If this is not possible, NEET can be held twice a year to help candidates whose performance was not satisfactory in the first attempt. The better grades can be taken into account.

With these exams being highly sensitive, ambiguous questions should not be allowed. If such a situation occurs, the question should either be with-



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drawn or credit should be given only to the correct answer. Scientific facts are not dependent on language or a specific edition of a book.

Lastly, NEET-UG is held in 13 languages, increasing the chance of errors in translation. Ideally the language version and the English version should appear side by side so that cross-checking is possible in case of doubts. The English version must be totally error-free and serve as the master version.

The writer is a Former Professor and Director Entrance Exams and Admissions, Anna University, Chennai

Off the Edge

For more articles, columns and news on admissions, new courses and events in schools and colleges, visit: www.thehindu.com/education

Blasters fight back for a crucial draw

The Kerala side tops Group C after holding Punjab; Jamshedpur brightens quarterfinal chances by overcoming Chennaiyin in Group D



Drawing level: Aimen pokes in Kerala Blasters' equaliser against Punjab FC. DEBASISH BHADURI

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Kerala Blasters recovered from a goal's deficit to hold Punjab FC to a 1-1 draw in a crucial Group C league match of the 133rd Durand Cup, at Salt Lake Stadium here on Sunday.

Luka Majcen found the lead for Punjab FC in the injury-time of the opening session.

Kerala Blasters recovered quickly and equalised 11 minutes into the second half when Mohammed Aimen fin-

ished a nice cross from Ghanaian forward Kwame Peprah.

Kerala Blasters and Punjab FC remain locked on four points each after playing two matches but the former topped the group on account of having a better goal average.

Host Jamshedpur FC brightened its quarterfinal chances by outlasting a strong challenge from Chennaiyin FC 2-1 in a Group D match at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur.

Wungngayam Muirang nodded home a corner to give Jamshedpur, which collected six points from

two wins, the lead before substitute Jordan Murray produced the insurance goal midway through the second half.

Vincy Barreto pulled one back for Chennaiyin FC late in injury time. Chennaiyin could have made an early comeback but for Irfan Yadwad who sent his 38th-minute penalty attempt over the target.

The results: At Kolkata: Group C: Kerala Blasters FC 1 (Mohammed Aimen 56) drew with Punjab FC 1 (Luka Majcen 45+3).

At Jamshedpur: Group D: Jamshedpur FC 2 (Muirang 32, Murray 65) bt Chennaiyin FC 1 (Vincy Barreto 90+3).

Ramkumar and Paris duo stumbles at the final hurdle

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Top seeds Sander Arends and Luke Johnson beat Joshua Paris and Ramku-

mar Ramanathan 6-3, 6-2 in the doubles final of the €148,625 Challenger tennis tournament in Porto, Portugal.

In the \$25,000 ITF men's event in Brazzaville,

Congo, S.D. Prajwal Dev and Adil Kalyanpur beat Dev Javia and Rishi Reddy 7-5, 6-2 in the doubles final.

It was the 10th doubles title for Prajwal and second for Adil.

Chiranth, Sarthak dominate yet again in the Pro-Stock categories



Shining bright: Chiranth and Sarthak won a race apiece in the two premier Pro-Stock categories.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Two of country's best and brightest, 17-year-olds Chiranth Vishwanath and Sarthak Chavan came up with sensational rides to win a race apiece in the two premier Pro-Stock categories in the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National motorcycle racing championships here on Sunday.

Provisional results (six laps unless mentioned): Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race-2): 1. Chiranth Vishwanath (TVS Racing) (11mins, 03.966secs); 2. A. Alwin Sundar (KTM Gusto Racing India) (11:06.905); 3. Rajini

Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) (11:08.457).

Pro-Stock 165cc Open (Race-2): 1. Sarthak Chavan (TVS Racing) (11:40.093); 2. Jagan Kumar (TVS Racing) (11:41.449); 3. Chiranth (11:43.725).

Stock 301-400cc (Novice, Race-2): 1. Savion Babu (Mad Rabbit Racing) (12:11.176); 2. Raj Kumar (RDX Torque Racing) (12:11.258); 3. Shyam Sundar (Tachyon Motorsport) (12:15.525).

Girls (Stock 165cc, Race-2, 5 laps): 1. Rakshitha Dave (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) (11:02.916); 2. Jagathishree Kumaresan (One Racing) (11:08.132); 3. Ryhana Bee (Motul Sparks Racing) (11:08.174).

Novice (Stock 165cc, Race-2): 1. Abdul Basim (Team Rockers Racing) (12:55.289); 2. Kamal Navas (Team Rockers Racing) (13:08.895); 3. Tasmai Cariappa (Motul Sparks Racing) (13:08.982).

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (NSF 250R) Race-2 (8 laps): 1. Siddesh Sawant (15:11.679); 2. Savion Sabu (15:14.661); 3. Beedani Rajender (15:25.784).

TVS One-Make Championship: Open (RR310, Race-2, 5 laps): 1. C. Senthilkumar (09:52.643); 2. Manoj Yesuadiyan (09:52.644); 3. Ajai Xavier (Nagercoil) (10:01.808).

Rookie (Apache RTR 200, Race-2): 1. C.S. Kedarnadh (13:30.442); 2. K.M. Saranjith (13:34.532); 3. A.S. Rajivsham (13:41.466).

Electric RTE (4 laps): 1. Sarthak (07:21.134); 2. Chiranth (07:28.085); 3. Alwin (07:29.421).

Media (Apache RTR 200) 5 laps: 1. Praveen Kumar (11:25.490); 2. Charan Karthik (11:34.091); 3. Pratheek Kunder (11:39.208).



IN BRIEF



Toni Kroos voted Germany's player of the year

Toni Kroos has been voted Germany's player of the year for the 2023-24 season. Meanwhile, Xabi Alonso won the coaching accolade for leading unbeaten Bayer Leverkusen to the Bundesliga title. The 34-year-old Kroos won the award organised by German sports magazine *Kicker* for the second time on Sunday after being voted player of the year in 2018. Leverkusen's success – finally ending Bayern Munich's 11-year Bundesliga run and staying unbeaten in the league all season – ensured Alonso won Germany's coach of the year award for the first time.

LIVE TELECAST

Olympics 2024: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 11 a.m. onwards

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A topsy-turvy first half sets up for an intriguing home stretch

Red Bull started the year looking mighty and expected to cruise to the world titles, but now has rivals McLaren and Mercedes breathing down its neck; if McLaren continues its recent form, it could very well clinch its first constructors' crown since 1998 and knock the reigning champion off its perch



S. Dipak Ragav

The 2024 Formula One season marks an important moment in the sport's history.

This year is the 75th edition of the championship that started in 1950 and will be the longest, with 24 races across five continents.

Following the recently concluded Belgian Grand Prix, more than half the season is done after 14 races, and teams have now headed into a much-needed month-long summer break.

So now is a good time to analyse the season that has gone by, and in this mid-term report card, *The Hindu* looks at the big winners and losers.

Winners: The Fans

Interest in F1 peaked in 2021 when Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton were locked in an intense championship battle that went down till the last lap of the last race of the year and was decided under controversial circumstances.

Since then, the fans have been starved of a proper championship battle in the previous two years as Verstappen cruised to his second and third driver's championship in a canter.

In 2022, Charles Leclerc and Ferrari offered some fight early in the year before their challenge fizzled. But 2023 saw the most dominant campaign in the sport's history: Verstappen won 19 out of 22 races, and Red Bull won 21.

So, when the Dutchman got off the blocks in commanding fashion at the start of the year, winning four out of the first five races, fans feared another boring year.

However, McLaren, Mercedes, and Ferrari – on odd occasions – have closed the gap to Red Bull and come back strongly in the last few months to make the races entertaining. After winning seven of the 10 races, Verstappen has not been on the podium in three of the last four events. Red Bull's competitive edge has been erased, and the field is bunched up. The race result is not a foregone conclusion, and the fact that three teams can fight for a win has meant there are many variables in play, which makes it unpredictable and exciting.

McLaren: The second-most successful team in the sport's history has had a challenging decade.

Since 2012 – the last year the team fought for regular wins and the title – they

have had to deal with many setbacks, both on track and off. Following years of underperformance, the Woking-based outfit has finally managed to turn around a corner this year. The former champions started 2023 poorly but made significant strides around mid-season and finished the year strongly by competing for podiums regularly.

The team has continued that trajectory in '24, and McLaren has become a thorn in Red Bull's side so much so that it might have the best all-around car across different circuits.

The team's journey has been the inverse of Red Bull's in that it started slow in the first few races, and a significant upgrade in Miami helped it become a consistent contender. Over the last two years, it has been impressive that whenever the team has brought new parts, it has improved the car's performance. This shows an outfit that works well in the factory and can utilise resources efficiently.

At Miami, Lando Norris got his maiden F1 win and McLaren's first since 2021. Since then, the Papaya-coloured cars have often been the fastest on race days. However, the team has not been sharp enough operationally and left a few wins on the table due to strategic errors and driver mistakes. Within no time, McLaren has reached a stage where it can genuinely fight for the constructors' titles this year, where it trails Red Bull by just 42 points. The team's strong driver line-up of Norris, second in the driver's standings and Oscar Piastri, who took his maiden F1 win in Hungary, can give Red Bull a run for its money.

If the form guide of the last six races persists, the team is on course to win its first constructors' title since 1998.

Mercedes: The German marque dominated the sport from 2014 to 2021 but struggled over the last two years since the start of the new regulations that came into force in 2022. The team started 2022 with a revolutionary concept for its car, but it failed to deliver the results.

The car suffered from bouncing, making it uncomfortable for the drivers and suffered from a lack of consistency across the various tracks. The Mercedes had a very narrow operating window in which it appeared competitive, but once it fell out of that range, it was stuck in a no man's land to be the third or fourth-best car.

Mercedes started the year behind Red

Bull, Ferrari and McLaren. However, mid-season upgrades, including a new front wing, have allowed the Silver Arrows to be competitive and fight in the front. The result has been that the former champions have won three out of the last four races. While Mercedes doesn't have the quickest car on the grid, it has two drivers, Lewis Hamilton and George Russell, who can maximise everything and bring home the result.

Hamilton showed why he is still considered the best in the business when he won the British GP in mixed weather conditions where he hardly put a foot wrong. In Belgium, Russell showed he could be great at tyre management to pull off a one-stopper and win the race on the road. Though he was eventually disqualified as his car was below the minimum weight limit marginally in the post-race checks, the pace he had should give him confidence.

Losers:
Sergio Perez: The most challenging thing in F1 is when a driver, however good, is paired against a generational talent in the same machinery. Extraordinary world champions can make even Grand Prix winners look pedestrian. It is what Perez is undergoing at Red Bull. The Mexican is not the fastest over a lap in qualifying but is an excellent racer on Sunday, and his ability to manage his tyres is a trait that can pay rich dividends over 300 km of race distance.

However, since being paired with Verstappen, Perez's form has gradually worsened over the last four years. If 2023 was bad, where he won only two races and just about finished second in the standings, this year has been disastrous.

When Red Bull had a considerable advantage, as in the last two years, it didn't have to fret about Perez's performance. However, this year, the 34-year-old's poor form is starting to cost Red Bull valuable points in the title battle. Red Bull is often a one-car team, with the three-time champion doing the heavy lifting while Perez is not qualifying high enough to be in contention for podiums.

Of the top four teams, he is the weakest among eight drivers. In June, team boss Christian Horner extended his contract and hoped it would help his driver's form. But that hasn't been the case. There were suggestions that the team considered dropping him after the Belgian GP, where he started second and finished seventh but has decided against it for now. But

whether he sees out the season is still a big question mark.

Alpine and Aston Martin: Beyond the top four teams, Alpine and Aston Martin are the best in terms of resources and workforce. Alpine, owned by the Renault group, is a works entry of an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), while ambitious billionaire Lawrence Stroll owns Aston Martin. Stroll has pumped vast sums of money into new infrastructure in recent times. Last year, Aston started the season by being the second-fastest car, and Fernando Alonso raked in the podiums. However, through the year, Aston's upgrades failed to deliver and slipped to fifth. The team is even worse off this year, fighting for minor points placings and has received a massive setback to its aspirations of becoming a championship contender.

Alpine, meanwhile, is a dysfunctional hot mess starting from the top. The team has gotten into a football manager syndrome, hiring and firing team principals, and is now into its fourth leadership change in as many years.

It has also been hemorrhaging senior staff and key technical people, showing it is not a great workplace. On Wednesday, the team announced a new team principal, Oliver Oakes, to replace Bruno Famin, who had been on the job for less than 12 months. To make things worse, disgraced former Benetton and Renault F1 boss Flavio Briatore has been named advisor to Renault CEO Luca de Meo for the F1 operation.

Briatore was banned from the sport for his role in the 2008 Singapore GP scandal, though it was later overturned on appeal. As Renault's team boss, he was accused of asking his driver, Nelson Piquet Jr., to crash on purpose to trigger an early Safety Car, which would help teammate Fernando Alonso, who went on to win the race. Renault quit the sport after the scandal broke in 2009 before returning in 2016.

Alpine is one of the three works F1 teams alongside Ferrari and Mercedes, and its performance, eighth in the standings, is a stinging indictment of the management.

The Enstone-based squad has a great history, winning titles as Benetton in 1994 & 1995 with Michael Schumacher and as Renault in 2005 & 2006 with Alonso. But Renault/Alpine's stewardship of the outfit has made a mockery of the sport by not taking the job seriously.

THE GIST

▼ The fact that the result is not a foregone conclusion and the races have been unpredictable and exciting has made the season a feast for the fans

▼ McLaren has become a thorn in Red Bull's side so much that it can be said to be the best all-around car across different circuits

As in Kerala, local climate processes can worsen climate extremes

Tragedies like that in Wayanad on July 30 tend to repeat themselves partly because their lessons are not always brought to bear on our understanding of the local amplifiers of extreme events. Simple changes in land-use patterns could lead to a crushing cloudburst or a punishing hailstorm

Raghu Murtugudde

At no place on the earth is the climate risk zero – yet when natural hazards strike, the resulting loss of lives, livelihoods, and assets sting. Disaster management and recovery play a crucial role in alleviating the pain. Unfortunately, however, a blame game may follow asking whether early warnings could have averted the tragedy.

Any early warning that may have been issued will always start with the weather forecast for the area where the hazard manifested. Proactively mitigating disasters instead of always managing them after they happen requires climate risk outlooks that go out to a decade or longer.

Further, *post-facto* analyses of deadly disasters – like the landslides in Wayanad, Kerala, on July 30 – often do not appreciate the fact that broad warnings of risks can hardly be translated to specific actions. For example, if we declare the entire Western Ghats to be vulnerable to landslides, governments can develop and enforce regulations to protect the whole range from deforestation, development, monoculture plantations, etc.

However, doing so will mitigate some landslides; it won't get rid of extreme events induced by climate change anytime soon. Some landslides will occur anyway even if the Ghats enjoy the fullest protections from human perturbations because the risk is never zero.

Predictions for disaster mitigation

Similarly, the predictions of models will also always be imperfect. If we are to improve their ability to predict extreme events more accurately (in terms of their location and amplitude), we need to fully understand the effects of local drivers that could exacerbate the climate's effects. After every extreme event, someone claims global warming is a contributor – yet the relationship between local events and global warming complicates the truth of such claims.

The drivers of climate extremes originate from a far-away place but are usually exacerbated by some regional, location-specific factors.

For instance, a 2015 study (which included this author) indicated that coastal sea surface temperatures have a strong influence on heavy rain along India's west coast. Wayanad district lies about 80 km from this coast. Monsoon winds stream across the equator and continue to load up on moisture as they turn southwesterly and head towards the Western Ghats. As they approach the



The Western Ghats in Wayanad, Kerala. Weather predictions with a lead time of a few weeks could help disaster management personnel mobilise towards locales with the highest imminent risk and avoid surprises. NAKKEERAN RAVEENDRAN/UNSPASH

coast, the winds sense they will have to climb the Western Ghats and slow down. Slower winds reduce the evaporation over the coastal ocean and the coastal waters tend to warm up – and warm waters exert a strong control on the atmosphere and rainfall.

Such a warming is typically seen up to 10 days ahead of a heavy rain event over the coastal ocean. Global models typically miss such local, small-scale warming or cooling processes and tend to underestimate the amount of rain in an extreme event. Enhancing the coastal observations and assimilating them into forecast models is expected to improve predictions.

This is also why adopting location-specific measures like legal protections for biodiversity can help mitigate disasters. Governments can also bolster their regulatory strategies using predictions of the climate up to a decade in the future and combining each prediction with hyperlocal risks.

Similarly, national and local governments will have to work together and share monitoring, reporting, and verification responsibilities to mitigate risk. Finally, all these consequences of the relationship between global warming and local events will have to be accounted for in budgetary provisions. Otherwise, mitigating disasters may not be sustainable.

Further, predictions with a lead time of a few weeks could help disaster management personnel mobilise towards locales with the highest imminent risk and avoid surprises. This is where the



Disaster management and recovery play a crucial role in alleviating the pain of natural disasters. Unfortunately, however, a blame game may follow asking whether early warnings could have averted the tragedy

location-specific drivers can help ensure the hyperlocal risk information is reliable in crisis times.

Coarse global to fine hyperlocal

Global models provide seasonal outlooks and predictions at the short (1-3 days), medium (3-10 days), and extended (2-4 weeks) ranges. They have been getting better at offering outlooks of the monsoon, the El Niño and La Niña events, and early extreme-event warnings. Researchers around the world – in academia and national laboratories – constantly diagnose imperfections in these models and remove them.

One particular approach to improving the models is called downscaling, especially to enhance predictions of extreme events like small-scale heavy rain. In downscaling, researchers use a global model to drive local predictions in a higher resolution regional model to capture the weather at scales that the global model will miss.

Of late, they have been executing such

two-tier strategies using techniques in artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML). Their costs are lower than those incurred by running a high-resolution regional model. Such AI/ML approaches are also many times faster than regional models, further lending themselves to more effective disaster management.

Spotting location-specific amplifiers

Tragedies like that in Wayanad on July 30 tend to repeat themselves partly because their lessons are not always brought to bear on our understanding of the local amplifiers of extreme events. Simple changes in land use patterns – associated with urbanisation, say, or the deforestation of mountain slopes – could lead to a crushing cloudburst and or a punishing hailstorm.

The relatively more coarse resolutions of global models – which deal with changes in the tens of kilometres – tend to miss such local features and add to their imperfections. To acquire a better sense of the effects of these features and thus enable regional dynamic or AI/ML downscaling for hyperlocal predictions, we need more local data of weather and climate variables.

Disaster mitigation efforts are crucial to weather-proof the country and make it more climate-resilient at longer timescales. To this end we urgently need a data network that supports the mapping of local extreme event amplifiers.

(Raghu Murtugudde is a professor, IIT Bombay, and emeritus professor, University of Maryland.)

THE GIST

Mitigating disasters requires climate outlooks that go out to a decade. These broad warnings cannot, however, be translated into specific actions and cannot get rid of extreme events. Some events, like landslides, will occur because the risk is never zero

Predictions made by models will always be imperfect. An understanding of local drivers is required to improve the ability to predict extreme events. Climate extremes are driven by events in distant places but are usually exacerbated by location-specific factors

One approach to improving models is downscaling, which enhances predictions of events like small-scale heavy rain. Researchers use a global model to drive local predictions in a regional model to capture the weather at scales that the global model will miss

BIG SHOT



A depression filled with meltwater lies on the ice of the Glacier du Tour, its snow tinged pink by dust from the Sahara, near the glacier's terminus near Chamonix, France. The roughly 5-km-long Glacier du Tour, one of many glaciers in the Mont Blanc massif, is melting fast and glaciologists say climate change is to blame. If current climate conditions persist, this and other glaciers below 3,500 m in the region will disappear completely by 2100. GETTY IMAGES

WHAT IS IT?

Ceramic: a material for the ages

Vasudevan Mukunth

Take some nonmetallic, inorganic material and fire it to a high temperature, and you'll have a ceramic. The word comes from the Greek *keramos*, or "potter's clay," speaking to a common application of ceramics in ancient times.

This said, there is evidence of humans having made and used ceramic objects for more than 25,000 years. Archaeologists have discovered ceramic pottery and figurines in the ruins of various ancient civilisations, including those in the Indus Valley and in Keezhadi in Tamil Nadu. The colours found on these materials, their shapes and designs, and their purposes have hinted at their origins and the processes the members of each civilisation used to make them.

Ceramics can typically withstand very hot or acidic environments, many forms of chemical erosion, and are hard and difficult to compress. But they are also brittle – i.e. can shatter – and don't handle shear, or sliding, stress well.

The science of preparing and studying ceramics' microscopic properties is called ceramography. In modernity, scientists have used ceramics on space shuttles (as part of the heat shield during atmospheric reentry) to produce



Ceramic pottery on display at a museum of prehistory in Berlin. EINSAMER SCHÜTZE (CC BY-SA 3.0)

heat in microwave furnaces, as abrasives, in the production of varistors and semiconductors, as nuclear fuel, in fighter aircrafts' windows, and in tomographic scanners, among other settings. The discovery of high-temperature superconductivity in some ceramic materials won two scientists the 1987 physics Nobel Prize.

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