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### IN BRIEF

### Case against H.P. legislator, Cong. rebel's father

SHIMLA

The Himachal Pradesh police on Sunday registered a case against an Independent MLA, the father of a Congress rebel, and others over "electoral offences" related to the recent Rajya Sabha elections in the State. » Page 4

### **Probe ordered** after body pulled out of borewell

#### NEW DELHI A man died after he reportedly fell into a 40-foot borewell on a Delhi Jal Board premises on Sunday, prompting the police



**EDUCATIONPLUS** » PAGE 5

### **'Differences'** with CEC may India signs free trade pact with 4 European countries have led to Goel quitting

The differences with Rajiv Kumar are said to have arisen during a visit to West Bengal earlier this month to oversee election preparations; Opposition raises question over resignation of poll official

### Mahesh Langa AHMEDABAD

he sudden resigna-

tion of Election Commissioner (EC) Arun Goel, barely a week before the announcement of the Lok Sabha election, came as a surprise to many, but insiders in the poll body have said that apparent differences emerged between Mr. Goel and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar during their visit to West Bengal to oversee poll preparations earlier this

month. According to wellplaced sources, Mr. Goel refused to attend the press conference in Kolkata to brief the media about the preparations in the State after his reported differences with Mr. Kumar.



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar (right) with former Election Commissioner Arun Goel. R. RAVINDRAN

The CEC addressed the media alone on March 5. In the press briefing, the CEC mentioned that Mr.

Goel had returned to Delhi due to "health concerns". However, sources close to Mr. Goel have dismissed that and maintained that "he is in the pink of health".

Instead, they said that "he flew back to Delhi cutting short his visit in West Bengal owing to some serious differences".

However, they did not elaborate what transpired between the two officials nor what issues they differed on that caused Mr. Goel's abrupt exit from the

### Govt. likely to appoint new ECs by March 15

NEW DELHI The two vacancies in the Election Commission, created by the resignation of Arun Goel and the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey, are likely to be filled by March 15, sources said on Sunday. The high-level Selection Committee is likely to meet on March 14. » PAGE 13

### poll body.

Reacting to Mr. Goel's resignation, Opposition parties on Sunday asked whether he had stepped down due to differences with the CEC or to contest an election.

**CONTINUED ON** » PAGE 12

### India signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with four

European countries - Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland - on Sunday, with a goal of reaching \$100 billion in investments in India and one million jobs within 15 years.

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) marks the second such full-fledged FTA signed after India's agreement with the United Arab Emirates, and will see considerable tariff reduction, increase in market access, and simplification of customs procedures.

The EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries, which are separate from the European Union, said that for the first time, the FTA also included a chapter on commitments to human rights and sustainable develop-



Landmark pact: The signing ceremony of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI/PIB

ment. The agreement will come into force after ratification by the EFTA states, expected possibly by the end of the year.

### 'Unique achievement'

Touting the clauses on investment as a unique achievement, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said it was "for the first time in the history of the world that we are inking an FTA with a binding commitment to invest \$100 billion in India from EFTA countries". However, EFTA Ministers clarified that the commitment was in fact a "goal" for both sides, based on the current levels of investment, pegged at about \$10.7 billion, the GDP predictions, and the estimated value of the TEPA.

**CONTINUED ON** » PAGE 12



### Trinamool list for all 42 seats in Bengal out

Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA



On the auspicious occasion of Offers One-time





PM'S U.P. VISIT 'Development push by **BJP** rattled Opposition' NEWS » PAGE 12



The list has surprises, with the party fielding former cricketers Yusuf Pathan from Berhampore and Kirti Azad from Bardhaman-Durgapur. The party retained veteran MPs Sudip Banerjee from Kolkata, Saugata Roy from Dum Dum Lok, and Kalvan Banerjee from Serampore. the While party dropped Nushrat Jahan from Basirhat (the consti-



Mamata Baneriee addressing an election rally in Kolkata on Sunday. AP

tuency under which Sandeshkhali falls), it has fielded Bengali actors Rachana Banerjee from Hooghly and June Maliah from Medinipur.

**CONTINUED ON** » PAGE 12 DOORS STILL OPEN: CONG. » PAGE 13

# Gig workers suffer from lack of social security, regulations: study

#### A.M. Jigeesh NEW DELHI

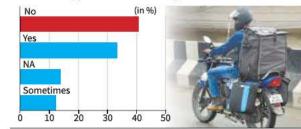
Almost a third of appbased cab drivers work for over 14 hours a day, while more than 83% work more than 10 hours and 60% work over 12 hours, according to a study of more than 10,000 Indian cab drivers, gig and platform workers.

It noted that social disparities make the situation worse, with over 60% of the drivers from the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes working for over 14 hours a day, while only 16% from the unreserved category work such long hours.

The study was conducted by the People's Associa-

### Constantly at work Asked if they take a single day off in a week,

40% of the app-based workers surveyed said "No"



tion in Grassroots Action which will be released on and Movements, and the Monday, recommended Indian Federation of Appstronger social security for based Transport Workers, app-based workers, and with technical support called on the government from the University of to exercise oversight on the Pennsylvania and Friefairness of algorithms and drich-Ebert-Stiftung India, mechanisms used by plata German foundation. forms to monitor such Authors of the study, workers. The report said

that over 43% of participants in the study earn less than ₹500 a day, or ₹15,000 a month, after deducting all costs. It found that 34% of the app-based delivery persons earn less than ₹10,000 a month, while 78% spend over 10 hours daily at work.

Adding to the problem Noting the differences among workers from different castes, the report said that "these income disparities further exacerbate the already existing social inequalities and perpetuate cycles of poverty and disthese tress within communities".

**CONTINUED ON** » PAGE 12

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Monday, March 11, 2024 DELHI



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-	-	7.1.1	or the Course	hote hue Kotwa Siwan tak	9.630	637 040	34.060	674.000	_			4	MMGSUY/23-	Madhubani	Phulparas	Ghoghardiha	Chikna Missing Link of Ghoghardiha	4.350	439.42	35.486	474.906			EE, P
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	East Champaran	Motihari	Motihari	Road Basantpur Middle School to Imaliya (Old	1.070	91.780	4.500	96.280				13	MMGSUY/23- 24 Jhanjharpur/05	Madhubani	Jhanjharpur	Lakhnaur	Repair of road from Tamuriya Kachchhawi Chanauraganj	8.300	1201.43	107.33	1308.760	10000	26.175	EE, I Wo Divi Jhanji
-		Total f	or the Group	Dhaka PWD	7.000	611.150	64.410	675.560								Total for the Gro		7.680	587.544	69.737	657.281	]		
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		Total f	or the Group	1	8.360	736.650	81.320	817.970		EE D	EE, RWD		MMGSUY/23-	Madhubani	Jhanjharpur	Lakhnaur	Belaucha Lofa Rd to West Mahato Tol	0.930	67.24	6.393	73.633	10000	10.110	EE, W
	Champaran	Narkatiyaganj	Gaunaha	to Parsauni (VR21)	3.400	322.280	33.370	355.650						Madhubani	Jhanjharpur	Lakhnaur	Lauffa to Belaucha	2.750	209.494	30.434	239.928			
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MAAPPI MAA	West Champaran	Narkatiyaganj	Chanpatia	L039- Rampurawa to Raidhurawa	4.960	414.370	47.950	462.320			EE, RWD	11	MMGSUY/23- 24 Jhanjharpur/03	Madhubani Madhubani	Jhanjharpur Jhanjharpur	Andhratharhi Andhratharhi	(VR22) L029-T01 to Rakhwari	2.780 3.750	239.04	35.528 48.648	274.568 314.608	10000	11.784	U Div
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	Champaran	Total f	or the Group	Diadiana	15.130	1294.560	144.940	1439.50	0		EE, RWD	8	MMGSUY/23- 24 Jaynagar/03	Madhubani	Jaynagar	Ladania	Jankinagar to Danwari	4.070	329.917	45.467	375.384	10000	15.372	W
	West Champaran	Betia	Yogapatti	Nawalpur to Dhadhawa	1.520	170.990	13.590	184.580						Madhubani	Jaynagar	Total for the Gro Ladania	up Ladania to Laxmainia	4.950 4.250	455.581 343.267	<b>50.075</b> 49.967	505.656 393.234			EE,
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Betia/04	West Champaran	Betia	Majhaulia	Bishunpurwa Path	2.500	175.010	25.590	200.600			Division, Betia		MMGSUY/23-	Madhubani	Benipatti	Madhwapur	T01 - SABROULI	1.720	200.98	17.75	218.730		Merchanka II	EE, W
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	West Champaran	Betia	Majhaulia	Manjhaulia Jagdishpur Road to Rampur	4.010	276.900	39.240	316.140	6			6	MMGSUY/23- 24	Madhubani Madhubani	Benipatti Benipatti	Madhwapur Madhwapur	BAINGRA - POKHROUNI L027-TO1 TO PAHIPURA	4.150	90.78	9.95	426.256	10000	10.540	EE, W
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(अगर और कोई मैंगजीन चाहिए तो डिमांड करे उपलब्ध करा दिया जाएगा)

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### THE HINDU States

### NBRIN



### Cheetah gives birth to 5 cubs at M.P.'s Kuno National Park

Cheetah Gamini on Sunday gave birth to five cubs in Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, taking the total number of cheetahs in the country to 26, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said. Taking to X, Mr. Singh said, "High Five, Kuno! Female cheetah Gamini, aged about 5 years, brought from Tswalu Kalahari Reserve, South Africa, has given birth to 5 cubs today." The number of cheetah cubs born in India now stands at 13, he added. This is the fourth cheetah litter on Indian soil and the first litter of cheetahs brought from South Africa, the Minister said. PTI

### **CPI parts ways with INDIA** bloc in Jharkhand, to go solo

The Communist Party of India (CPI) on Sunday parted ways with the Opposition INDIA bloc in Jharkhand, announcing that it will contest eight of the 14 Lok Sabha seats in the State. The CPI has no representation in the Lower House of Parliament from Jharkhand. "We have decided to contest the poll on our own," CPI State secretary Mahendra Pathak said. "The BJP has announced its candidates, but the Congress and the Mahagathbandhan have not yet held any talks on seat sharing. So, we have decided to go solo," he said. The CPI will field candidates in Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Koderma, Chatra, Palamu, Giridih, Dumka, and Jamshedpur seats. PTI

# Independent MLA, Cong. rebel's father booked for 'electoral offences' in H.P.

Being pressured by the CM to return to Cong. fold, say rebel legislators camping in Uttarakhand; police complaint filed by two Congress MLAs seeking investigation into charges of money trading

### Press Trust of India SHIMLA

he political crisis in Himachal Pradesh took a new turn on Sunday with the police registering a case against Hamirpur's Independent legislator Ashish Sharma, Gagret's now-disqualified MLA Chetanya Sharma's father, and others on charges of "electoral offences" and bribery.

Mr. Ashish and Mr. Chetanya are among the nine MLAs, including six Congress rebels and three Independents, who voted in favour of the BJP nominee, Harsh Mahajan, in the Rajya Sabha elections on February 27. This led to a crisis in the Congress government, which appeared to have lost its majority in the Assembly.

Guarded by the Central Reserve Police Force, the nine MLAs and two BJP legislators are currently in Rishikesh in BJP-ruled Uttarakhand and have alleged pressure from CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.



The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Tuesday a plea by the six rebel Congress MLAs against their disqualification. FILE PHOTO

The case was registered at the Boileauganj police station on the basis of a complaint by Congress MLAs Sanjay Avasthi and Bhuvneshwar Gaur, who sought an investigation into charges of money trading, misuse of helicopter and security forces, and criminal misconduct. The legislators said di-

rect evidence is available that the BJP is paying for the transportation of the Congress rebels and Independents through choppers and accommodation in five-star properties in Haryana and Uttarakhand. They said there is proof of

BJP legislators accompanying them, and cited the Supreme Court's recent ruling in Sita Soren vs Union of India in the complaint.

They also alleged the role of Mr. Chetanya's father Rakesh Sharma, a retired bureaucrat, in arranging for the transportation.

### Joint statement

Terming the present Congress government as the most unpopular and inex-perienced till date, the rebel MLAs said a lot of pressure is being put on them to return to the Congress fold. In a joint statement issued on Sunday, they said they are fighting a battle for self-respect and questioned the mindset of the Chief Minister, who is approaching them for compromise on the one hand and issuing statements like "black snakes" and "shepherds" on the other.

Lashing out at the BJP for adopting "unfair and undemocratic means to weaken" the democratic process of the State, Mr. Sukhu said "we are not afraid of political challenges". Addressing a public gathering in Solan, the Chief Minister said, "We will face every challenge with determination and realise the vision of self-reliant Himachal by 2032."

### Cong. sets up panel Later in the day, the Congress constituted a sixmember committee to ensure better coordination between its government

and the party organisation. The members of the committee include Mr. Sukhu, his deputy Mukesh Agnihotri, and State party president Pratibha Singh.

### As alliance talks with BJD progress, BJP cadre flag concerns

#### Satyasundar Barik BHUBANESWAR

Despite sources from both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) indicating significant progress in alliance talks, the BJP cadre in Odisha are still struggling to come to terms with the impending outcome.

A section of the local BJP leaders feels the party will unnecessarily shoulder the burden of anti-incumbency accrued from 24 years of BJD rule despite it expending much effort to rebuild itself after the breakup of the alliance in 2009. On Sunday, a delegation led by State BJP president Manmohan Samal rushed to New Delhi after being summoned by the central

leadership, possibly to attend a meeting to discuss the proposed alliance and seat sharing. "We are going to New Delhi to discuss the preparations made for fighting the Lok Sabha polls," Mr. Samal said. Political experts in Od-

isha suggested that the statements from Mr. Samal and some other State BJP leaders claiming ignorance about alliance talks might simply be an effort to offset the growing discontent among the grassroots-level



PM Narendra Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

cadre, as aspirants of both parties remain uncertain of chances of contesting the election.

"Although we have worked hard to rise from the third position to the principal Opposition since 2009, there is a possibility of the BJP being branded as a ruling party if the alliance is approved by the central leadership. The natural advantage of fighting the election against 24 years of incumbency would be lost," said a BJP aspirant from Sambalpur district. If an alliance is formed,

BJP leaders and workers would be forced to defend the policies and actions of the BJD government, which they were critical of for the past 15 years. It will be a tricky situation to be in, said a BJP worker.

## JJP, INLD face uphill battle as core voters drift away

### NEWS ANALYSIS

### Ashok Kumar GURUGRAM

The upcoming Lok Sabha and Haryana Assembly elections seem to be a battle for survival for the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and its breakaway faction, the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), which is facing the ire of its core voters for its "anti-farmer" stance during the year-long stir against the Centre's nowwithdrawn farm laws. The JJP - led by Ajay Singh Chautala - came into existence in December 2018 after a vertical split in the INLD following a feud in the Chautala family. The party won 10 seats in the 2019 Assembly election and

formed a coalition government with the BJP.

The INLD, led by former Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala, however, was reduced to a single seat in the 2019 Assembly poll, five years after it finished runner-up in the 2014 election with 19 seats.

Any further weakening of the two parties would also mean an end to the several decades-old dominance of the regional political force le d by the Chautalas in the State. While the image of JJP leader and Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushvant Chautala – once seen as the next Chaudhary Devi Lal took a hit after the farmers' agitation, the party's failure to deliver on its two most important electoral promises – ₹5,100 monthly old-

age pension, and reservation in private sector jobs added to its woes.

Trying hard to make the party stand on its feet again, INLD secretary general Abhay Chautala, too, had taken out a Statewide "padyatra" last year. However, his outfit failed to catch the people's imagination due to the lack of charismatic leadership.

Setback for revival plan The INLD's efforts for up with the Congress and the Bahujan Samaj Party ahead of the Lok Sabha poll, too, have fallen flat - a major setback for its revival plan. Professor Rajendra Sharma, head of the Political Science Department at Rohtak's Maharishi Dayanand University, said the JJP's alliance with the BJP

INLD once held. The INLD for Lok Sabha poll, which may replace the JJP, but is would be a confirmation for their pre-poll alliance for unlikely to regain its old the Assembly election as glory," said Mr. Sharma. well, could be the only

### **Tussle for Jat votes**

The fact that the two regional parties depend heavily on Jat votes and face tough competition from the Congress, led by prominent Jat leader and two-time Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, has also not helped their cause. Mr. Sharma said the lats had already shifted to Mr. Hooda in a big way as they thought that he alone could challenge the BIP. The political history of the State also does not offer much hope to the JJP as almost all new political outfits launched over the past two decades have failed to make a mark.

Gehlot asks Congressmen to learn from Rahul how not to succumb to 'pressure from ED'

### **The Hindu Bureau** NEW DELHI

As more Congress leaders from Rajasthan, including former Ministers Rajendra Yadav and Lal Chand Kataria, joined the BJP on Sunday, former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said people



run away in a difficult time.  $\neg$ Mr. Gehlot asked those who are under pressure to learn from the Gandhi family. "Mr. Rahul Gandhi and his family were harassed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for many days on the pretext of questioning. His Parlia-

in terms of bringing any new policy or scheme. As far as the reservation in private jobs is considered, everybody knew it was a hoax," Mr. Sharma said.

hope for its survival. "The

IIP has lost much of its

goodwill in the past five

years because of the farm-

ers' movement. It is on a

sticky wicket. An alliance

with the BJP will give it

some breather, else it will

be wiped out. The IIP has

nothing significant to claim

He said the rise of the BJP in several States has been at the cost of regional parties. "In Harvana, too, the BJP has occupied the political space that the are leaving because of pressure from the Central agencies. He also asked those who are bowing to pressure to learn from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his family.

Mr. Gehlot said on X that people are saying they are facing pressure from Central agencies and, theFormer Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot. FILE PHOTO

refore, they are leaving the

Congress and joining the

BJP. He added that the Con-

gress nurtured these lead-

ers and made them Minis-

ters and appointed them to

big positions within the

party, but they chose to

pur-Unnao

lowish tinge," he says.

rather not drink the water

from the hand pumps.

"There is a reverse osmosis

treatment system. It's the

local gram panchayat's res-

ponsibility to maintain it,

but it is not always relia-

ment membership was cancelled, he was even evicted from his house, but he is facing every pressure strongly. Through the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, he is travelling across the country, and creating public awareness on injustice, inflation, hatred, and unemployment," he said.

## Waiting for water in Unnao: the outlier in U.P.'s Jal Jeevan Mission 'success' story

### SPOTLIGHT

#### Jacob Koshy

"What water?" exclaims Naseema, about her experience with the Central government's ₹3.6-trillion Jal Jeevan Mission that aims to provide free, piped water to every village home in India by 2024. Peeved, she points out her house in Supasi-Azadpur, Unnao district, Uttar Pradesh. A cluster of around 250 houses, Supasi-Azadpur is a segregated slum, with the familiar sight of young girls hauling water pitchers from the nearest hand pump. "During the monsoon, it is the worst. Water rises waist-high and we have to wade through dirt to get to our houses," says Naseema, who makes a living as a rag-picker.

In the dera, dominated by Nat-Muslims (U.P.'s Pasmanda Dalit community), as a resident describes the hamlet, the most prominent public building is a mosque that doubles as a madrasa. "We are used to visits by panchayat and dis-

trict officials. They promise us water connections. Then there are visits by politicians during polls; that are never kept. What is Jal Jeevan?" queries Muhammad Khurshid Aalam, the imam of the mosque. "You mean we will get taps and water without paying for it?" he says.

The Jal Jeevan Mission was announced in 2019, but picked up steam only after the COVID-19 pandemic. As of last month, about 74% of India's 19.2 crore rural households have received tap connections, up from 3.2 crore in 2019, according to a dashboard maintained by the nodal Jal Shakti Ministry. In Uttar Pradesh alone, the number of tap connections has risen from 5.1 lakh in 2019 to 2 crore, the highest among all States.

However, as The Hindu has reported, these numbers do not imply that three-fourths of U.P.'s 2.6 crore households have functioning tap connections. A significant number is 'self reported', that is officials report that connections have been provided



In short supply: A child washes utensils with water drawn from the nearest hand pump in Supasi-Azadpur, a segregated slum in Unnao; (right) Ram Naresh Azad, an Ayurveda practitioner in Tikargarhi village, says people have fallen ill after using groundwater. R.V. MOORTHY

and there isn't yet a count of how many households have independently been 'certified' by the gram panchayat as having a working tap connection.

While the Jal Jeevan data portal graphically maps out the extent of coverage in U.P. districts, only one conspicuously stands out -Unnao. With about 4.8 lakh households and 1,654 villages, it reports only 20% of households as having functional tap connections. This is still a rise from the 1.9% of households reported with connections in 2019. However, only about 3% of villages in Unnao have been certified

as having tap connections by their panchayats.

> The fall of the tanneries Situated between the bigger cities of Kanpur and Lucknow, Unnao is home to several tanneries. However, the last decades have been tough on the industry, with hundreds of tanneries being held responsible for polluting the Ganga that flows through Unnao. The government's Namami Gange Programme has focussed efforts on commissioning sewage infrastructure and treatment plants as well as getting tannery associations to either shut opera-However, this elevated pre-

tions or pool resources to establish effluent treatment plants that treat the waste water from their units. This has led to conflict.

Taj Alam, proprietor of King's International, a large tannery in the area, says, "Vietnam, with barely any cattle, is now a \$15billion leather exporting industry. In India, it is \$5 billion. We are losing out." One of the major histor-

ical reasons for the success of the leather industry in the Kanpur-Unnao belt was the presence of the Ganga and the "salty water", says Nayyar Jamal, an advocate and tannery proprietor.

sence of salts is reflected in the high fluoride content in the groundwater, one that makes it unpalatable. "For over 10 years,

we've had a large tank that supplies water for an hour or two a day. But that groundwater isn't good. There have been illnesses. There is an alternate supply connected to a water filtration plant. That's the water most of us use," says Ram Naresh Azad, an Ayurveda practitioner in Tikargarhi village of Unnao.

#### Salinity challenge

Away from the industrial, more urban parts of the district, the Lucknow-Kan-

charge of water managehighway branches off into several ment works, says Unnao's villages. Monu, a resident limited adoption of the farmer of Baliya Kheda, a scheme is due to a "belated" realisation that the hamlet of about 200 households, says he is unaware high fluoride levels in the of the Jal Jeevan Mission groundwater would make supplying potable water to and blames the high saliniall households a challenge. ty in the groundwater, ironically, on the (Namami "The administration pre-Gange) "mission". "Much of the tannery waste is bepared a project report to supply water from grounding diverted and making its water. But later, Unnao way into the ground. This and six other districts wasn't the case before. The were asked to draw water water that we get has a yelfrom the Ganga and use that as the main source. At the primary school in The process of tendering Khanapura, a 20 minuteand finding a company for the civil work took time, drive from Baliya Kheda, teachers say they would

but now we expect the work to be complete by January 2025," he says. At the Ganga barrage, a water diversion and pump house structure is in the early stages of construction. Engineers and workers scurry in anticipation

ble," says Fakhrul Islam, the head teacher. of an inspection. "Let this At the local water board be completed and followoffice, several administraing this, a water treatment tive staff are preparing for plant. Then we will proa 'visit' by Unnao's District vide taps and pipes," one Magistrate to inspect the says. The others concur. progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission. Puneet Kumar, assistant engineer and in-

LINK TO FULL STORY

» https://rb.gy/49h8y9

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### **ADVERTISEMENT**

### Can working professionals prepare for UPSC and beat their competition?

Below is a roadmap of practical advice on how to navigate the tiresome UPSC preparation journey for busy working professionals or busy students. Given the obvious challenges of paucity of time, this is NOT an article about 'time-management' but something much more fundamental that busy UPSC aspirants need to know. The advice rendered below will turn out to be customized for every reader if they engage with it.



#### 1. Know your numbers

Research proves that our subjective sense of time is often misleading, and the only way to objectively appreciate the time situation is through numbers. Consider the following:

#### Work:

Assuming you have a 9-5 job, which means spending 8 hours at an office/college every day. Six times a week. You spend about 50 hours at work /college each week.

#### Travel:

Between 60-90 min., per day for commuting to and fro. You spend approx. 10 hours every week traveling. Pre And Post work routines:

Add another hour for changing, refreshing, etc., before and after work. You spend about 7-10 hours per week.

Wastage and unexpected events: Assume half an hour wasted on social media or just being lazy. Another half-hour every day dealing with unexpected events. So, 10 hours are wasted or spent dealing with whatever new thing happens to you.

### Sleep:

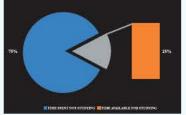
Assuming 7 hours of sleep every day, which is the minimum recommended amount for being healthy. You are asleep for about 50 hours a week.

**Chores and Entertainment:** 

Add 1 hour of leisure time to unwind & include time spent with family and

friends. You spend at least 10 hrs. a week on chores and entertainment. Adding the above, we arrive at average of 130-150 hours spent, per week not studying.

(Note that I have NOT included time for exercise, which is imp.)



So effectively speaking, you have approx. 30- 40 hours a week available for UPSC preparation.

(I encourage my mentees not to take the above for granted & to CALCULATE the above using a tool I created called the time-managyzer, which can be accessed by enrolling in the Time-Management Sutra via the QR code)

#### 2. The currency of productivity is not time, but energy.

Is it any surprise that you don't feel like reading boring NCERTs after a day at work/college, EVEN if you have a few hours to spare?

Consider that when you have high energy, you are more productive- you use your time efficiently as you are able to focus. When you can focus, your ideas flow smoothly, & you look forward to what's next. The exact opposite happens when your energy levels are low. Energy management is far more imp. than Time Management.

You might mistakenly blame yourself for not being motivated & feel disappointed. Don't. Because you must realize that your body is a machine hosting an organ- your brain, which needs a break & can overheat. That said, everyone has different energy

cycles during the day, and it pays to know your body's patterns.

It is also imp. for you to know that willpower is not some magic sauce you can conjure up with emotions or thoughts alone. Research suggests that willpower is more like a currency that we spend throughout the day on different activities. As the day goes by, it gets depleted. Therefore, schedule the most difficult tasks in your day when your energy levels are highest.

#### 3. Task-lists are wish-lists

You can't manage your time until you design tasks intelligently. The biggest mistake people make about setting daily tasks is that they are based on what they HOPE to do in a day vs what they actually CAN do. They set tasks that are too vague, too big, or too challenging. Task design is a survival skill every serious UPSC aspirant should know. For example, "Read NCERT" is not an intelligent example of task design. An intelligently designed task would look like this: "Do 1st reading of chapters 1-5 of History NCERT & attempt MCQsscore above 60%". Here's why-

1. It has a clear cut goal, includes metrics for feedback & the task is neither too easy not too hard.

2. It is linked to a higher order weekly goal ("To finish History NCERT this week ")

This is how you should structure your own tasks for UPSC preparation. These insights are inspired by the Goal Setting theory of motivation by Psychologist, Edwin Locke.



Other critical principles to keep in mind while designing tasks are-

1. Have NO MORE than 3 Priority tasks in a day 2. Always keep 20% buffer room for

over-estimation, disturbances etc 3. Once the tasks are set, stop thinking about the big picture & push to completion.

Always remember that your tasks will take up as much time as you allocate to them. The longer you give a task, the longer it will take. The opposite is true but only to an extent. So, keep your targets tight but not impossible.

#### 4. Treat yourself as an athlete competing in "intggelletual Olympics"

No matter how devoted you are to your studies, your body & mind have needs that must be met. You must carve out time for these needs and treat them like medicine, as they are vitamins for your mind.

Here are the optimal dosages for brain health-

#### Sleep: 1. 7 Hrs sound sleep is minimum with

preferably, a 30-min nap during the day 2. Treat your sleep as sacred and invest in good sleep. 3. Circadian rhythms are importantresearch clearly supports that the body

and mind work best when we rise with and sleep in sync with the sun. **Exercise:** 1. 4-6 hrs. of medium intensity exercise

a week is minimum 2. Possibly the best exercises for brain health & clearing the mind is long-distance cardio- walking, jogging, etc.

3. Choose an exercise formate that you enjoy & integrate into your lifestyle. 4. Even if it makes you tired in the short-term, exercise will benefit your brain health tremendously.

Socialization:

1. Healthy social relations are a per-requisite for happiness and brain health. 2. Don't isolate yourself. Even if it seems to conserve time, your mood will pay the price.

3. Develop a peer/study group where you can get psychological support form or find a trusted mentor who can support you.

#### **Hobbies:**

1. Some activities like painting, music, cooking etc which fill you with joy should exist. Don't give them up. 2. Dosage is key. Use them when you are down but don't over-indulge. 3. Aim to invest around 4-6 hours per week on such activities

#### 5. To harvest time, the tool you need is a focussed mind.

Deep-Focus is a state wherein you block out all distractions until nothing remains in the universe but the task and you. Recall a time from your life when you felt complete immersion in an activityperhaps, while dancing or painting. Such states are called "Flow" States, popularized by the groundbreaking work of psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi. In such states, time seems to stop altogether. Where, there is nothing else, just the task at hand & your full engagement with it. But to enter these 'flow' states during study sessions is not easy.

Here's what you need to know about focussing on demand-

1. Attention is like a muscle- it needs to be trained & can be improved drastically with the right practices

2. The most efficient, natural & time tested method is through meditation. Particularly, awareness of breath meditation (Ana-Pana OR Shamatha meditation) which can be practiced for 20-40 min each day

3. The Single biggest source of distraction is your smart-phone 4. Keep your phone out of your hand's

reach AND away from visible range during study sessions.

This article contains excerpts from the TIME-MANAGEMENT SUTRA (TMS) - a 7-day free program I created for my mentees who were struggling to manage time along with their studies or jobs. The TMS takes them through 7 consecutive days of daily email assignments each covering the aspects mentioned above in detail. Each assignment includes a questionnaire, evaluation, and education on each of the critical areas mentioned above. Towards the end, students are put through a test of fire which is a secret, not to be revealed here. The TMS is part of my Free Mentorship Program and can be accessed by anyone free of cost, by signing up here.



(If you use your phone for watching lectures or study, delete irrelevant appsdon't use social media on your device and keep it only for emergency calls)

#### 6. Find Scientific Mentorship with accountability partners -

The fact of the matter remains that if you are a working professional or busy student, you require special attention & a customized approach. A one-size-fits-all approach is very likely to fail in your case, so choose your mentor/guide wisely. You need someone who can keep close track of your progress using data, change your orientation according to the data, & find shorter, more efficient paths through the journey - including how to keep abreast with current affairs, manage backlog of classes, make notes, revise, etc.

However, data orientation and analytics are just one aspect of mentorship. The core part remains deeply psychological. You need someone who can reorient your mindset and supply the emotional energy needed to pursue the UPSC alongside a job or college. Add to that mind-training aspects like cultivating mindfulness, memory enhancement, and discipline - and you have the recipe for success.

Where you see constraints, a good mentor will see potential for more efficiency & push you towards it.



### Kinnari Pandya

inland has one of the best education systems in the world. In this interview, Hannele Cantell Associate Professor, Faculty of Behavioural Sciences and Education Psychology, University of Helsinki, and a schoolbook writer, talks about textbook development, and the role of textbooks in Finnish schools.

textbooks that schools can

is that to save money, some

only the Internet, we have

noticed that children don't

and not to rely only on

Internet!

technology, especially the

What, according to you,

should textbooks contain?

A skeleton of the important

Teachers should create "the

muscles around the bones";

i.e. all activities, pedagogical

exercises and tasks. While

different, textbooks ensure

similar opportunity to learn

Textbooks ought to

connect to questions and

thinking skills is the key focus

in Finnish textbooks, which

focus on the interaction

between knowledge and

thinking. Readers' age is a

critical component while

Textbooks don't work in

isolation; we offer teachers

pedagogical background

materials and teaching

materials to go with the

designing them.

creativity. Developing

that every student has a

the basic concepts.

each teacher's style is

knowledge to be learnt.

concepts and main

### What role do textbooks play in the Finnish education system?

Historically, textbook use has undergone a change. Earlier, education in Finland was highly textbook- and teacher-oriented, but this later came under criticism.

Some schools and teachers trusted phenomenon-based teaching, in which a concept or phenomenon is explored from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Sometimes, phenomenon-based teaching overtakes learning of school subjects and tries to find answers to problem-based questions, such as "Why is there heavy rain during summer?" In this approach, the Internet became the main source of knowledge, causing problems, such as the absence of understanding of concepts of subjects/disciplines and structure in learning. In recent years, there has been a turn back to subject, content, and concepts

In Finland, schools get money for their pedagogical needs from the government, which is also meant for

# **Develop thinking skills...**

... is what textbooks ought to do, says Hannele Cantell, Associate Professor, Faculty of Behavioural Sciences and Education Psychology, University of Helsinki, Finland



schools plans, develops and

materials. All texts and visual

material are peer-reviewed.

The writers also design the

pictures, maps, and so on.

Everything is age-oriented.

The newest research

should be seen in textbooks.

For example, new knowledge

and concepts about climate

university researchers, and

pedagogical expertise comes

from teacher educators. They

understand, for example, how

to deal with environmental

anxiety. Describing only the

emotionally harmful for

also write about the

children; it is important to

problems can be socially and

change and loss of

biodiversity come from

writes textbooks, exercise

books and teachers'

#### **GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO**

#### textbooks.

These are essential aspects of quality schoolbooks/textbooks that any country striving for quality education would ensure. What matters is the extent to which these elements and principles are practised while developing textbooks, and preparing teachers to use the material in the same spirit and intent with which it is developed.

#### What are some key principles followed in designing and developing textbooks in Finland?

A group comprising teacher educators, subject and pedagogical (university) specialists and teachers from possibilities of solving some problems and encouraging students to act.

The school teachers' role is to keep us focussed on classroom realities and the age group the book is meant for. Everyone writes and comments; it's an 'equal' process.

#### All classrooms have a diverse range of learners. Inclusion is a critical aspect of ensuring learning for all. How can a textbook take care of this?

In Finland, we collaborate with language planners (those who check if the language is correctly written). Often, we also ask Special Needs education experts to



comment on the drafts so that the texts are easy to read and understand.

Visuals are important because many children/students have difficulty in reading very long texts; younger children can learn from pictures. The content of pictures is also planned carefully. Choosing pictures for a textbook has to be done responsibly. For example, if you have space for only one picture of Europe, Finland or India, what kind of picture would you choose?

It is good to split the text into smaller chapters and to use meaningful subtitles. For example, compare these: a. Muscles b. Muscles make us move. The latter includes the chapter's main point. It gives the slower learners an idea about the chapter. But the first does not convey anything.

In addition, it is good to have an abstract in a chapter as well as main/key points. Also, we have thinking questions and small ideas for student activities in every chapter. So, the textbook, in a way, is also an exercise book for students. **Views expressed are** personal

The writer is Faculty at Azim Premji University

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **Charpak Bachelor's** Scholarship

An opportunity offered by the French Government to Indian students who wish to study in France. Eligibility: Open to Indian

nationals or OCI card holders who are 23 years or younger at the time of application and have completed secondary school in India and have applied for a Bachelor's degree starting on September 1, 2024. Applicants should not have studied in France earlier. Rewards: € 860 a month plus benefits **Application:** Online Deadline: April 1 www.b4s.in/edge/CBSS3

#### **British Council** Scholarship for Women in STEM

An opportunity offered by the British Council in partnership with universities in the U.K. Eligibility: Open to females who hold a Bachelor's degree in STEM subjects and have secured admission to a pre-selected PG programme at a

### Women in STEM

Progress has opened applications for the 2024 **Progress Software** Akanksha Scholarship for Women in STEM in India

participating U.K. university and demonstrate a need for financial support/ socio-economic need. Applicants must meet the English language proficiency requirements. **Rewards:** Full tuition fees, living stipend, and benefits **Application:** Online Deadline: April 30 www.b4s.in/edge/BCSM1

### The University of **Birmingham India**

Outstanding Achievement **Scholarships** 

An opportunity offered by the University of Birmingham.

Eligibility: Open to Indian citizens with a full-time offer for a UG programme at the University of Birmingham; meet the specified academic conditions of their offer; are capable of paying tuition fees not covered under the scholarship; and have sufficient funds to cover the full cost of living at Birmingham's U.K. campus. Rewards: A one-time award of £4,000

**Application:** Online Deadline: April 30 www.b4s.in/edge/UBIA1

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

Eligibility: Women residing in India and in the first year of a UG programme in Computer Science Engineering (CSE), Computer Science Information Technology (CSIT) or related course. Last date: April 12. https://bitly.ws/3fd5m

# States

THE HINDU

pathy, the DMK had two

crore members, and it was impossible to check the

background of every indi-

vidual. Mr. Wilson said that

the party had expelled Mr.

Sadiq when a complaint was made against him.

of former Minister C. Vi-

jayabaskar's involvement

in the gutkha scam. Did the

AIADMK government re-

move him from the Cabi-

net? Even the Governor re-

fused to grant sanction to

initiate legal proceedings

against him and another

Minister, Ramana. The

gutkha scam was trans-

ferred to the CBI only after

our leader M.K. Stalin ap-

proached the court and ob-

tained a direction for the

The Minister said that

the DMK government had

made efforts to eradicate

drugs from the State,

which were appreciated by

everyone, including the

judiciary. "But during the

AIADMK regime, gutkha was sold by Ministers and

officials," he claimed.

same," Mr. Wilson said.

"We had raised the issue

# Hegde seeks two-thirds majority for BJP to amend Constitution; his personal opinion, says BJP

Party asks for clarification; the Karnataka MP had spoken about amending the Constitution in 2017 as well, only to apologise later by stating that his comments had been distorted; statement reflects the hidden agenda of RSS: Congress

#### **The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU/NEW DELHI**

6

ourting another controversy weeks ahead of the Lok Sabha election, party MP from Uttara Kannada Anantkumar Hegde has said that voters should give a two-thirds mandate to the BJP to enable amendments to the Constitution. The BJP, however, distanced itself from his statement.

"The BJP needs a twothirds majority in both the Houses of Parliament to amend the Constitution and set right distortions and unnecessary additions made to it by the Congress," he said, addressing a gathering in Karwar on Saturday and explaining

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Anantkumar Hegde made the remarks while addressing a gathering in Karnataka's Karwar on Saturday. FILE PHOTO

the numbers required to amend the preamble of the Constitution. The party would also need to come to power in more than 20 States for this, he said. This is the second in-

stance that the former Union Minister has waded into a controversy over amending the Constitution. In 2017, he had spoken about amending the Constitution only to later apologise by stating that his comments had been

distorted. The BJP distanced itself from Mr. Hegde's statement and also sought a clarification from him. BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said, "It is imperative that it is made clear that the statement reflects his personal views and is not a statement that reflects the view of the BJP. The party has also asked for clarification from him," Mr. Bhatia said.

Mr. Hegde's statement, made publicly in Karnataka, accused the Congress of having made changes to the Indian Constitution "that brought laws to oppress the entire Hindu society", and later linked the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 400 seats for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the upcoming Lok Sabha election to effect changes in the Indian Constitution. These remarks also set off a flurry of condemna-

tion from Opposition parties, with both Congress Mallikarjuna president Kharge and Rahul Gandhi speaking out against it.

> 'Manuvadi mindset' Mr. Gandhi said that Mr.

Hegde's statement reflected the "hidden agenda" of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and that its ultimate aim was to "destroy the Constitution framed by Bababsaheb Ambedkar".

In a post on X, Mr. Kharge said the Modi government, the BJP and the RSS secretly desired to impose a dictatorship, whereby they would impose their "Manuvaadi mindset" on the people of India and snatch away the rights of the SCs, the STs and the OBCs.

# BJP using NCB to defame DMK: T.N. Law Minister

### The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Law Minister S. Regupathy on Sunday alleged that the BJP government at the Centre had pressed the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) into action "to defame and intimidate the DMK".

Referring to the arrest of former DMK functionary and film producer Jaffer Sadiq by the NCB in Delhi on Saturday, he said, "The Deputy Director of the NCB, Gyaneshwar Singh, interacted with the media about the case before the investigation was completed only to help the BJP gain political mileage during the election."

Addressing the media on Sunday, Mr. Regupathy and DMK Rajya Sabha member P. Wilson said that the party would initiate legal and criminal proceedings against anyone who sought to link the party with the accused in the drug cartel case. The DMK leaders won-



S. Regupathy.

dered how Mr. Singh could brief the media when the investigation was in the preliminary stage.

"What is the basis and where is the evidence? The media briefing, especially during election time, has been done with the motive of defaming the DMK. We will initiate criminal and civil proceedings against anyone who seeks to link the party or our leaders with the case without any basis and evidence," Mr. Wilson said.

According to Mr. Regu-

### Uddhav aide joins Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena

### The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

Adding to the setbacks for the Shiv Sena (UBT), former Minister and MLA Ravindra Waikar, considered a close confidant of Uddhav Thackeray, joined the rival Sena faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday night.

Along with a battery of supporters, Mr. Waikar, who is facing action from the Enforcement Directorate (ED), was welcomed to the ruling Shiv Sena at Varsha, the Chief Minister's official residence. The development came a day after he welcomed Mr. Thackeray to his constituency. Following Mr. Waikar's defection, Sena (UBT) now holds a reduced strength of 15 MLAs, while Mr. Shinde's Sena has gained an additional member, bringing its total to 40. Mr. Waikar asserted that his decision was driven by a commitment to develop his constituency.

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Bijay singh I

# Candidate declaration by Sena (UBT) sparks coalition concerns

#### **Abhinay Deshpande** MUMBAI

A day after Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray revealed his party's candidate for the Mumbai North-West Lok Sabha seat, Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam questioned whether this move violated 'coalition dharma' or was an intentional effort to portray his party negatively.

Despite the ongoing seatsharing discussions among the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) partners, including Shiv Sena (UBT), Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) and the Congress, Mr. Thackeray announced Amol Kirtikar as his party's candidate. Mr. Amol Kirtikar's father, Gajanan Kirtikar, the current MP from the seat, is affiliated with the rival Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Mr. Nirupam, expressing concerns about the unilateral announcement, urged the



**Uddhav Thackeray** 

BMC.

pam said.

Congress leadership to intervene and raised allegations against the announced candidate in connection with the 'khichdi scam', involving bribery during the COVID-19 pandemic relief efforts by the

zen meetings, the seat-shar-

ing deal of MVA hasn't been

finalised yet. I am told that whatever 8 to 9 seats are

pending, this constituency

is one of them", Mr. Niru-

			Bhagalpur	Sultanganj	Udahdih PMGSY Road to Anandi Ray's house	0.561	31.492	3.669	35.161					
		2	Total for	The Group		7.681	465.385	60.071	525.456	J.				
		Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Sultanganj	NH-80 Nasopur to Nasopur Railway Gumti tak	0.338	19.061	2.151	21.212					
2	MR-N/23-24	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Sultanganj	Kathara (Nishara) Mandan Mandal ke Ghar to Traweni Mandal ke Ghar tak	0.370	20.538	2.268	22.806	10000		EE, RWD Works		
2	Bhagalpur/16	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Sultanganj	PMGSY Halkarachak (Bajrangwali Mandir) to Karvanand Roy House	0.592	31.672	3.589	35.261	10000	1.87	Division, Bhagalpu		
		Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Sultanganj	NH-80 Jawahar Mandal (Kamarganj) House to Muslim Tola via Ganesh Singh house	0.220	12.909	1.449	14.358					
				The Group		1.520	84.180	9.457	93.637	1				
	205-2-022-20720	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Sultanganj	Gouripur to Makanpur Abjuganj Kumaitha Road Gangti Ravidas Tola	0.511	27.182	3.106	30.288			EE, RWD		
3	MR-N/23-24 Bhagalpur/17	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Sultanganj	to Asandi Mahadalit Tola & Brahman Tola	0.563	30.649	3.706	34.355	10000	1.74	Works Division,		
		Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Sultanganj	PMGSY Road Mangal Ravidas's house ) to Kapildev Paswan house	0.360	19.955	2.281	22.236	<u>6</u> .		Bhagalpu		
		WE SHOW		The Group		1.434	77.786	9.093	86.879	-				
	MR-N/23-24	Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon Kahalgaon	Kahalgaon Kahalgaon	Rampru to Shivnarayanpur PMGSY Road L022 NH-80 to Salempur	4.150	164.916 55.942	28.229 14.754	193.145 70.696			EE, RWD Works		
4	Kahalgaon/07	Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Kahalgaon	REO Road to Devipur	1.365	43.893	10.918	54.811	10000	8.43	Division,		
	Aller a Constants	Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Kahalgaon	L033- Pankhoria to Sour	2.880	79.529	23.428	102.957			Kahalgaor		
			Total for	The Group		10.240	344.280	77.329	421.609	jį.				
		Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Kahalgaon	Jahtiyan to Jagalgopali	1.350	45.082	10.254	55.336					
	8337390734538	Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Kahalgaon	Brahchari more to Lagma Raod	1.880	44.478	16.514	60.992			EE, RWD		
5	MR-N/23-24	Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	kahalgaon	L035- Khusa Dhamaura to Masadaha	2.500	98.314	21.920	120.234	10000	9.11	Works		
	Kahalgaon/08	Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Kahalgaon	L051-Ekchari more to Ekchari Tola	0.500	26.434	3.113	29.547			Division, Kahalgao		
		Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Gauradih	Mirzanhat Nadiyama PmGsY (Siargarh) to Saraiya	3.165	166.186	23.275	189.461	4	÷	Kanaigao		
_			The second se	The Group		9.395	380.494	75.076	455.570	-				
	MR-N/23-24	Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Pirpainti	L095- PMGSY Pyalapur to Gauradih Musahri	4.830	180.568	37.836	218.404			EE, RWD		
6	MR-N/23-24 Kahalgaon/09	Bhagalpur	Kahaigaon	Pirpainti	L076- Roshanpur to Govindpur	2.675	87.291	23.288	110.579	10000	8.87	Works Division,		
	raina guoriy us	Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Pirpainti	L036-T03 to Saguni Tola	2.384	97.319	17.405	114.724			Kahalgaon		
			Total for	The Group	•	9.889	365.178	78.529	443.707	4		1		
		Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Sanhaula	dhanari Choti Naaki to Badi Naaki	5,550	212.984	47.206	260.190			EE, RWD		
	MR-N/23-24	Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Sanhaula	Tulsipur to Bharadha	2.157	87.082	16.686	103.768			Works		
7	Kahalgaon/10	Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Sanhaula	L048- Telhaunda to Pakariya	1.000	34.083	8.464	42.547	10000	10.37	Division,		
	10.000 (10.000 (10.000))	Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon		RWD Road TO2 to Baniya	1.300	48.750	11.367	60.117	-		Kahalgaon		
		Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon Total for	Sanhaula The Group	RCD to Chak Sulemani	1.300 11.307	40.281 423.180	11.733 95.456	52.014 518.636					
		Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Sanhaula	Baniyadih to Nagdaha	2.221	76.148	19.015	95.163	Ś.,		EE, RWD		
102	MR-N/23-24	Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Sanhaula	L022- Bhakhri to Dhanokahr	1.900	99.834	11.886	111.720	Carrier		Works		
8	Kahalgaon/11	Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Sanhaula	Bhuria to Baisa	1.800	76.929	13.724	90.653	10000	8.71	Division,		
		Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon	Sanhaula	L025- Kharia to Rasulpur	3.000	114.058	24.145	138.203					Kahalgao
			Total for	The Group		8.921	366.969	68.770	435.739	1010				
				17				101120220		e		6-10 <sup>-</sup>		
		Bhagalpur	Navgachia	Narayanpur	PMGSY Road Nago Yadav ke Ghar Se Kanu tola	1.100	62.340	7.699	70.039					
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					tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No	2693.9(12)	and the period of the	2012/01/2012						
9	MR-N/23-24	Bhagalpur	Navgachia	Narayanpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to	0.800	45.715	5.525	51.240	10000	8.46	Works		
9	MR-N/23-24 Navgachia/10	Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola	0.800 0.550	45.715 32.532	5.525 3.901	51.240 36.433	10000	8.46	Works Division,		
9		Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghopur Bishari Bila Toli to Railway Dhala Durga Mandir Kali Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914	51.240 36.433 57.081 124.913	10000	8.46	EE, RWD Works Division, Navgachia		
9		Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghopur Bishari Bila Toli to Railway Ohala Durga Mandir Kali Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga	0.800 0.550 0.890	45.715 32.532 50.832	5.525 3.901 6.249	51.240 36.433 57.081	10000	8.46	Works Division,		
9		Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghopur Bishari Bila Toli to Railway Dhala Durga Mandir Kali Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906	51.240 36.433 57.081 124.913 63.608	10000	8.46	Works Division,		
9		Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghopur Bishari Bila Toli to Railway Ohala Durga Mandir Kali Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000 0.300	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702 17.549	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906 2.175	51.240 36.433 57.081 124.913 63.608 19.724	10000	8.46	Works Division,		
9		Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur The Group	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghopur Bishari Bila Toli to Railway Dhala Durga Mandir Kail Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga Sthan	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000 0.300 6.640	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702 17.549 <b>376.669</b>	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906 2.175 46.369	51.240 36.433 57.081 124.913 63.608 19.724 423.038	10000	8.46	Works Division,		
	Navgachia/10	Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Total for Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur <b>The Group</b> Bihpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghopur Bishari Bila Toli to Railway Dhala Durga Mandir Kail Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga Sthan Harischandra mishara ke ghar se Milki tola Trisuldhari Singh house to Prasadi Yadav Basa Bundh Railway Crossing Sadanand Rai Bagicha to	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000 0.300 6.640 0.400	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702 17.549 <b>376.669</b> 23.585	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906 2.175 <b>46.369</b> 2.762	51.240 36.433 57.081 124.913 63.608 19.724 <b>423.038</b> 26.347			Works Division, Navgachi EE, RWD		
		Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Total for Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur <b>The Group</b> Bihpur Bihpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghopur Bishari Bila Toli to Railway Dhala Durga Mandir Kali Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga Sthan Harischandra mishara ke ghar se Milki tola Trisuldhari Singh house to Prasadi Yadav Basa Bundh	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000 0.300 6.640 0.400 1.170	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702 17.549 <b>376.669</b> 23.585 47.210	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906 2.175 <b>46.369</b> 2.762 8.821	51.240 36.433 57.081 124.913 63.608 19.724 <b>423.038</b> 26.347 56.031	10000	8.46	Works Division, Navgachi EE, RWD Works		
	Navgachia/10	Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur The Group Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghopur Bishari Bila Toli to Railway Dhala Durga Mandir Kali Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga Sthan Harischandra mishara ke ghar se Milki tola Trisuldhari Singh house to Prasadi Yadav Basa Bundh Railway Crossing Sadanand Rai Bagicha to Dasolal Pipar Tola NH-31 to DavaJpur Mhant Baba Asthan Near NH 106 to Hario	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000 0.300 6.640 0.400 1.170 1.480	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702 17.549 <b>376.669</b> 23.585 47.210 161.130	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906 2.175 46.369 2.762 8.821 12.672	51.240 36.433 57.081 124.913 63.608 19.724 <b>423.038</b> 26.347 56.031 173.802			Works Division Navgachi EE, RWD Works Division		
	Navgachia/10	Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur The Group Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.i.O. School Raghopur Bishar Bila Toli to Railway Dhala Durga Mandir Kali Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga Sthan Harischandra mishara ke ghar se Milki tola Trisuldhari Singh house to Prasadi Yadav Basa Bundh Railway Crossing Sadanand Rai Bagicha to Dasolal Pipar Tola NH-31 to Dayalpur	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000 0.300 6.640 0.400 1.170 1.480 1.390	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702 17.549 <b>376.669</b> 23.585 47.210 161.130 84.372	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906 2.175 46.369 2.762 8.821 12.672 10.807	51.240 36.433 57.081 124.913 63.608 19.724 423.038 26.347 56.031 173.802 95.179			Works Division, Navgachi EE, RWD Works Division,		
	Navgachia/10	Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur The Group Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghopur Bishari Bila Toli to Railway Dhala Durga Mandir Kail Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga Sthan Harischandra mishara ke ghar se Milki tola Trisuldhari Singh house to Prasadi Yadav Basa Bundh Railway Crossing Sadanand Rai Bagicha to Dasolal Pipar Tola NH-31 to Dayalpur Mhant Baba Asthan Near NH 106 to Hario Village	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000 0.300 6.640 0.400 1.170 1.480 1.390 1.300	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702 17.549 <b>376.669</b> 23.585 47.210 161.130 84.372 71.243	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906 2.175 46.369 2.762 8.821 12.672 10.807 8.977	51.240 36.433 57.081 124.913 63.608 19.724 <b>423.038</b> 26.347 56.031 173.802 95.179 80.220			Works Division Navgachi EE, RWD Works Division		
	Navgachia/10	Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur The Group Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghopur Bishari Bila Toli to Railway Dhala Durga Mandir Kali Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga Sthan Harischandra mishara ke ghar se Milki tola Trisuldhari Singh house to Prasadi Yadav Basa Bundh Railway Crossing Sadanand Rai Bagicha to Dasolal Pipar Tola NH-31 to Dayalpur Mhant Baba Asthan Near NH 106 to Hario Village Gouripur to Yadav Tola Madhya Vidalya to Uchha Vidyalaly Gauripur	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000 0.300 6.640 0.400 1.170 1.480 1.390 1.300 0.850 0.500 <b>7.090</b>	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702 17.549 <b>376.669</b> 23.585 47.210 161.130 84.372 71.243 47.669 29.027 464.236	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906 2.175 46.369 2.762 8.821 12.672 10.807 8.977 6.063 3.453 53.555	51.240 36.433 57.081 124.913 63.608 19.724 423.038 26.347 56.031 173.802 95.179 80.220 53.732 32.480 517.791			Works Division Navgachi EE, RWD Works Division		
	Navgachia/10	Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur The Group Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghopur Bishari Bila Toli to Railway Ohala Durga Mandir Kali Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga Sthan Harischandra mishara ke ghar se Milki tola Trisuldhari Singh house to Prasadi Yadav Basa Bundh Railway Crossing Sadanand Rai Bagicha to Dasolal Pipar Tola NH-31 to Dayalpur Mhant Baba Asthan Near NH 106 to Hario Viilage Gouripur to Yadav Tola Madhya Vidalya to Uchha Vidyalaly Gauripur Road No 14 To Kelawari Chowk	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000 0.300 6.640 0.400 1.170 1.480 1.390 1.300 0.850 0.500	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702 17.549 376.669 23.585 47.210 161.130 84.372 71.243 47.669 29.027	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906 2.175 46.369 2.762 8.821 12.672 10.807 8.977 6.063 3.453	51.240 36.433 57.081 124.913 63.608 19.724 <b>423.038</b> 26.347 56.031 173.802 95.179 80.220 53.732 32.480			Works Division Navgachi EE, RWD Works Division		
	Navgachia/10	Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur The Group Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghopur Bishari Bila Toli to Raliway Ohala Durga Mandir Kali Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga Sthan Harischandra mishara ke ghar se Milki tola Trisuldhari Singh house to Prasadi Yadav Basa Bundh Railway Crossing Sadanand Rai Bagicha to Dasolal Pipar Tola NH-31 to Dayalpur Mhant Baba Asthan Near NH 106 to Hario Village Gouripur to Yadav Tola Madhya Vidalya to Uchha Vidyalaly Gauripur Road No 14 To Kelawari Chowk RCD Road No-14 Purvi Gherari Ramanand	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000 0.300 6.640 0.400 1.170 1.480 1.390 1.300 0.850 0.500 <b>7.090</b>	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702 17.549 <b>376.669</b> 23.585 47.210 161.130 84.372 71.243 47.669 29.027 464.236	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906 2.175 46.369 2.762 8.821 12.672 10.807 8.977 6.063 3.453 53.555	51.240 36.433 57.081 124.913 63.608 19.724 423.038 26.347 56.031 173.802 95.179 80.220 53.732 32.480 517.791			Works Division, Navgachi EE, RWD Works Division, Navgachi		
	Mavgachia/10 MR-N/23-24 Navgachia/11	Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur The Group Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Kharik	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghogur Bishar Bila Toli To Taliway Dhala Durga Mandir Kali Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga Sthan Harischandra mishara ke ghar se Milki tola Trisuldhari Singh house to Prasadi Yadav Basa Bundh Railway Crossing Sadanand Rai Bagicha to Dasolal Pipar Tola NH-31 to Dayalpur Mhant Baba Asthan Near NH 106 to Hario Village Gouripur to Yadav Tola Madhya Vidalya to Uchha Vidyalaly Gauripur Road No 14 To Kelawari Chowk RCD Road No-14 Purvi Gherari Ramanand Master to Harijan Tola	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000 0.300 <b>6.640</b> 0.400 1.170 1.480 1.390 1.300 0.850 0.500 <b>7.090</b> 0.700	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702 17.549 376.669 23.585 47.210 161.130 84.372 71.243 47.669 29.027 464.236 38.338 38.245	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906 2.175 <b>46.369</b> 2.762 8.821 12.672 10.807 8.977 6.063 3.453 <b>53.555</b> 4.834 4.834	51.240           36.433           57.081           124.913           63.608           19.724 <b>423.038</b> 26.347           56.031           173.802           95.179           80.220           53.732           32.480 <b>51.791</b> 43.172           43.079	10000		Works Division, Navgachi EE, RWD Works Division, Navgachi EE, RWD		
10	MR-N/23-24 Navgachia/11 MR-N/23-24	Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur The Group Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur The Group Kharik Kharik	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghopur Bishari Bila Toli to Railway Dhala Durga Mandir Kali Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga Sthan Harischandra mishara ke ghar se Milki tola Trisuldhari Singh house to Prasadi Yadav Basa Bundh Railway Crossing Sadanand Rai Bagicha to Dasolal Pipar Tola NH-31 to Dayalpur Mhant Baba Asthan Near NH 106 to Hario Village Gouripur to Yadav Tola Madhya Vidalya to Uchha Vidyalaly Gauripur Road No 14 To Kelawari Chowk RCD Road No-14 Purvi Gherari Ramanand Master to Harijan Tola Kharik Bazar Gol Chowk PCC to Sahni Tola	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000 0.300 6.640 0.400 1.170 1.480 1.390 1.300 0.850 0.500 7.090 0.700 0.700 0.780	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702 17.549 <b>376.669</b> 23.585 47.210 161.130 84.372 71.243 47.669 29.027 464.236 38.338 38.245 42.336	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906 2.175 46.369 2.762 8.821 12.672 10.807 8.977 6.063 3.453 53.555 4.834 4.834 5.386	51.240           36.433           57.081           124.913           63.608           19.724           423.038           26.347           56.031           173.802           95.179           80.220           53.732           32.480           517.791           43.172           43.079           47.722			Works Division Navgachi EE, RWC Works Division Navgachi EE, RWC Works		
10	Mavgachia/10 MR-N/23-24 Navgachia/11	Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur Bhagalpur	Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia Navgachia	Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Narayanpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Bihpur Kharik Kharik	tola PMGSY Road se Kusha Sharma Tola Ward No 4 Road no 14 (Raghunath Jha ke ghar) to Brahman Tola PMGSY road to Paswan tola E.I.O. School Raghogur Bishar Bila Toli To Taliway Dhala Durga Mandir Kali Mandir hote hue Ganga Bandh vilash Mandal ke ghar Tak GN Bandh Road No-14 to Maujmabad MR Road Bharmarpur to Bharmarpur Durga Sthan Harischandra mishara ke ghar se Milki tola Trisuldhari Singh house to Prasadi Yadav Basa Bundh Railway Crossing Sadanand Rai Bagicha to Dasolal Pipar Tola NH-31 to Dayalpur Mhant Baba Asthan Near NH 106 to Hario Village Gouripur to Yadav Tola Madhya Vidalya to Uchha Vidyalaly Gauripur Road No 14 To Kelawari Chowk RCD Road No-14 Purvi Gherari Ramanand Master to Harijan Tola	0.800 0.550 0.890 2.000 1.000 0.300 <b>6.640</b> 0.400 1.170 1.480 1.390 1.300 0.850 0.500 <b>7.090</b> 0.700	45.715 32.532 50.832 110.999 56.702 17.549 <b>376.669</b> 23.585 47.210 161.130 84.372 71.243 47.669 29.027 464.236 38.338 38.245 42.336 64.514	5.525 3.901 6.249 13.914 6.906 2.175 46.369 2.762 8.821 12.672 10.807 8.977 6.063 3.453 53.555 4.834 4.834 4.834 5.386 8.287	51.240           36.433           57.081           124.913           63.608           19.724 <b>423.038</b> 26.347           56.031           173.802           95.179           80.220           53.732           32.480 <b>51.791</b> 43.172           43.079	10000	10.36	Works Division Navgachi EE, RWC Works Division Navgachi EE, RWC Works Division		
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Protests, clashes mar youth fest in Kerala

### The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Chaotic scenes marred the Kerala University Union Youth Festival 2024 on its penultimate day on Sunday as the annual event assumed a political hue amid clashes between Students' Federation of India (SFI) and Kerala Students Union (KSU) activists.

A day after the police detained four persons including a judge on bribery charges, the University headquarters witnessed drama when a group of KSU activists marched to the main venue.

The protesters accused SFI workers of assaulting students from various colleges. They also accused the police of remaining mute spectators to the incident of violence.

While the demonstrators' efforts to enter the stage were thwarted by the police, they were forced to exit the hall following protests raised by participants.

"Chief of the leftover Shiv Sena announced his candidate as MVA nominee from Mumbai-North West. Despite having over two do-

### Cong. has walked the talk: Siddaramaiah

#### **The Hindu Bureau** MYSURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in Mandya on Sunday that it was imperative for the people to vote and elect a party that has delivered on its promises, so as to ensure the State's progress. Speaking at a public

meeting of beneficiaries of various guarantee schemes, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the Congress has walked the talk and

kept its promises on implementing the five guarantee schemes within months of assuming power. "People of Karnataka

have reposed faith in the Congress and this led to the victory of the party's candidates in 136 constituencies which exceeded our expectations in the Assembly elections last year," he said. People of Mandya should ensure the victory of the Congress candidate in the forthcoming Lok Sabha election as well, he added.

Referring to the BJP-JD



Siddaramaiah

(S) alliance, Mr.Siddaramaiah said that the two parties had done nothing for the poor or the farmers and were misleading them.

He added that 170 crore free trips have been availed by women under Shakti scheme.

The Chief Minister sought to remind the public that he had accorded priority to irrigation and agriculture during his previous tenure and said he was committed to farmers welfare. "No matter what the Opposition says, you should ensure the victory of people who have worked for you," he added.

### THE HINDU States

# Delhi govt. orders probe after body pulled out of borewell

Water Minister Atishi suspects foul play as police look into murder angle; Chief Secretary ordered to seal all abandoned borewells within 48 hours; action recommended against erring officials

#### The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

man died after he reportedly fell into a 40-foot-deep borewell on a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) premises in the Keshopur Mandi area of the Capital on Sunday, prompting the police to launch a probe, with Water Minister Atishi saying there might be some foul play behind the incident.

During a visit to the site, the Minister said the police should investigate whether the unidentified man, seemed to be in his late 20s, was pushed into the one-foot-wide borewell by someone as the room where it is situated was found locked by the rescue team.

She added that the DIB premises was handed over in 2020 to Delhi Metro Rail



It took around 14 hours for a rescue team to recover the body from the borewell on the DJB premises in New Delhi on Sunday, ANI

She told the officer that

Corporation (DMRC), struction work," it said. which is constructing a Ms. Atishi has also ormetro station nearby. dered Chief Secretary Na-

The DMRC in a stateresh Kumar to conduct a ment said "The pump time-bound investigation room inside which this boand take exemplary action rewell was located belongs against any officer found to the DJB. The borewell guilty of abandoning the borewell without properly was already installed inside that pump room when sealing it. the DMRC took over the area around it for conall abandoned borewells on private and government land be sealed and a compliance report be sent to her within 48 hours.

### Rescue mission

The police said they had received a call around 1 a.m. that a man has fallen into the borewell. The identity of the caller is yet to be established. A police officer said it might be possible that the man entered the room with the intention of stealing something. He said they are also probing the case from the murder angle.

DCP (West) Vichatra Veer said the body was recovered around 3.30 p.m. after a 14-hour-long rescue mission involving the National Disaster Response Force and the Department of Delhi Fire Services. The rescue team dug a parallel borewell to rescue him.

# PM inaugurates revamped Terminal 1 at IGI Airport; to be functional by May

### The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday virtually inaugurated 15 airports, including the expanded Terminal 1 of Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi, which will now have the capacity to handle 40 million passengers per annum (MPPA) - over twice its previous capacity of 17

MPPA. The expanded Terminal 1 is expected to be functional in May, as currently, processes related to operational readiness are under way and various stakeholders are being familiarised with new procedures, said Videh Kumar Jaipuriar, CEO of Delhi International

Airport Limited (DIAL). The expansion work began in 2019 after the airport witnessed a massive surge in air traffic movement and passenger num-



The terminal will also

Once inside, passengers

prayer room, a yoga area, a

quiet zone, lounges, charg-

ing stations, a self-medica-

rooms, smart washrooms

ding that the terminal will

The expanded Terminal 1 at the Delhi airport. PTI

bers, exceeding expectaof baggage per hour. tions. Currently, the airport is spread across have 24 entry points with realigned pick-up and drop-off lanes to ease vehthree terminals. Terminal 2 has a capacity of 15 MMPA, while Terminal 3 has a caicular traffic. pacity of 45 MMPA. will be able to utilise shop-

The expanded Terminal ping and dining facilities, a 1 will feature eight entry gates equipped with Digi-Yatra's facial recognition system, 20 automated tray retrieval systems, 100 tion room, baby care check-in counters including 36 self-baggage drop and more, said DIAL, adkiosks, and 10 baggage rebe well connected with claim carousels that will be able to handle 6,000 units Delhi Metro.

### Demolition drive: U.P. Police pelted with stones

### **Press Trust of India** LUCKNOW

Residents of Lucknow's Akbar Nagar on Sunday allegedly clashed with the police, pelting them with stones during an anti-encroachment drive in the locality, officials said.

No one was injured in the incident.

The incident took place when a team of the Lucknow Development Authority, accompanied by the police, was demolishing three illegal commerical structures along Faizabad Road.

"While two structures were demolished, locals spurred on by some rumour - started pelting the officials and the police with stones," Lucknow Development Authority Vice-Chairman Indramani Tripathi said. The offical said some locals claimed that the debris from the demolished structures damaged their houses.

rofessor, laughter ound dead n Hisar	C Timings           DELHI           MONDAY, MAR. 11           PRISE           06:35           SET           18:28           RISE           07:13           SET           19:42           TUESDAY, MAR. 12           PRISE           06:34           SET           18:28           RISE           07:47           SET           20:49	हिं जोगज महाराष्ट्र शासन		
Press Trust of India CHANDIGARH	WEDNESDAY, MAR. 13 RISE 06:33 SET 18:29 RISE 08:22 SET 21:58		A/M	- And
A professor and his eight- year-old daughter were found dead in his office in- side the campus of Lala	Delhi WeathermaxminDelhi City2810Safdarjang2810Palam2712		Narendra Modi Prime Minister	Eknath Shinde Chief Minister
aip at Rai University of Ve- erinary and Animal sciences in Haryana's Hi- ar district on Sunday evening, the police said.	<b>Delhi Palam Today</b> <b>27°C</b> A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be very cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be very cool.			
The deceased professor vas identified as Sandeep oyal, 35. The father- aughter duo's throats vere found to have been	<b>Delhi Palam Tomorrow</b> <b>28°C</b> The weather will be dry. Morning will be very cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool.			The man
lit, police said, adding that probe was under way.	© Copyright Skymet Weather 2024 All rights reserved.			3

### PALIKA KENDRA: NEW DELHI CIVIL ENGG. ESTT.-II VACANCY CIRCULAR

The New Delhi Municipal Council proposes to fill-up 02 posts of Chief Engineer (Civil) on deputation basis initially for a period of 01 year in the Pay Scale of Rs. 1,31,100 - 2,16,600 level 13A in revised 7th CPC pay matrix. The eligibility criteria & other terms and conditions for the post may be downloaded from NDMC website i.e. www.ndmc.gov.in.

The last date for receipt of applications completed in all respect is 05.04.2024. Sd/

**Director (Personnel)** 

पडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय शेखावाटी विश्वविद्यालय, सीकर Pandit Deendayal Upadayay Shekhawati University, Sikar वेबसाईटः www.shekhauni.ac.in ई-मेल reg.shekhauni@gmail.com कमकः 22946-47 दिनकि : 10.03.2024

ADVERTISEMENT NO. 03/2024 Vacancies for Non-Teaching Staff (Clerical)

Online application are invited for vacant Non-Teaching posts of Clerical Staff 29 Posts in the University. Online application form, Qualifications and other details will be available on the University Website www.shekhauni.ac.in from 11th March, 2024. Last date for online submission of application forms is 10th April, 2024 till 11:59 PM Midnight.

Registrar

टिनक : 10.03.2024

पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय शेखावाटी विश्वविद्यालय, सीकर Pandit Deendayal Upadayay Shekhawati University, Sikar वेबसाईटः www.shekhauni.ac.in ई-मेल reg.shekhauni@gmail.com

कमकिः २२९४४-४५

### **ADVERTISEMENT NO. 02/2024**

Vacancies for Various Non-Teaching Staff (Officers) Online application are invited for various vacant Non-Teaching posts of Controller of Examination - 01 Post, Deputy Registrar- 01 Post and Assistant Registrar- 02 Posts in the University, Online application form, Qualifications and other details will be available on the University Website www.shekhauni.ac.in from 11th March, 2024. Last date for online submission of application forms is 10th April, 2024 till 11:59 PM Midnight Registrar

पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय शेखावाटी विश्वविद्यालय, सीकर Pandit Deendayal Upadayay Shekhawati University, Sikar वेबसाईटः www.shekhauni.ac.in ई-मेल reg.shekhauni@gmail.com कमकः २२९४२-४३ दिनकि : 10.03.2024

#### **ADVERTISEMENT NO. 01/2024** Vacancies for Various Teaching Posts

Online application are invited for various vacant teaching posts o Professor - 05 Posts, Associate Professor-10 Posts, Assistant Professo 15 Posts, Assistant Librarian 01 Post and Assistant Director Physical Education- 01 Post in the University. Online application form Qualifications and other details will be available on the University Website www.shekhauni.ac.in from 11th March, 2024. Last date for online submission of application forms is 10th April, 2024 till 11:59 PM Midnight Registrar

# **Magnetic Maharashtra**

- Maharashtra leads in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). In the financial year2022 -23, a total of Rs. 1,18,422 crore FDI was attracted, whereas, in a period of 9 months, i.e. from April 2023 to December 2023, a sum of Rs. 1,00,112 crore of investment was attracted in Maharashtra which will contribute to 30% of the Nation's FDI.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to the tune of Rs. 3.73 lakh crore was signed at Davos in 2024 for investment in the sectors of Steel, IT, Green Energy, agriculture, logistics and electronics in the state. This will generate employment opportunities for 2 lakh persons.
- 12,326 loan cases were approved in the year 2022-23 through the Chief Minister Employment Generation Program. Whereas loans of Rs. 342 crore were approved for 14822 Entrepreneurs in the year 2023- 24. Millions of youths have been provided with employment opportunities with these moves.
- The cabinet Sub-committee approved projects worth Rs. 1,27,675 crores in the state. This will further generate 1,62,500 employment opportunities.

- O A Memorandum of Understanding is sign with 7 companies for producing Green Hydrogen. Rs. 2,76,300 crore of investment in this program will generate 64,000 employment opportunities.
- Export Policy of Maharashtra 2023 and integrated sustainable Textile policy for the state is announced.
- New Information Technology Enabled Services Policy approved. This will attract Rs. 95,000 crore of investment.
- Maharashtra Industry, Trade and Investment Facilitation Cell (MAITRI), will enable 119 facilities for industries providing ease of access and faster services.
- 6 Logistic Parks will be installed in Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra is leading in defence manufacturing. Maharashtra is the first-ever state in the country to create a defence and aerospace policy. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth Rs. 1358 crore in the defence manufacturing sector was signed at the Defence Expo.

# **VIKASIT BHARAT** IKASIT MAHARASHTRA



### THE HINDU Editorial

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### Not law, nor duty

Indians are being lured into fighting another country's war

he death of a second Indian in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed, is proof of the toll the situation is taking on Indians who have been lured into working with the Russian military. The story of dozens of Indians stuck at the frontlines of the war - it was broken in a series of reports by The Hindu - prompted government agencies to crack down on recruiters in India this week, with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) raiding visa recruiters across India and filing cases against them for human trafficking and for duping people into travelling to Russia where they were coerced into dangerous jobs. Many of them were duped by online video advertisements that promised "safe jobs" with the military far from the frontlines, even indicating more lucrative jobs in the neighbouring European Schengen States. The MEA has now issued advisories and statements with appeals not to be "swayed" by such offers. After videos emerged of Indians stationed in areas seeing live action along the front between Russia and Ukraine in recently occupied territories, the government and India's Embassy in Moscow also said they are working with the Russian Army for early discharges to bring the Indians home.

The government's actions are much delayed and cold comfort to the families of the two men, from Surat and from Hyderabad, whose bodies are yet to be repatriated. Others have been seriously injured. What is most surprising is that the government has only spoken about the dangers of the Russian offers for military jobs now, when it is clear that the online ads and recruitments have been taking place for months. The government seems to have been made aware of the problem only after a Member of Parliament from Hyderabad wrote to the MEA in January, asking for assistance in bringing some of his constituents back. Since then, officials have given vague accounts of the numbers of those ("about 20") who may have already travelled to danger zones. Now, after the CBI raids, they have identified at least 35 men. Accounts from those in Russia put the number at well over 100. The government needs to explain why it has not been able to make the case to bring back all the men more forcefully with the Russian authorities, despite good relations with Moscow. It has also dodged questions on why it has simultaneously green-lighted a massive recruitment drive to Israel, another conflict zone. A more structured, transparent and humane approach will be required to make it clear, domestically, and to partners abroad, that Indian lives matter. The priority is to bring them home safely, but also to ensure that others are not put in harm's way, driven by the difficult economic situation back home.

### **Crisis of time**

Rapid growth, such as Bengaluru's, and

n a landmark judgment on February 15, 2024, a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India declared the electoral bond scheme unconstitutional. This was a scheme which opened the floodgates of unlimited anonymous funding of political parties and consolidated the role of big money in the Indian political system.

### **Directive and response**

To give "logical and complete effect" to its ruling, the top court put a stop to the issuance of electoral bonds, and gave the State Bank of India. or the SBI (the bank that was authorised to issue and encash the bonds), 21 days to disclose two sets of information to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to put up on its website. The first was details of the electoral bonds purchased since April 12, 2019, which would "include the date of purchase of each Electoral Bond, the name of the purchaser of the bond and the denomination of the Electoral Bond purchased". The second was on details of electoral bonds redeemed by political parties for the same time frame. The Court ruled: "SBI must disclose details of each Electoral Bond encashed by political parties which shall include the date of encashment and the denomination of the Electoral Bond".

Just two days before the expiry of the deadline laid down by the Court, the SBI filed an affidavit recording its inability to decode, compare and disclose the requisite data in the prescribed time period. The bank claimed that to protect donors' anonymity, details of purchase of bonds and of redemption were decoupled and stored in separate silos, and there was no central database. Further, it stated that some details such as the number of bonds were stored digitally, while others, such as the name of purchaser and KYC details, were stored physically. In order to



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Amrita Johri

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The voter needs to know the sources of financial contributions to parties well before she casts her vote in the general election provide donor information, the date of issue of each bond would have to be checked and matched against the date of purchase by a particular donor. This information would then have to be matched against the bond redemption information - which makes up the second silo. According to the SBI, to re-match them would be a task requiring a significant amount of effort. Therefore, it sought an additional four months to comply with the Court's directions to submit the information.

### The bank's affidavit

Electoral bonds, the State Bank and the art of evasion

The absurdity of the SBI's request is best appreciated by examining the submissions made by the bank in its affidavit.

The affidavit states that since April 2019, a total of 22,217 electoral bonds were used to make donations to various political parties. Donor details were kept in a sealed cover at the designated branches of the SBI where the bonds could be transacted, and all such sealed covers were deposited in the main branch of the SBI in Mumbai. Further, at the time of redemption by political parties, the original bonds and the pay-in slips were stored in a sealed cover and also sent to the Mumbai branch.

Thus, it can be noted that the names of all purchasers of electoral bonds and the details of encashment of all bonds, including the name of the political party redeeming the bond, date and denomination of bond encashed are readily available at a single location, albeit in sealed covers. Further, since the date of issue and denomination of all electoral bonds are digitally recorded, this would also be accessible at the SBI's main branch in Mumbai. Surely, opening the sealed covers and matching the information would not be a herculean task!

The claim of the SBI, the largest public sector

bank in India, which serves 50 crore customers, that it needs four months to match purchaser and redeemer information for 22,217 electoral bonds is baffling.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the SBI's non-compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court is fuelling public suspicion that the bank is attempting to evade revealing donor identities before the general election 2024 is held.

### The centrality of the voter's right to know

In its judgment, the Court held that the voter's right to information includes the right to know financial contributions to a political party because of its influence on electoral politics and on governmental decisions. The Court noted that contributions made by companies are purely business transactions made with the intent of securing benefits in return. That 94% of the electoral bonds, in value terms, were of the denomination of ₹1 crore is an indication of the quantum of corporate funding. The Court ruled that information about sources of political party funding would enable voters to assess if there is a correlation between policy making and financial contributions, and empower people to track quid pro quo.

Once again, it is up to the Supreme Court to call out the SBI's delaying tactics and uphold the voter's constitutional right to know under Article 19(1)a. It needs to ensure that the timelines defined in the judgment for disclosing details of electoral bonds are adhered to, and voters are armed with this crucial information when they cast their vote in the general election. The Bench that was led by the Chief Justice of India had noted in its judgment that "information about funding to a political party is essential for a voter to exercise their freedom to vote in an effective manner."

# France's exceptional women, their imprint on diplomacy

arch 4, 2024 will be a day to remember. It marks the inscription in the French Constitution, of the "freedom of women to voluntarily terminate a pregnancy", making France the first country in the world to enshrine it as a constitutional right, 49 years after abortion became legal. At a moment when women's rights are under threat in many regions of the world, this decision also sends out a universal message of solidarity to women across the globe.

### Groundbreaking work

To understand the history of women's rights in France, particularly the right to bodily autonomy, one has to go back to the year 1949 when French feminist icon Simone de Beauvoir published The Second Sex.

In the second volume of this very long book, which opens with the infamous

statement-turned-feminist motto, "One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman", Beauvoir dedicates an entire section to abortion in the chapter on motherhood. In this groundbreaking philosophical work, where she marries feminist thoughts with existential theories, the writer lays the theoretical groundwork for pro-choice advocacy. While challenging the reductionist image of a woman as a mother and caretaker, she champions women's right to the freedom of choice, which is essential to existentialism. According to her, "if a woman is to take charge of her biological destiny, if she is to give life on her terms, then she needs, in addition to contraception, a free, safe and legal abortion service available to her." She strongly criticises the hypocrisy of her times where innumerous women resort to abortion, yet have to do it clandestinely. Though abortion was largely practised during Beauvoir's times, a woman could be sentenced to up to five years of imprisonment. The absence of the right to abortion is part of the larger institutional oppression against women, which results from patriarchy. She states, "Free, safe and legal abortion should be available to every woman. The alternative to a legal abortion is a backstreet abortion, which often has dire consequences for women, such as haemorrhaging, septicaemia, and death itself". Her statement recalls the poignant autobiographical account by Nobel



**Thierry Mathou** is the Ambassador of France to India

Prize winner for Literature Annie Ernaux in Lévènement where she narrates the story of her illegal abortion back in 1963.

When The Second Sex was published in 1949, the text was an immediate success and translated into dozens of languages across the world, paving the way for the legalisation of abortion in France. In line with her philosophical beliefs, Beauvoir was living in an open relationship with French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre, whom she never married nor had children with. Consequently, she was subjected to criticisms for her disruptive ideas and way of life.

### A powerful petition

In 1971, Beauvoir penned the "Manifesto of the 343", signed by 343 eminent women who opened up to publicly claim that they had had an abortion. The petition, published in the French social democratic magazine Le Nouvel Observateur, starts with this powerful statement, "One million women in France have abortions every year. Condemned to secrecy, they do so in dangerous conditions, while under medi supervision, this is one of the simplest procedures. Society is silencing these millions of women. I declare that I am one of them. I declare that I have had an abortion. Just as we demand free access to contraception, we demand the freedom to have an abortion." This act of civil disobedience, laying bare the hypocrisy of a system while exposing themselves to potential prosecution, was instrumental in the adoption of the Veil law four years later, which decriminalised abortion for French women. It was named after the then Health Minister and women's rights icon Simone Veil. The Second Sex remains, until today, a foundational book for modern feminism. It was first translated into Hindi in 1991, by Indian feminist and novelist, Prabha Khaitan, as Stree Upekshita, which translates literally as "The Neglecting of Women". Well-versed in western and Indian philosophy, Khaitan had written extensively on existentialism. Nevertheless, there were several omissions and simplifications in the translation.

Monica Singh translating it directly from French. The first of the two volumes was recently released last month during the New Delhi World Book Fair, giving Hindi readers full and faithful access to the text.

This speaks of the long-lasting influence of Beauvoir and the esteem with which she is held by feminists worldwide. The fact that abortion has now become a fundamental right, enshrined in the French Constitution, owes much to Beauvoir.

This historic decision is also an occasion to remember another iconic champion of women's rights in Europe, Simone Veil, the revered French politician who survived the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. She defied institutional sexism to push through the law legalising abortion in France in 1975 when she was Minister of Public Health, and became the first female leader of the European Parliament. Laid to rest at the Pantheon, she is among the eminent figures who still inspires all those who fight for women's rights all over the world. We hope that Simone eil and Simone de Beauvoir feel proud of how France has carried forward their legacy.

### short-termism cannot coexist

he Karnataka water crisis has affected more than 7,000 villages, 1,100 wards, and 220 talukas thus far. The problem encompasses Mandya and Mysuru districts, where a major Cauvery river watershed and the Krishnaraja Sagar dam are located, and both important sources of water to Bengaluru. While the capital has hogged the headlines, the effects of the crisis are wider. Reports have suggested that the distal cause is the 'insufficient' rainfall last year, following the surplus in 2022, and the resulting under-'replenishment' of the Cauvery. Erratic rainfall is not new to Karnataka. A Coffee Agro-forestry Network (CAFNET) project, a decade ago, assessed 60 years of data and found the rainy season over Kodagu had shrunk by two weeks in three decades while annual rainfall seemed to undulate in a 12-14-year cycle. Yet, the crisis now has come as a surprise thanks to Bengaluru's lack of preparation, a travesty for being one of India's wealthiest urban municipalities and home to many research institutions. Bengaluru consumes roughly 1,400 million litres a day each from the Cauvery and groundwater reserves. The groundwater recharge rate is much lower while the Cauvery's was compromised by last year's 'deficient' rain. These are deficits only relative to Bengaluru's demand. The situation is worse further away from the city's centre. This is ironic because these areas do not receive piped water from the Cauvery and depend on groundwater and water tankers, whereas the city was engineered for centuries until the 19th to move away from water from distant sources and towards its surfeit of lakes. Seasonal lakes have since dwindled, while perennial lakes have been strangled by concretisation and sewage.

Climate change is a crisis of time. It precipitates non-linear changes that lead to disproportionate, and sometimes irreversible, outcomes, forcing underprepared governments to mount rapid responses to forces that have been festering for decades. Even if the erratic rainfall is unrelated to climate change, the phenomenon only promises more unpredictability. In this regard, Bengaluru, and most Indian cities, will achieve little when they mount stopgap measures in the event of a crisis and drop the long-term view once the crisis has ended. Rapid growth, such as Bengaluru has had this century, and short-termism cannot coexist. There is a need for bipartisan solutions that transcend the change in government every five years; a circular water economy that maximises the utility of every litre, reducing the city's dependence on external sources; and, not to forget, a clean and healthy Cauvery.

### There is great potential for France and India to further women's rights across the world

This is the reason why national award winning Hindi publisher Vani Prakashan decided to commission a new translation in 2022, with

#### A feminist foreign policy

The heritage of these exceptional women is reflected today in our work as diplomats: France champions a feminist foreign policy, with a dedicated strategy that seeks to mainstream the promotion of gender equality and the rights of women and girls in all its bilateral undertakings, development assistance, and advocacy in multilateral bodies. In 2021, France co-chaired the Generation Equality Forum, which was the most important international feminist event since the Beijing World Conference on Women in 1995, in partnership with civil society and young people.

India has historically made strong international commitments in favour of women's rights, including efforts to implement Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender equality), joining the 2019 Biarritz Partnership for Gender Equality, and, recently, gaining membership in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. I believe there is strong potential for France and India to do more together to further women's rights around the world.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Resignation of EC, impact The resignation of the **Election Commissioner** (Page 1, March 10) will now focus on the nature and extent of the 'working relationship' between the government of the day and the Election Commission of India. Regardless of the degree of freedom the **Election Commission enjoys** under the present regime, it is essential that those who are entrusted with the responsibility of holding elections must realise that every citizen of this country wants an absolutely transparent electoral process at every stage. How fair the all-important Lok Sabha election is going to be ensured in these turbulent times remains to be seen. A. Venkatasubramanian, Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Savagery on campus The 'Ground Zero' page report ("Wires, belts and the death of a student", March 9) was distressing to read. Irrespective of the political fallout of the issue and the CBI inquiry, we, as a society, need to ponder over the following. The distressing descriptions of the level of brutality that some students exhibited towards a fellow student make us wonder where we have gone wrong in raising the 'next generation'. Such brutality is seen in times of war, where hatred is indoctrinated in the minds of the warring parties. But to treat a fellow student so mercilessly for alleged 'misbehaviour' is beyond comprehension. Or, is it that the boy's tormentors were under the influence of substances that destroy

rational thought? If this is the case, then drug peddling on campuses needs to be looked into. A government which is striving to bring in foreign varsities might well rethink how conducive an environment Kerala's politics-ridden campuses provide for foreign entry. This incident might well turn out to be a dampener to the government's efforts in that direction. The only solution is to allow the investigative agencies to conduct a fair inquiry and mete out the severest punishment to the guilty. Only then can India's most literate State show itself to be ranking somewhere in the humanity index. Sharada Sivaram, Ernakulam, Kerala

I am an 80-year-old reader

and the report made me ill. I could not eat. Are we educating students or are we raising barbarians? M.S. Nair, Palakkad, Kerala

The tragic incident is a stark reminder of the urgent need to root out this 'tradition' or 'campus ritual'. Ragging, often dismissed as harmless fun, can have serious consequences, as this case demonstrates. It not only affects the physical and mental well-being of students but also undermines the very essence of a healthy academic environment. It is imperative for educational institutions to take strict measures to prevent ragging. This includes implementing anti-ragging policies, raising

awareness about its consequences, and providing support systems for victims and survivors. Additionally, students must be encouraged to report incidents of ragging without fear of reprisal. Anita George, Thevara, Kerala It is disheartening to witness the recurrence of incidents related to ragging, despite so-called preventive

measures being in place. It is crucial for educational institutions to foster a safe and inclusive environment that promotes learning and mutual respect. Krishna R. Nair, Thevara, Kerala

I write this letter as professor and chairman of the department of biochemistry and

microbiology in a college of science and technology in Kerala. The case is shocking, and is one that shames humanity and corrodes the values and purpose of education. Even more baffling is the vicechancellor, dean and faculty members turning a blind eye. The existing University Grant Commission's 'Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging' lack teeth. Stringent sections under the Indian Penal Code must be invoked against the perpetrators of such brutal crimes, which must serve as a deterrent to others. Dr. Biju C. Mathew, Thiruvananthapuram

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

# We need limits on election campaign spending

uring the run up to the general elections to Lok Sabha of 2004, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BIP)-led government put out advertisements with the tag line 'India Shining.' The campaign led to a controversy over the use of public money. Reports state that an estimated ₹150 crore was spent for this campaign, arguably one of the biggest government-sponsored advertisement campaigns until then. Over the past two decades, this trend has caught up with both Central and State governments spending a lot on advertisements before elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

#### Limits on spending

In a democratic country, it is essential for a government to spread awareness about its schemes and policies. In the first few decades in independent India, this was primarily done through public meetings. In the last three decades, awareness has been spread through advertisements on print and electronic media, which have a wide reach. However, at present, government advertisements published or broadcast before elections tend to be campaigns of the ruling party and establish personality cults. According to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, the Central government had spent ₹3,020 crore on advertisements between 2018-19 and 2022-23. It must be noted that the amount spent was significantly higher at ₹1,179 crore during the election year of 2018-19 as against ₹408 crore in 2022-23. This expenditure is likely to rise in 2023-24 as the general elections are due in April-May. The Supreme Court through its orders in May 2015 and March 2016 laid down guidelines for the regulation of government advertisements. Even then, ruling governments have an advantage before elections when it comes to publishing advertisements that disturb the level playing field.

A famous quote from Hamlet goes, 'more honoured in the



at 'Officers IAS

personal

Academy'. Views are

Unless there are certain reforms,

the public will

the massive

expenses of

spectacles

these election

continue to bear

Rangarajan R. is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. He trains civil-service aspirants

ignored than being followed. In the Indian electoral context, however, it has become a norm to breach the limits on election expenditure. In fact, this breach is considered as one of the essential traits for winning an election.

breach than in the observance'.

That is meant for customs and

laws that are better off being

The election expenditure limit for candidates is ₹95 lakh per Lok Sabha constituency in larger States and ₹75 lakh in smaller States. It is an open secret that candidates of all major political parties breach this limit by a wide margin even when we do not consider the illegal distribution of cash and gifts to voters. In States notorious for this corrupt electoral practice, the official limit is not even a fraction of the actual election expenditure.

In India, there are no limits on the expenditure of political parties during elections. The official expenditure declared by the BJP and Congress for the 2019 elections was ₹1,264 crore and ₹820 crore, respectively. However, a report by the Centre for Media Studies (CMS) states that political parties spent about ₹50,000 crore during the elections with the BJP spending about 50% of this amount and the Congress about 20%. The report suggests that 35% of this money was spent on campaigns, while 25% was distributed amongst voters illegally. Most of this funding comes from corporate houses and businessmen. This creates an unholy nexus between donors and elected representatives.

The elections in other large democracies such as the U.S. and U.K. have also become costly affairs. However, it is the opaque nature of most of the donations coupled with the distribution of cash for votes that weakens the process of free and fair elections in India. The Supreme Court has struck down the electoral bonds scheme that will remove opacity in legal donations. But this is akin to putting a band-aid on a bullet wound as the majority of the

funding continues to be in unaccounted cash.

> Towards a level playing field The Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998) and the Law Commission report (1999) advocated state funding of elections. This means that the government will contribute money to political parties or candidates for them to contest elections. The feasibility and mechanism for implementing this measure is doubtful in the present context. It requires consensus among all the political parties and discipline in following the norms of such state funding.

Nevertheless, the issue of the burgeoning cost of elections can be sidestepped only at our own peril. The CMS pegs the likely expenditure during the 2024 general elections at ₹1 lakh crore. In this regard, certain practicable steps for creating a level playing field and ensuring free and fair elections can be implemented if there is political will. These are based on the report, 'Proposed Electoral Reforms', submitted by the Election Commission of India in 2016. First, government advertisements should be banned six months prior to any general election. Second, the law must be amended to state that a party's 'financial assistance' to its candidate should also be within the limits of election expenditure prescribed for a candidate. Third, there should be a ceiling on expenditure by parties. This may be kept at not more than the expenditure ceiling limit provided for a candidate multiplied by the number of candidates of the party contesting the election. Finally, additional judges can be appointed in High Courts for speedy disposal of election-related cases that would act as a deterrent against the violation of norms. These reforms would require bipartisan political support to be effected. However, unless they are implemented, the massive expenses of election spectacles will be borne by us, 'We the people'.

### The jobs crisis spells trouble for Jagan

Protesters have been demanding to know why his promises remain unkept

Andhra

Pradesh

completed before the code of

Survey, conducted by the Mi-

nistry of Statistics and Pro-

shows that Andhra Pradesh

had the highest unemploy-

ment rate (24%) among grad-

uates between July 2022 and

June 2023. The job crisis has

provided an opportunity to

the Opposition parties to at-

tack the government. TDP

leaders say there is growing

frustration among young job-

seekers, who are forced to

leave the State in search of em-

president of the Andhra Pra-

desh Congress, launched a

scathing attack on him for

"taking the youth of the State

for a ride". She recalled how

former Chief Minister Y.S. Ra-

jasekhara Reddy, or YSR, who

was her father, had released a

mega DSC to recruit 52,000

teachers in the State. She said

that her brother claimed to be

YSR's successor but had failed

to follow in his footsteps. The

Congress went on a 'Chalo Se-

cretariat' protest, which was

foiled by the police. Neverthe-

less, it has managed to grab

public attention by highlight-

ice department are also upset;

they say Mr. Reddy has not ful-

filled his promise of filling the

26,000 vacant posts by notify-

ing 6,500 posts annually on

Police Commemoration Day.

Aspirants of jobs in the pol-

ing the problem.

ployment opportunities. Mr. Reddy's sister, who is

The Periodic Labour Force

Implementation,

conduct comes into effect.

gramme

### STATE OF PLAY

### P. Sujatha Varma pothuri.varma@thehindu.co.in

n December 2018, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who was in the Opposition then, said that there were 2.3 lakh government jobs in the State, which he would fill immediately if voted to power. He empathised with the "woeful plight" of the thousands of young people, who, he said, had been let down by the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government which had released a DSC (District Selection Committee) notification to fill 7,000 teacher posts against the 23,000 vacant posts in the State. Mr. Reddy promised to end their wait and release a 'mega DSC' filling all the vacant posts, if elected. He also assured them that he would release a job calendar on the first day of January every year. None of this happened. As

a result, Mr. Reddy faces the wrath of the unemployed youth in the State ahead of the elections. Besides, there is growing disillusionment from other quarters. For instance, Mr. Reddy has not restored the Old Pension Scheme, which he had promised to do, while campaigning for the 2019 elections.

After a series of protests by student and youth organisations for the promised job calendar and DSC notification, the YSR Congress government recently announced a DSC to recruit 6,100 teachers in Staterun schools. This sparked anger. Young people took to the streets calling the 'mega DSC'

a "grand betrayal and a sham". They said that the government released the notification just before the elections knowing fully well that the recruitment process cannot be Following their protest, the government released a notification for 6,511 posts. The written exam to recruit 6,100 constables and 411 sub-inspectors was held on February 22, 2023, but the aspirants are still waiting to be called for the physical exam.

There are a few posts of librarians in the College Education wing and a few posts in the Women and Child Welfare Department which are waiting to be filled through the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission. Aspirants say the Commission did not issue the notification even after the posts were sanctioned by the Finance Department.

Vexed with the government's apathy, members of the Andhra Pradesh Unemployed Joint Action Committee have embarked on a Statewide yatra to console the unemployed youth. They have been visiting universities and libraries to speak to the youth about the existing job scenario and to ask them to share their experiences so they can convey these to the government. They have also been insisting that the number of posts in the DSC be increased to fill the 2.32 lakh vacant posts in various government departments; that the age limit of candidates seeking jobs in the general category be increased to 47 years; and that changes be made in the date of either the DSC exam or the Group-I prelims test, as both are scheduled on March 17. They have also demanded the withdrawal of cases booked against job-seekers for participating in agitations.

On its part, the government claims that it has provided 6,38,087 jobs in its tenure. But the climate of discontent spells trouble for Mr. Reddy who has made more promises that he can fulfil.

# A possible solution for Bengaluru's water crisis

Rainwater harvesting could make a dent on the freshwater needs of the city, but it pales in comparison to wastewater

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 11, 1974

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Man Kindu.

#### DATA POINT

#### Rashmi Kulranjan & Shashank Palur

s Bengaluru grows further outwards and faster than it can cope, water supply is one of the first casualties. Attempting to piece together the puzzle where Bengaluru's water comes from, where it is stored, who consumes it, where the wastewater goes - is an essential first step to reduce the city's vulnerability to floods and drought. We zoom into four different aspects to do this.

The city's population increased from 8.7 million in 2011 to about 12.6 million in 2021 (projected). Most of the growth has been in the periphery (Maps 1 and 2).

We estimate that the total demand for freshwater is approximately 2,632 million litres per day (MLD), which is higher than what is officially supplied through the Cauvery and through groundwater sources. Water from Cauvery that is used for the city's needs has increased from 940 MLD to 1,460 MLD in the same period which, after subtracting losses, only serves half the demand. In addition, Bengaluru consumes an estimated 1,392 MLD of groundwater. This is worrying because groundwater recharge rates remain significantly lower than extraction rates.

Bengaluru recorded an aboveaverage rainfall in 2022 while 2023 ended in a deficit. As the rainfall levels dropped, so did the groundwater level, and the periphery was impacted the most (Map 3).

As the water table drops, these areas now face borewell failures. Moreover, as shown in Map 4, many areas in the periphery don't yet have access to piped supply.

Bengaluru was not always dependent on pipelines or borewells. Most of its water bodies were originally 'tanks', rainwater harvesting structures constructed mainly to serve irrigation and livestock. The undulating terrain of the city al-

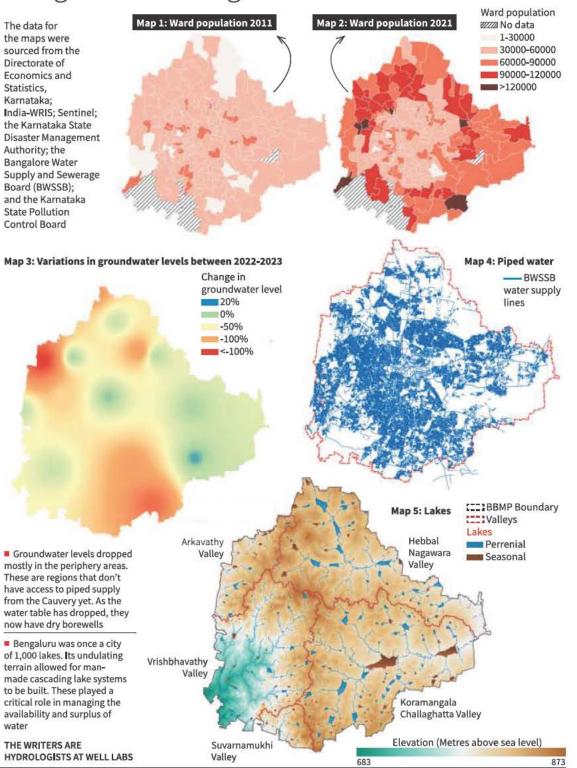
lowed for man-made cascading lake systems, which played a critical role in water supply. When piped water supply was introduced, lakes began to lose importance. Today, with rapid urbanisation, lakes have either been directly encroached upon or are drying out as the connections between them are lost. This has not only resulted in a more parched city but also aggravated the risk of flooding. The lakes and storm water drains have also become a dumping ground for sewage from the buildings around them and in their catchment, affecting the possibility of them being used to capture rainwater or storm water.

The maximum volume available to be held in lakes is about 41,600 million litres, but through a model we developed, we estimate that about 1,000 million litres of sewage is released into lakes every day making it unsuitable for use as a source of water. In Map 5 (for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike alone), we differentiate between perennial and seasonal lakes. Most of the water bodies in the city were once seasonal, meaning they captured and stored rainfall. The ones that are left are now largely perennial as a result of sewage entering them and keeping them full throughout the year.

Rainwater harvesting could make a dent on the freshwater needs of the city but it pales in comparison to wastewater. Currently, only one third of the city's wastewater is redirected for external reuse, which means it is taken to Kolar, Chikkaballapur, and Devanahalli where it is used to replenish both groundwater and surface water sources. The remaining water flows into lakes and runs off land to join rivers downstream. This means the huge quantum of wastewater generated in the city is an untapped resource. Once treated to the required quality, wastewater can significantly mitigate freshwater consumption and can be crucial in making the city water resilient during low rainfall years.

water

### Bengaluru bursting at the seams



### Poor nations' inestimable gift to the rich

United Nations, March 10: The UN Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim says that deprived of immigrant doctors and nurses from developing countries, "Large segments of the hospital systems of the United States and the United Kingdom would collapse."

In a new report on the "Brain Drain", he adds that the United States, Britain and Canada, as the Chief recipients of such medical personnel, are actually "receiving a gift from the developing countries" worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year. He explains these countries get people trained to perform "critically important medical service" without having to pay for their training, because they have already been educated back home.

"It costs about \$50,000 to train a physician in the United States" he points out. "Some 7,000 foreign physicians were admitted to the United States in 1972."

At that rate, it would have cost \$350 million to turn out the American doctors that would have been needed had the foreigners not come in.

Dr. Waldheim suggests some guidelines for stopping the brain drain: the developing countries should check immigration and tax nationals who insist on studying abroad after being educated at Government expense. The developing nations also should be compensated by the developed countries for the trained personnel they supply.

Dr. Waldheim's report, prepared at the request of the General Assembly with the help of a group of experts, will come up in the UN Committee on Science and Technology and Development, which begins a 19-day session here to-morrow.

### A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 11, 1924 Devil dancers at Wembley

London, March 10: In the Commons to-day Lient-Colonel James drew attention to attempts at Darjeeling to recruit a troupe of Lama Devil dancers to perform at the Wembley Exhibition. He declared that the proposal was arousing strong religious resentment and suggested that steps should be taken to see that religious susceptibilities were not outraged by the engagement of the troupe. Professor Richards replied that he was enquiring of the Government of India of this matter.

# Text&Context

### THE

### **NEWS IN NUMBERS**

The worth of Indian equities bought by FPIs in March

6,139 in ₹ crore. Foreign Portfolio Investors are turning steady buyers so far this month, driven by market resilience, economic growth and decline in U.S. bond yields. PTI <u>Combined market</u> <u>valuation of seven of</u> <u>top-10 valued firms</u>

**71,301** in ₹ crore. The market valuation of seven of the top-10 valued firms climbed in the holiday-shortened last week, with Airtel emerging as the lead gainer. PTI The share of India's population requiring assistive technologies

in percentage. India's growing need for Assistive Technologies (ATs) to cope with disabilities and chronic illnesses was highlighted by Dr R. K. Srivastava, former director general of health services at the Health Ministry. PT Number of cases settled in first National Lok Adalat of 2024

in crore. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) successfully organised the first National Lok Adalat of 2024 in the taluks, districts and high courts of 34 States and Union Territories. PTI

### Number of children kidnapped in Nigeria's school abduction

Armed men raided a boarding school in northwestern Nigeria, kidnapping sleeping children just 48 hours after another incident where nearly 300 students were taken hostage. AP COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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# Introducing a new toll collection system

How will the recently proposed highway tolling system work? Will it be based on the U.S.'s Global Positioning System? Will it be mandatory for all vehicles to fit an on-board unit device? What about the FASTags collection system?

### EXPLAINER

### Jagriti Chandra

### The story so far:

oad Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said in Parliament in February that the government plans to implement a new highway toll collection system based on the global navigation satellite system before the model code of conduct for the 2024 election kicks in.

### What is the new proposed highway tolling system?

The global navigation satellite system is a term used to refer to any satellite-based navigation system, including the United States' Global Positioning System (GPS). It uses a large constellation of satellites to provide more accurate location and navigation information to users globally as compared to the GPS alone.

An official of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways explained that its implementation will involve an On-Board Unit (OBU), or a tracking device, fitted inside a vehicle whose location can be mapped using GAGAN, the Indian satellite navigation system with an approximate accuracy of 10 metres. The co-ordinates of the entire length of the country's national highways will have to be logged with the help of digital image processing, and software will be used to assign the toll rate on a particular highway, calculate the toll amount for a vehicle as per the distance travelled by it and then deduct it from a wallet linked to the OBU. The system will additionally have gantries, or arches mounted with CCTV cameras, at various points on a highway for enforcement purposes. These will capture an image of the vehicle's high security registration plate and cross verify if a road user is trying to trick the system by either removing the tracking device or travelling without an OBU onboard.



A complete overhaul: Toll collection on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway in 2023. FILE PHOTO

Collection) Rules in order to provide for the recovery of unpaid toll, define offences as well as require the necessity of an OBU in vehicles.

#### How does it safeguard privacy? In response to a question on how the government plans to safeguard privacy of vehicle users, the Ministry official said that firstly, it had decided to use the GAGAN satellite system and not GPS, which is owned by the U.S., to ensure data security within the country. The official added that although the concept was still a work in progress, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 passed in Parliament last year will address privacy concerns. The law had received flak from civil society for the widening of exemptions granted to government agencies that may facilitate increased

state surveillance.

Will FASTags be discontinued? The new tolling system will co-exist with the FASTag-based toll collection as the government has not yet taken a decision on whether OBUs will be made mandatory for all vehicles or only for new vehicles. Minister Gadkari has been speaking about implementing satellite-based toll collection since 2020, even though radio frequency identification based FASTags for toll collection was rolled out from 2016 and made mandatory only from February 16, 2021. Over the years a robust compliance has been achieved. By December 2023, 98.9% of vehicles passing through toll fee plazas at national highways were FASTag compliant. Toll collection increased 1.5 times from ₹17.942 crore in 2016-2017 to ₹27,744 crore in 2020-2021 at National Highway fee plazas due to a multitude of factors, which included rising number of vehicles as well as revision in tolls and adoption of FASTags. However, officials say that the global navigation satellite system involves lower operational cost as compared to FASTags due to absence of toll plazas and less number of entities in the toll collection process.

### THE GIST

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Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said in Parliament last week that the government plans to implement a new highway toll collection system based on the global navigation satellite system.

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Its implementation will involve an On-Board Unit (OBU), or a tracking device, fitted inside a vehicle whose location can be mapped using GAGAN, the Indian satellite navigation system with an approximate accuracy of 10 metres.

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The new tolling system will co-exist with the FASTag-based toll collection as the government has not yet taken a decision on whether OBUs will be made mandatory for all vehicles or only for new vehicles.

The Ministry official further explained that the aim of the technology is to

provide users the benefit of paying toll only for the actual distance travelled on a highway, or pay-as-you-use. The government also hopes that it will eventually allow barrier-free movement.

What are some of the challenges? One of the major challenges posed by this technology is that of recovering the toll amount if a road user fails to clear his payment after completing a journey on a highway, for instance, if the digital wallet linked with the OBU is empty.

Because there are no barriers involved that can stop a non-compliant vehicle, there are other issues such as when a vehicle travels on a highway without an OBU device linked or the OBU device is deliberately switched off to avoid payment or if a car's OBU is installed on a truck to pay less toll. Gantry-mounted Automatic Number-Plate Recognition (ANPR)-based systems for capturing violations have to be set up on highways across India. However, no such infrastructure exists in the country today.

Further, the success of an ANPR system depends on the quality of the licence plates, which are currently limited to a few cities and States. The government will also have to amend the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and

# Why did the EU impose a €1.8 billion fine on Apple?

What was Spotify's complaint against the company? How did Apple violate anti-trust provisions?

### Nabeel Ahmed

### The story so far:

n March 5, the European Commission imposed its first anti-trust penalty against Apple for unfairly favouring Apple Music over its rivals. The €1.8 billion (\$1.95 billion) anti-trust fine concludes the commission's nearly four-year long investigation following a complaint from Spotify accusing the company of purposely not disclosing to customers alternative options to pay for their streaming music subscriptions.

### What did the commission find?

The EU's anti-trust regulator found that Apple unfairly favoured its own music streaming service by banning rivals like Spotify from telling users, and failing to include links, about cheaper subscription options available outside of the App Store. Apple charges up to 30% commission on purchases made through its App Store. It won't receive this fee if the user makes

the payment directly on the app's website. The regulator noted that Apple muzzled music streaming apps from informing iOS users about alternative and cheaper music subscription services available on their websites.

### What is the significance of the fine? While having a dominant market position is not illegal in the EU, the penalty in this case highlights the bloc's seriousness in handling corporations that abuse their dominant market positions. This is also one of the biggest fines levied against a major tech company in the EU. Further, under the provisions of the EU's anti-trust laws, the fine exposes Apple against companies affected by anti-competitive behaviour. This means that anyone affected by Apple's anti-competitive behaviour in this case may bring the matter before the courts of the EU states and seek damages. This decision comes at a time when Apple is overhauling its app marketplace to comply with Europe's Digital Markets Act (DMA) to allow

third-party apps on iOS devices.

Which law did Apple violate? The regulator concluded that Apple's anti-steering provisions, that include Apple not allowing app developers to steer users towards alternative payment options, amounted to "unfair trading" conditions, in breach of provisions under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The regulator found Apple to have violated Article 102 of the TFEU and Article 54 of the European Economic Area Agreement that prohibit the abuse of a dominant position. The fine comes months after the EU implemented the DMA to put an end to unfair practices by tech companies that act as "gatekeepers" in the online space. Apple will now be barred from applying anti-steering provisions on any iOS apps under the bloc's competition reforms, as it has been designated a gatekeeper. Companies in the EU risk fines of up to 10% of their global turnover for anti-trust violations. In the event of repeated

violations, the fine can be extended up to 20%. In a sharp response to the fine, Apple released a statement in which it attacked the EU, claiming enforcers failed to uncover "any credible evidence of consumer harm, and ignored the realities of the market that is thriving, competitive, and growing fast." Apple further said that there was "no evidence of anti-competitive behaviour", and that the investigations did not yield a viable theory explaining how it thwarted competition in a thriving market. The iPhone maker said that though it respects the Commission's decision, the facts do not support it [the ruling], and as such Apple will be appealing the decision.

#### Which other companies are facing anti-trust investigations? In December last year, Apple offered to

In December last year, Apple offered to let rivals access its tap-and-go mobile payments system used for mobile wallets in a bid to settle EU anti-trust charges. The investigation charged Apple with curbing rival's access to its tap-and-go technology, Near-Field Communication (NFC), making it difficult for them to develop rival services on Apple devices. A long-running investigation into Google found that the company gave its own shopping recommendations an illegal advantage over rivals in search results. In December 2022, the European Commission informed Meta that they believe the company has breached EU anti-trust rules by distorting competition in the market for online classified ads.

### THE GIST

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The regulator concluded that Apple's anti-steering provisions, that include Apple not allowing app developers to steer users towards alternative payment options, amounted to "unfair trading" conditions, in breach of provisions under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

### V

A long-running investigation into Google found that the company gave its own shopping recommendations an illegal advantage over rivals in search results.

### CACHE



# What are the factors pushing Bitcoin to a new all-time high?

What was behind the crypto asset's sudden surge in price? What does the new all-time high price mean for the sector? Will Bitcoin's price keep rising? What is meant by Bitcoin halving? And is it a good idea to invest in cryptocurrencies?

### Sahana Venugopal

### The story so far:

n March 5, Bitcoin, the largest cryptocurrency by market capitalisation, broke its previous price record to hit a new all-time high of \$69,170.63, according to the CoinMarketCap live tracker. The last high was \$68,789.63, which Bitcoin achieved in November 2021. After this

institutions that the regulatory landscape was perhaps beginning to open up, and it encouraged more traditional investors to explore the world of blockchain-based assets. According to CoinShares' Digital Asset Fund Flows weekly report released on Monday, Bitcoin alone saw \$1.73 billion in inflows. The total inflows came to \$1.84 billion across digital asset investment products in general, showing just how dominant Bitcoin is. Furthermore, Bitcoin investors and traders are preparing for the Bitcoin halving event predicted for this April. Many investors and analysts believe this engineered scarcity mechanism will help drive up the price of the cryptocurrency. This sense of expectation and hype usually encourages investors to buy more Bitcoin, and can help push prices up.

transactions. While the mining reward is currently 6.25 BTC, this will be halved around April so that fewer coins are introduced into the crypto economy.

Bitcoin has a maximum supply of 21 million BTC, and more than 19 million coins are already in circulation. The halving tightens this process so that the coins will continue to be released at slower and slower rates, likely extending into the next century as well

to exit the market with what they have, or they buy the assets at a profit again after prices fall.

#### What is the market like for the second largest cryptocurrency?

Bitcoin's market cap is more than \$1 trillion this week, making it the leading crypto. Second in line is Ethereum, with a currency called Ether (or ETH for short). However, Ethereum's market cap was less



**KNOW YOUR ENGLISH** His ingenious idea helped the company

I found myself in a pickle because I could not solve the problem even though I said I could

### S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of 'in a pickle'? (C. Narayanan, Chennai) This is an idiom which is not heard often nowadays. When you say you are in a pickle, what you are suggesting is that you are in big trouble; as there is no immediate solution to the problem, you will continue to be in the unpleasant or sticky situation for some time to come. Other variants of the expression are 'be in a right pickle' and 'be in a pretty pickle'. I was in a pickle when the university

decided to stop funding my project.

Several explanations have been put forward regarding the origin of the idiom. The following is one of them. As Indians, when we hear the word pickle, what comes to mind immediately is the fruit we use to make them - mango, lime, tomato, etc. In the past, for most Europeans, it was a vegetable – primarily, the cucumber. What is of interest to note is that it is neither the fruit nor the vegetable that the word 'pickle' refers to. According to scholars, the Dutch word 'pekel', from which we get our modern 'pickle', referred to the brine or the salty solution in which the vegetable/fruit was immersed for a considerable period of time. In most cases, the brine consisted of vinegar, salt, sugar, and water, and it was this which helped preserve the vegetable and give it a sour taste. So, when you say you are in a pickle, what you are suggesting is, like the vegetable, you are floating around in a bottle of brine -not a very pleasant place to be!

What is the difference between 'ingenious' and 'ingenuous? (Prakash Chaudhary, Jodhpur) The second with 'bean', 'dean' and 'seen'; while in the case of 'ingenuous', it rhymes with 'pen', 'ten' and 'hen'. The words are pronounced 'in-JEAN-i-es' and 'in-JEN-yu-es' respectively; both words have the stress on the second syllable. 'Ingenious' comes from the Latin 'ingeniosus' meaning 'clever, gifted with genius'; it is mostly used nowadays to describe someone who comes up with clever ideas and is capable of inventing things. This creative talent that the individual has is inborn. The word can be used with things as well. For example, when you talk about someone's ingenious plan, what you are suggesting is that the plan is brilliant. Shoba is ingenious when it comes to finding reasons to postpone things. The word 'ingenuous' comes from the Latin 'ingenuus' meaning 'frank, candid'. An 'ingenuous' individual is a trusting person; he speaks his mind, and never attempts to hide anything. Being childlike in his approach to life, he is incapable of deceit. The word carries with it the sense that the person is rather naïve. upendrankye@gmail.com

event in 2021, the coin crashed to multi-year lows and the crypto market was battered by company collapses and regulatory hits.

### What are the factors behind Bitcoin's rise in price?

Multiple factors could have contributed to Bitcoin's price gains this year.

The market is recovering from the shock of Russia's invasion of Ukraine that started in 2022, as well as the collapse of cryptocurrencies LUNA/UST and the subsequent fall of trading platforms such as FTX that same year.

In addition to a market recovery, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), known for taking strong legal action against crypto companies, approved the first spot exchange traded funds (ETFs) for Bitcoin. This move told cautious investors as well as financial

### What is the Bitcoin halving?

The Bitcoin halving takes place about every four years and sees the crypto mining reward cut in half. While this may sound like a loss rather than a cause for price rises, there is more to the process.

Bitcoin miners use advanced computer equipment and enter an energy-intensive race in order to digitally "mine" their coins. This means they get some Bitcoin as a reward for helping the blockchain grow by processing other users'

The Bitcoin halving is meant to

automatically keep the asset scarce, based on mathematics principles. This is unlike paper money, which can be printed on the basis of human decisions.

### What should new crypto investors know?

The dangers of volatility cannot be stressed enough.

New investors who are buying Bitcoin or other blockchain-based assets must know just how quickly they can lose their hard-earned money.

For instance, Bitcoin hit a daily high of \$69,170.63 on March 5, while the 24-hour low was \$59,323.91 - roughly a \$10,000 difference. This means looking away from your device for even just a few minutes can drastically change your fortune. When Bitcoin reaches new high prices, many speculators usually sell their assets

than \$500 billion this week.

While Bitcoin's origin and founder (or founders) are largely a mystery, Ethereum has a relatively more corporate structure, though developers worldwide are free to participate in its ecosystem that is known for enabling self-executing commands called smart contracts. People can also establish their own crypto tokens using Ethereum's underlying infrastructure, or build other blockchain services.

Ether used to be digitally mined like Bitcoin, but the platform has switched to the less energy-hungry 'proof-of-stake' model as it continues to grow.

Ether prices tend to echo those of Bitcoin, so ETH also enjoyed a lift this week as Bitcoin hit its all-time high. Ether crossed the \$3,900 threshold, but it is yet to beat its all-time high price of \$4,891.70 from November 16, 2021, as per CoinMarketCap.

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

### THE DAILY QUIZ

Last week, the cricketing world witnessed four players appearing in their 100th Test on successive days. A quiz about players who have played 100 or more Test matches

### Soorya Prakash. N

**QUESTION 1** Who was the first ever player to appear in 100 Test matches?

### **QUESTION 2**

Who is the only player to have played his entire career consecutively without missing any Tests?

### **QUESTION 3**

Who is the only player to have led his country in more than 100 Test matches?

### **QUESTION 4**

Who is the only player to have scored a century in each innings in his 100th Test?

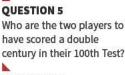
### **QUESTION 5** have scored a double

century in their 100th Test?

Among the 80 players to have played 100 Test matches, there is an interesting connection between Kapil Dev and Sachin Tendulkar and

Name them

These two players played not only their first and the same opponent but



### **QUESTION 6**

Shane Warne and Graeme

### Smith. What is it? **QUESTION 7**

100th Test matches against also at the same ground.



### Visual question:

These two players have achieved something unique in their batting record. Identify the players and the feat. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the March 8 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This political leader is a two-time Chief Minister and was the face of her party in this north India State. Ans: Vasundhara Raje

2. The first woman Prime Minister of the first self-governing country in the world to grant women the right to vote came to power in this year. Ans: Jenny Shipley; 1997

3. In 2022, Francia Márquez became the first person of the African-Colombian community to become the Vice-President of this country. Ans: Colombia

4. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was the first female President of Ghana. True or False. Ans: False, she was the head of Liberia

5. The current Prime Minister and the leader of the largest Opposition party are both women in this country. Ans: Italy

Visual: Identify this leader. Ans: Sucheta Kripalani, Uttar Pradesh

Early Birds: Raju A.Gopal| Prashant Nain| Jagrati Shukla| Rajmohan. V| Animesh Mohan

### Word of the day

### Assuage:

cause to be more favourably inclined; gain the good will of; satisfy (thirst); provide physical relief, as from pain

Synonyms: conciliate, pacify, placate, appease, quench, allay, relieve, alleviate

Usage: I couldn't do anything to assuage his grief.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/assuagepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ə'sweid3/

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

### **From Page One**

### 'Differences' may have led to Goel quitting

After arriving in Delhi, Mr. Goel attended meetings related to the Lok Sabha election, with Mr. Kumar, at the EC headquarters on March 7. However, on March 8, he reportedly skipped a meeting between EC brass and Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla regarding the election preparations and instead sent his resignation to the President of India without informing the CEC.

"There were attempts from the government to dissuade him and reconcile their differences but he remained firm on his exit," officials in the government said.

His resignation was accepted by the President on March 9 and the Ministry of Law and Justice issued a gazette notification stating that Mr. Goel's resignation was accepted with effect from the same day.

"Except perhaps the CEC and other highest ranking officials in the government, nobody even within the ECI had an inkling about Mr. Goel's abrupt decision to resign till the gazette notification was issued," claimed multiple sources in the government and the EC.

"The resignation of Arun Goel as Election Commissioner last evening raises three questions," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X. "Did he actually resign over differences with the Chief Election Commissioner or with the Modi government, which does the front-seat driving for all supposedly independent institutions? Or did he resign for personal reasons? Or did he, like the Calcutta High Court Judge a few days back, resign to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls on a BJP ticket?" Mr. Ramesh asked.

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Sanjay Raut alleged that the ECI "has been privatised" and "become a branch of the BJP" over the last ten years, raising concerns about who would replace Mr. Goel. "Like the BJP's people have been appointed in the High Courts, Supreme Court, Governor's house, in the same manner, they will appoint two of their BJP people here too."

Mr. Goel's term in the Election Commission was due to last till November 2027.

### **India inks FTA with 4 European countries**

According to the TEPA's Chapter 7 that deals with "Investment Promotion and Cooperation", the two sides had shared "objectives" to increase foreign direct investment from EFTA states into India by \$50 billion within 10 years and another \$50 billion in the next five years. It would also "aim to facilitate the generation of 1 million jobs within 15 years in India" resulting from those investments.

"States cannot decide where companies invest," Norwegian Trade Minister Jan Christian Vestre told presspersons at a briefing. "It's about creating the right environment, speaking to our companies and then tracing and tracking development", he said, adding that the investments by

# '\$100-bn investment target led to breakthrough'

The EFTA countries' commitment to invest \$100 billion and ensure 1 million jobs in India will primarily involve the private sector, and there is huge interest in the market here, says the Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs, one of the top negotiators of the just-concluded free trade agreement

was a "breakthrough mo-INTERVIEW ment" for negotiations on the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement. **Helene Budliger** Excerpts: Artieda

Suhasini Haidar

xpressing

the deal, Helene Budliger

Artieda, the Swiss State Se-

cretary for Economic Af-

fairs, said that agreeing on

the investment chapter

NEW DELHI

### Did you think this deal would happen before Indian elections?

Yes. I mean, you can never confidence that the EFbe 100% sure, because of TA bloc of four course, none of us were countries Iceland, Liechalone in the room. But I tenstein, Norway and Switreally felt sincere interest, zerland would be able to trust and friendship [betreach the target set by the ween India and EFTA ne-India-EFTA Free Trade gotiators]. The breakthrough moment was Agreement of \$100 billion investment and one milwhen we decided that we lion jobs, one of the deal's will do this chapter on direct investment, because top negotiators cautioned that investment would then all of a sudden, there come from the private secwas a sense that we could tors, and governments really have a fair and bacould only encourage and lanced deal, which would facilitate the outcomes. be win-win... five times win Speaking to The Hindu af-(for all five parties). ter successfully concluding

When it comes to that chapter, how binding are the commitments to invest \$100 billion and ensure 1 million jobs?



I can tell you that from the investment, but the companies in Switzerland and others that we have spoken to, there is massive interest in India. We reached the figure of \$100 billion through a method: taking a base of FDI in 2022 - which is U.S. \$10.7 billion, and GDP projections market access. provided by India, as well as the massive market Do you also hope to here. The fact that the EFnegotiate a Bilateral TA bloc managed to seal the deal even before our to protect the European neighbour (EU) investments? has heightened the interest It would have been difficult in India. But I have to be very clear. It's not the Swiss to negotiate a BIT as well as the TEPA before the elecgovernment that will do

tions, but I am positive that we will be able to begin discussions on an investment treaty soon.

The framework conditions for the investment chapter are important – a whole list of things that need to come in place on creating the environment for investments.

How long before the **TEPA goes into force?** 

Swiss private sector. And Well, each of the countries you know, if, for some reahas a different time span and ratification process. In son, this promise [of \$100 billion and 1 million jobs] is Switzerland, we hope to not realised, we will have bring the agreement for to face the consequences ratification by parliament in the autumn session, so of going back to square one, when we had no easy hopefully [we could ratify] by the end of the year and bring the agreement into force thereafter. We expect other EFTA countries **Investment Treaty (BIT)** would also have completed their processes by then.

> drop the data exclusivity clause

the working Patents regime. How do you respond to the accusation that Switzerland attempted to bully India to accept the data exclusivity clause, which, if adopted, would have

The data exclusivity clause

was in a draft text and was

have that in the agree-

ment, because Intellectual

Property Rights issue is ab-

solutely key and strategic

for us. However, we were

happy that India was able

to meet us halfway with

We would have loved to

never agreed upon.

made important generic medicines more expensive to produce? How could a country of nine million people bully a G-20 country of 1.4 billion? We negotiated our position with Indian negotiators,

who are very good. I do re-

gret that a draft text was

leaked in India, but that

had not been agreed upon.

How did you agree to

# eventually?

# **Opposition rattled by BJP's** development push, says PM

At U.P. rally, Modi says Opposition leaders are attacking him out of frustration, exhorts voters to help BJP meet 400-seat target; he also launches development projects worth over ₹34,700 crore

### Mayank Kumar LUCKNOW

oming down heavily on the Opposition for their "parivarvadi' (dynastic) politics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the development work initiated by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led double-engine government has rattled such elements. Speaking at a meeting in

Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh, Mr. Modi said the Opposi-

crore across the State.



Rail against: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Azamgarh on Sunday. ANI

The PM called on the voters of Azamgarh, considered a bastion of the Opposition Samajwadi Party (SP), to not lag behind this time in helping the BJP to cross the 400-seat target in the upcoming election. "That's why I have come here. Abki baar 400 paar [let's cross 400 seats]," exhorted the PM.

Mr. Modi visit to Azamgarh, a Lok Sabha seat having a sizeable Muslim and Yadav electorate, is seen as significant amid the BIP's attempt to make inroads in a challenging region. In the 2019 general election, the BJP lost Azamgarh and three neighbouring parliamentary seats and in the 2022 Assembly election, it lost all 10 seats. The Azamgarh Lok Sabha seat was a SP bastion for a better part of the last three decades. SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav and present president Akhilesh Yadav had represented the Muslim-Yadav dominated constituency in the past. In the 2022 parliamentary byelection necessitated by the resignation of Mr. Yadav, BJP's Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua' won a closely fought contest by a mere 8,000-odd votes.

### Scheduled Caste panel Abhinay Lakshman The Madiga

Centre ensures place

for Madiga member in

With the Lok Sabha election around the corner, the Union government has chosen to constitute the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) by ensuring the presence of at least one member from the Madiga community, which has a large presence in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Social Justice notified the appointees of their new positions through a letter on Saturday. BJP Gujarat spokesperson Kishor Makwana has been appointed the next NCSC Chairperson, while Vadepally Ramchander of Peddapalli district in Telangana and Love Kush Kumar of Bijnor district in Uttar Pradesh have been appointed members. Mr. Ramchander's appointment comes soon after the government formed an internal committee for sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes in response to the decades-long demand of the Madiga community in the two States. The Madiga community has argued that despite being among the most populous of the SCs, it is routinely crowded out of benefits and reservation by the relatively dominant

community has argued that it is routinely crowded out of benefits

Mala community.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised to look into the issue during an election rally last year, the government constituted a committee to look into the sub-categorisation demand for the benefit of all such communities that found themselves to be the most backward among the

EFTA companies would be assessed periodically

If the goals are not achieved within 15 years, with a three-year grace period and another two years in negotiations, India will be entitled to withdrawing some of its trade concessions "temporarily", the agreement says.

Apart from Mr. Vestre, the EFTA Ministers who flew into Delhi for the signing of the agreement were Swiss Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, Iceland Foreign Affairs Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, and Liechtenstein Foreign Affairs Minister Dominique Hasler.

(With inputs from Jacob Koshy)

### **Trinamool list for all** 42 seats in Bengal out

Among those dropped by the Trinamool is Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh, who won the 2019 election on BJP ticket but later returned to Trinamool. The party has renominated Asansol MP Shatrughan Sinha, who won the byelection in 2021.

The Trinamool Congress has also placed its faith in new faces, including youth leader Debangshu Bhattacharya from Tamluk, and IPS officer Prasun Banerjee from Malda North. The pary has renominated Mahua Moitra from Krishnanagar and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar from Barasat.

### 'Gig workers suffer from lack of social security'

Overall, 5,302 cab drivers and 5,028 delivery persons across eight cities - Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kolkata, Jaipur, and Indore - participated in a 50-question survey; 78% of the respondents were in the age group of 21 to 40 years.

Due to the demanding work hours, the study found that drivers are physically exhausted, and exposed to an increased risk of road traffic accidents, especially due to the '10-minute delivery at the doorstep' policy of certain e-commerce platforms. The lack of social and job security creates additional stress and leads to potential health issues. "It was found that 76% of the delivery persons are struggling to make their ends meet and over 80% of app-based cab drivers were not satisfied with the fares offered by the companies," the report said. Another major complaint of the workers is the issue of customer misbehaviour.

tion has been attacking

him out of frustration. "As Charan Singh International Uttar Pradesh reaches new Airport in Lucknow, as horizons of development, well as over 5,342 km of the venom of appeasement roads built across 59 disis weakening, forcing the tricts under the PM Gram Sadak Yojna at a cost of rattled parivarvadi leaders to abuse me every day. They say Modi doesn't ₹3,700 crore. He laid foundation stone of 12 railway have a family of his own. projects worth ₹8,200 They forget that 140-crore crore, among others. citizens are Modi ka Pari-

Mr. Modi lashed out at var [Modi's family]," said the Opposition Indian Nathe Prime Minister after intional Developmental, Inaugurating and laying clusive Alliance (INDIA) for foundation stone for multidismissing the developple developmental proment projects launched by iects worth over ₹34,700 him in recent days as "poll gimmick". "In 2024, no one should see these The Prime Minister inaugurated the Azamgarh, through the lens of the up-Shravasti, Chitrakoot, and coming election. We are Aligarh airports and a new embarking on a journey of terminal of the Chaudhary development. I am aiming

to make the country a developed nation by 2047," added the PM. While earlier regimes forced farmers to struggle for every penny, the BJP government has "cleared dues worth thousands of crores for sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pra-

**Purvanchal focus** 

desh", he stressed.

On the development push in Purvanchal (Eastern U.P.), the PM said the region once known for crime and extremism has seen "accelerated development in the last seven years under the leadership of Yogi ji [Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath], along with emphasis on rule of law".

JMM ex-MLA

Jharkhand

is INDIA bloc's

While the Supreme Court is yet to decide on whether SC quotas can be sub-categorised, the committee is looking into ways of targeting benefits towards this section of the Scheduled Castes.

Mr. Ramchander has previously been the district president of the BJP in Peddapalli and has also worked with the Sangh Parivar.

The new appointments to the NCSC come after the terms of member Anju Bala and Acting Chairperson Arun Halder came to an end in February. In July last year, the erstwhile Chairperson of the commission, Vijay Sampla had quit citing personal reasons.

### ED sleuths arrest close aide of Lalu in sand mining case

#### Amit Bhelari PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Subhash Yadav has been arrested on Sunday by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged illegal sand mining case.

Mr. Yadav, who is a close aide of party supremo Lalu Prasad, was arrested after a daylong raid conducted by the Central agency on Saturday at six locations linked with him. After appearing before the special court, he was sent to judi-

cial custody. During the search, the ED said it had recovered ₹2 crore in cash and docu-

ments more than ₹2.3 crore. Sources said that other documents revealing information on "huge ille-

gal money" have also been seized by the ED. Mr. Yadav is the director

of Broadsons Limited Company. Searches were conducted at his Nariyal Ghat residence apart from properties in Nasriganj, Shahpur, Yaduvanshi Nagar, Maner, Gola Roa and Boring Canal Road in Patna.

The case has been registered against him under Prevention of Money Laundering Act in which he has been charged with undertaking illegal mining and sale of sand

### **RS** candidate Press Trust of India RANCHI

Ahmad will be the INDIA bloc candidate for the Rajya Sabha polls in the State, party spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said here

file his nomination on March 11. His candidacy was confirmed following a meeting at the CM's residence, attended by Chief Minister Champai Soren and senior Congress leaders. The BJP had already named Pradeep Verma, as their candidate for the

### U.P. Cong. resolution urges Rahul, Priyanka to contest from State

sharing agreement for the

parliamentary polls that

gives 17 seats to the Con-

gress and 63 seats to the

#### seats allocated to us under Mayank Kumar INDIA alliance. Names of three to five probable candidates are sent for other seats to the CEC, while for Amethi and Raebareli seats, the PEC unanimously passed a resolution requesting the Congress president to make members of the Gandhi family candidates. No other names were discussed in the meeting for the both seats," Anil Yadav, Uttar Pradesh Congress general secretary, told The Hindu. The grand-old-party and the Samajwadi Party Vadra from (SP) have reached a seat-

SP. The PEC led by the State Congress chief Ajay Rai, consists of 39 members, including all senior State Congress leaders. The State unit is continuously pushing for the candidature of both Mr. Gandhi and Ms. Vadra from the old bastions represented by the family till 2019.

Recently, posters reading, "Raebareli calls, Priyanka Gandhi to come" surfaced in intersections of Raebareli asking the former Uttar Pradesh Congress in-charge to carry forward the development works of the grand-old-party in the constituency represented previously by her mother and former Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Former JMM MLA Sarfaraz

on Sunday. Mr. Ahmad (70) is set to

polls on Saturday.

LUCKNOW The Uttar Pradesh unit of the Congress on Sunday unanimously passed a resolution for the candida-

ture from the 'Gandhi' family in Amethi and Raebareli seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The Congress Pradesh Election Committee (PEC) refrained from officially naming candidate from the 'family' but sources confirmed the push is for Rahul Gandhi to contest from Amethi and Priyanka Raebareli.

"The Pradesh Election Committee met today and discussed candidates in each of the 17 Lok Sabha

### THE HINDU News

### Gadkari launches 22 highway projects worth ₹4,000 crore

### The Hindu Bureau MYSURU

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Sunday assured that underpasses and foot overbridges will be approved and work on improving entry and exit points on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway will be cleared in the next 15 days.

He was addressing the gathering at a function organised to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for 22 National Highway projects, totalling 268 km with an investment of ₹4,036 crore in Mysuru.

Mr. Gadkari referred to the representations he received from Mysuru MP Pratap Simha and Mandya MP Sumalatha Ambareesh on the infrastructure improvement works on the highway. "I assure you that the approval for the underpass, foot overbridges and entry and exit points will be given in 15 days," he said. Earlier, Mr. Simha said the Centre had sanctioned ₹1,200 crore for underpasses, foot overbridges and improvement of entry and exit points on the highway.

Mr. Gadkari said the government had approved a total of 16 ropeways in Karnataka, to be built at a total cost of ₹5,000 crore.

Mr. Gadkari was also optimistic that the work on the Bengaluru-Chennai express highway would be completed before 2025, adding that the 262 kmlong Bengaluru-Chennai express highway being constructed at a cost of ₹20,000 crore will reduce the journey time between the two cities to two hours. withdrawal," Congress pre-

# Panel, headed by PM, likely to appoint new ECs by March 15

With the announcement of 2024 Lok Sabha election expected to be made any day after March 13, the government is keen to speed up the appointment and fill the vacancies in the next few days

### Sandeep Phukan NEW DELHI

he two vacancies in the Election Commission (EC), created by the surprise resignation of Arun Goel and the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey, are likely to be filled by March 15, sources indicated on Sunday.

A high-level selection committee, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprising a Union Minister and the Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, is likely to

meet on March 14. Earlier, the selection committee was scheduled to meet on March 15 to fill the vacancy of Mr. Pandey, who retired on February 14. However, after the sudden resignation of Mr. Goel, the EC is left with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar



Hasty process: Both the Election Commissioners would be appointed under a new law that was passed in December. PTI

as the sole member. Keen to fill up the vacancies at the earliest, sources told The Hindu that the Opposition leader has been sounded out about a change of date to advance the meeting date by a day

"Election Commission or Election OMISSION? India now has only ONE Election Commissioner, even as Lok Sabha elections are to be announced in few

sident Mallikarjun Kharge

said soon after Trinamool

or two.

days. Why? As I have said earlier, if we do NOT stop the systematic decimation of our independent institutions, our DEMOCRACY shall be usurped by DICTA-TORSHIP!" Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had asked in a post on X on Saturday.

With the announcement of Lok Sabha election expected to be made any day after March 13, the government is keen to speed up

### the appointment process in the next few days.

Shortlisting of names Before the selection panel finalises the names of the commissioners, a search committee under Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal will prepare a shortlist of five names for each post. The search committee

includes the Union Home Secretary and the Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)

The Election Commissioners will be appointed by the President.

Both the Election Commissioners would be appointed under a new law that was passed by Parliament during the Winter Session in December. Opposition parties had

opposed the Bill on the ground that the poll panel could lose its autonomous character.

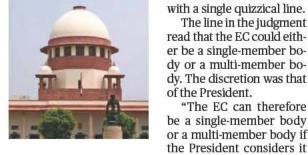
# Two heads better than one, said SC on CEC's solitary vigil

### **NEWS ANALYSIS**

#### Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar is in sole charge of the Election Commission (EC) with the resignation of Election Commissioner Arun Goel ahead of the Lok Sabha polls' announcement, and the Supreme Court has said that it is ill-advised to leave an institution with such vast, exclusive and uncontrolled powers in the hands of one person, however wise he or she may be.

"There is no doubt that two heads are better than one, and particularly when an institution like the EC is entrusted with vital functions, and is armed with uncontrolled exclusive powers to execute them, it is both necessary and desirable that the powers are not exercised by one individual, however, all-wise he may be," a Division Bench of the SC observed in a judgment in 1991.



The Supreme Court, in S.S. Dhanoa vs Union of India, said one person at the helm of the powerful poll body was against the "te-

nets of democratic rule". "A single individual may sometimes prove capable of withstanding all the pulls and pressures. However, when vast powers are exercised by an institution which is accountable to none, it is politic to entrust its affairs to more hands than one. It helps to assure judiciousness and want of arbitrariness," the

top court reasoned.

Seshan case verdict

#### noa judgment that a multimember Election Commission was perfectly in tune with the plain language of Article 324 (superinten-However, four years later, a dence, direction and con-Constitution Bench of the trol of elections to be vest-Supreme Court, in the T.N. ed in an Election Seshan case judgment, Commission).

Alliance with Trinamool still possible: Kharge

#### The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

supremo and West Bengal The Congress on Sunday Chief Minister Mamata Basaid an alliance with the nerjee announced names Trinamool Congress in for all 42 Lok Sabha seats West Bengal is possible unin the State. til withdrawal of nomina-However, West Bengal tions but asserted that any Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury lashed out agreement has to be finalised through negotiations at the Trinamool after the

and not unilateral announcements. "Our doors are always open and an alliance can happen anytime before

Berhampore. Mr. Chowdhury said Ms.

ruling party in Bengal field-

ed cricketer Yusuf Pathan

from his [Mr. Chowdhury]

constituency

Banerjee was worried about facing the ED and the CBI and that is why she sent a message to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

"So, by distancing herself from the INDIA alliance, Mamata Banerjee is sending a message to Modi's office: Don't be upset with me, I am not part of the alliance and I won't compete with the BJP," Mr. Chowdhury said, adding that the Trinamool chief wanted him defeated even at the cost of making the BJP win his seat.

In a post on X, party general secretary Jairam Ramesh also said that the Congress had repeatedly declared its desire to have a respectable seat-sharing agreement with the Trinamool in West Bengal. "The Indian National Congress has always maintained that such an agreement has to be finalised through negotiations and not by unilateral announcements. The Congress has always wanted the INDIA group to fight the BJP together," Mr. Ramesh said.

The Trinamool fielded Mukul Sangma, former Meghalaya Chief Minister who quit the Congress to join Trinamool a few years ago, to respond to the charge of taking unilateral decisions. Mr. Sangma pointed out that the Congress too named candidates for the two Lok Sabha seats from Meghalaya when the Trinamool had asked for the Tura seat.

### **Hisar MP quits BJP** to join Congress

### Ashok Kumar GURUGRAM

Bharatiya Janata Party's Hisar Lok Sabha member Brijendra Singh on Sunday quit the party due to "compelling political reasons" and joined the Congress within a few hours. He later also resigned as the Lok Sabha member.

NMDC Ltd.

possible alliance between the BJP and Jannayak Janta Formally joining the Party for the forthcoming Congress, Mr. Singh said Lok Sabha election.

protest.

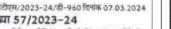
### My alliance is only with the people of

Assam CM says parties calling 要:0%7(17)/30000 bandhs over

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### कार्यालय, राजस्थान राज्य राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण, जयपर, राजस्थान सरकार 1/डब्ल्यूबो/ट्रॉच-1/आईटीएस/2023-24/डी-960 दिनांक 07.03.2024 निविदा सूचना संख्या 57/2023-24





(A Govt. of India Enterprise) (ISO 9001 Company) Bailadila Iron Ore Mines, Bacheli Complex Bacheli, Distt. - South Bastar (Dantewada), CG - 494553



rather muddied the water

The line in the judgment

"The EC can therefore

necessary to appoint one

or more Election Commis-

sioners," the five-judge

Article 324, which said

"the Election Commission

shall consist of the Chief

Election Commissioner

and such number of other

Election Commissioners, if

any, as the President may

to agree with the S.S. Dha-

that he took the decision to

quit the BJP as he was "uncomfortable" and "not in

agreement" over a few is-

sues, including the farmers

movement, the Agniveer

scheme and the wrestlers

His resignation came

amid the speculations of a

Academic Coordinator

But the Bench goes on

from time-to-time fix ... "

The Constitution Bench was interpreting clause 2 of

Bench had mentioned.

# **Bihar: Chirag Paswan**

#### **Amit Bhelari** PATNA

Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president and Jamui Lok Sabha MP Chirag Paswan on Sunday indirectly cautioned the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), saying his alliance was only with the people of Bihar. Sensing that his party



might get fewer seats for the Lok Sabha election this time compared with 2019 following the return of the Janata Dal(U) in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Mr. Paswan said he would not bow down to anyone. "Chirag Paswan has no greed for power. My ideology and my principle is only dedicated to the people of Bihar. As far as alliance is concerned, my alliance is only with the people of Bihar," Mr. Paswan said during the Jan Ashirwad Mahasabha organised in Vaishali district.

Without naming anyone, Mr. Paswan took a dig at the earlier government in the State alleging that the problems in Bihar continued to persist.

### 'Lagging behind'

"Many governments have come and gone, many alliances have been formed and broken. Many leaders have come but they all have looted Bihar. Many promises have been made by the leaders but in reality, Bihar is still lagging behind. Every passing day, Bihar is inching towards destruction," Mr. Paswan said to the cheering crowd shouting slogans in his support.



Chirag Paswan

Referring to the problem of migration, he said people were going out of the State for better jobs and education. He said people wanted good education and good health infrastructure in their own district, block, and village.

"This is election time. Think whether the leaders have fulfilled their promises. If not, then why to vote for them again. We need to identify those leaders who have made promises but never fulfilled them," Mr. Paswan said.

He alleged that some people were trying to divide the society on the basis of caste and religion.

Through this rally, Mr. Paswan has indirectly staked claim to the Hajipur seat, which he has been demanding for long. The current MP is his uncle and Union Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras of the Rashtri-

ya Lok Janshakti Party. Mr. Paras has been saying that he would contest from Hajipur and no other person can stake a claim to this seat.

Mr. Paswan's father, the late Ram Vilas Paswan, representedHajipur seat eight times since his first win in 1977.

Danuns Over
CAA could lose
registrations

### The Hindu Bureau **GUWAHATI**

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said political parties may be deregistered if they call for a bandh against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2019.

The Act allows non-Muslims who fled alleged religious persecution in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan and took refuge in India by December 31, 2014, to get citizenship faster than the normal process.

Anti-CAA sentiments have been brewing in Assam since Home Minister Amit Shah said the rules of the Act would be framed ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

"People have the right to protest. But political parties should keep a Gauhati High Court order in mind before announcing bandhs against the CAA or their registration may be cancelled," the CM told journalists at an event, his warning directed at the Congress-led Opposition

alliance of 16 parties. In a March 2019 order, the High Court said all kinds of bandhs, including road and rail blockades, were illegal and unconsti-

tutional. "A students' body announcing bandh is a different matter, but if political parties violate the high court order we will complain to the Election Commission of India citing the court order," Dr. Sarma.

राज्य राजमार्गों के इंजीनियरिंग दिखाराज स्वयूक्षई राज्यनेजेशान लेकिना क्योनवित्रीत ऑफ स्वर्टीवालेज सपोटेंजन सिस्टम ( आईटीएस ), ऑपरेशन मेनटेनेंस के संग्रेत फोर 566 किमी, लम्बाई ( 5 पैकंज ) के कार्य हेतु इच्छुक निविदा दिनांक 09.04.2024 समय प्रातः 11.00 बजे तक आमंप्रित को जाती है। निविदा मे सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण वेबसाईट https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्य को कुल अनुमानित लागत रू. 22.60 करोड़ है। UBN No

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### THE HINDU News

### IBRIÐF



### CBDT starts sending alerts to assessees for tax mismatch

The Income Tax (I-T) Department on Sunday said it has started sending emails and SMSs to assessees whose taxes paid during the current fiscal are not commensurate with financial transactions. The department is undertaking an e-campaign, which aims to inform such persons/entities of significant financial transactions urging them to compute their advance tax liability correctly and deposit the due advance tax on or before March 15. In a statement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said the I-T Department has received information on specific financial transactions undertaken by persons or entities during the 2023-24 financial year. PTI

### Former SC judge sworn in as Lokpal Chairperson

Former Supreme Court judge, Justice (retired) Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar was administered the oath of office as the Chairperson of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal by President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday, nearly two years after the post fell vacant. The swearing-in at the Rashtrapati Bhavan was attended by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Justice Khanwilkar (retd) was appointed the Lokpal Chairperson in the last week of February. PTI

# Report turns spotlight on India's 'zero-food children'

A recent study had ranked India as having the third-highest percentage of children who had not eaten any food for 24 hours; experts say rapid urbanisation is fuelling malnutrition in country

### Mayank Kumar LUCKNOW

🚬 unita Gautam, a 26year-old domestic help, wonders if she will be able to provide her 11-month-old boy the nutrition he requires. "My child is mainly dependent on breastmilk. At times, I give him porridge, but that too not every day as he takes time to eat and is more habituated to breastmilk. I have a very busy daily routine. If I don't earn money, how can I provide a better life for my child?" Ms. Gautam, who works in Lucknow's Vishal Khand area, asked.

Ms. Gautam's baby is likely to be one of the millions of "zero-food children" aged six months to 23 months in Uttar Pradesh. These infants have not eaten any food of substantial calorific content semi-solid, solid, soft, or mushy food, infant formula or fresh milk - for 24 hours.

A study published recently in the peer-reviewed JAMA Network Open journal found the prevalence of zero-food children in In-



Rapid urbanisation and nuclearised families have contributed to large number of 'zero-food children' in Uttar Pradesh. FILE PHOTO

dia at 19.3%, drawing attention to extreme food deprivation among children. The study ranks India as having the third-highest percentage of zero-food children, above only Guinea (21.8%) and Mali (20.5%). In terms of numbers, India has the highest number of zero-food children at more than six million.

Another study published in 2023 in eClinical Medicine, part of the noted Lancet Discovery Science, found that Uttar Pradesh alone accounts for 28.4% of zero-food children in India.

> "The States of Uttar Pradesh (28.4%), Bihar

(14.2%), Maharashtra (7.1%), Rajasthan (6.5%), and Madhya Pradesh (6%) account for nearly twothirds of the total zero-food children in India," the report said. "My husband is an alco-

holic. He spends most of his time at home but I cannot trust him to feed the child. He may harm the child as it takes time to feed him [the baby]," Ms.

Gautam said. Shalini Singh, a public health specialist, argues that alongside poverty and marginalisation in economic backgrounds, it is rapid urbanisation and nuclearised families that have contributed to such a large

number of "zero food children" in India's most populous State.

She said lack of awareness about the nutritional needs of children, and misconceptions, also contribute to the numbers.

"Women from underprivileged economic backgrounds work to sustain their families, resulting in their having insufficient time to complement breastfeeding for children above six months of age. With rapid industrialisation, nuclear families have grown in both urban and rural areas, so there is no one to invest the time and energy required to feed a child, apart from the mother," she said, adding that lack of awareness about nutritional needs of children, and social misconceptions, also contribute to the likely numbers.

Uttar Pradesh's urban population is approximately 23%, according to the 2011 Census and had grown by more than 25% in 2011 when compared with 2001, signifying a large number of poor moving towards urban centres in search of a livelihood.

### Other parties make promises, only BJP fulfils them, says PM

### Shubhomoy Sikdar RAIPUR

Launching the Mahtari Vandana Yojana, a financial assistance scheme for eligible married women in Chhattisgarh, on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that it was only the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that kept its electoral

"Mothers and sisters,

before the elections, many

parties make big promises.

They promise the stars and

the moon, but only a party

with a clear intent like the

BJP fulfils its promises ...,"

The Mahtari Vandan Yo-

jana was a pre-poll pro-

mise of the BJP in last

year's Assembly election

campaign. Under the

scheme, ₹1,000 per month

is given to eligible married

women in the State as

monthly direct benefit

transfer. So far, there have

been 70 lakh beneficiaries,

and ₹655 crore was trans-

ferred on Sunday, as the

first instalment under the

Mr. Modi - who ad-

dressed the beneficiaries

gathered at the Raipur

launch event through vide-

oconferencing - emphasised that a healthy family

scheme.

promises.

Mr. Modi said



Narendra Mod

stems from the well-being of its women. "Our government is committed to ensuring the holistic well-being of every family, and this begins with the health and dignity of the women," he said.

Speaking of some of the other initiatives taken by his government, Mr. Modi said that women were getting pucca houses and Ujjwala gas cylinders in their name.

He added that more than 10 crore women from self-help groups have benefitted during his tenure, while more than one crore women have become lakhpati didis. This refers to beneficiaries of a scheme which aims to train women's self-help groups to earn a sustainable income of at least ₹1 lakh per annum by setting up microenterprises within their villages.

### 'Rail roko' protest by farmers affects train services in Punjab

### Press Trust of India CHANDIGARH

Farmers on Sunday squatted on railway tracks at many places in Punjab as part of a 'rail roko' protest called by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha to press the Centre to accept their demands, including a legal guarantee

tion was successful. "Till a concrete resolution is offered by the government to our demands, we will continue our struggle," Mr. Pandher said.

Besides a legal guarantee of MSP, the farmers are demanding the implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, no ology and Natural History hike in electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for the victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and compensation to the families of the farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21. The protesting farmers from Punjab have been camping at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points since February 13, when security forces stopped them from march-

# 7,396 golden langurs in India, reveals survey

### Rahul Karmakar **GUWAHATI**

There are an estimated 7,396 golden langurs in India, the latest survey of the primate has revealed. The comprehensive population estimation of the endangered primate was carried out in two phases by the Primate Research Centre NE India (PRCNE), Assam Forest Department, Bodoland Territorial Council, Salim Ali Centre for Ornith-



Nature's charm: The previous population estimation in 2008-09 recorded 6,000 golden langurs in India. ANI

serve Forest, and Manas group-living primates such as the golden langur," H.N. National Park up to the western bank of the Manas Kumara, the principal scientist of SACON, said. River.

clusive of bisexual and male bands, along with 31 lone males," Jihosuo Biswas, the lead primatologist at PRCNE, said. He supervised the survey.

"The population of golden langurs is divided into two major sub-populations. The northern extended population, which encompasses the western part of the Manas Biosphere Reserve, extending from the Sankosh River to the Manas river up to the India-Bhutan border along the northern side of National Highway 27 and State Highway 2," Dr. Biswas explained.

ulation golden langurs, Kokrajhar district's Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary had 838 individuals, the most in the southern fragmented range of the

primate. The previous population estimation in 2008-09, also conducted under the supervision of Dr. Biswas, recorded 6,000 golden langurs in India. Each group then had has average of 9.24 individuals, which was 1,45 individuals less than the average group

### **CISF** officer blames online gambling for deaths

### Shubhomoy Sikdar BHILAI

A senior Central Industrial 🗍 Security Force (CISF) officer has flagged online gambling and fraud as new factors pushing personnel to end their lives.

To a question related to mental health and instances of suicides among thepersonnel CISE Special

of Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Movement of several trains was affected in Punjab on Sunday. The protest was held from 12 noon till 4 pm. The farmers sat on railway tracks at many locations in 22 districts.

According to railway authorities, nine trains were cancelled and many trains were either shortterminated or short-originated.

Farmer leaders Sarwan Singh Pandher and Jagjit Singh Dallewal claimed that their 'rail roko' agita(SACON), and Conservation Himalayas.

The entire distribution range of the golden langur (Trachypithecus geei) covers the Manas Biosphere Reserve and all fragmented forests in the western part of Assam.

In the first phase during March-April 2020, the survey covered the western part of the Manas Biosphere Reserve, including Ripu Reserved Forest - a major part of it was recently upgraded to Raimona National Park - Chirang Reserve Forest, Manas Re-

The second phase during the same months in 2021 focused on fragmented forest habitats of golden langurs in the Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, and Dhubri districts of western Assam. The block count method was applied for the first time to assess the abundance, spatial distribution, and densities of the golden langur populations.

"This method is considered to be relatively simple, cost-effective, and robust for arboreal and small

The golden langur habitat was demarcated into 51 counting blocks, each overlaid with 50-hectare grid cells. Ten teams, each comprising one or two trained enumerators and three to four forest staff, surveyed the blocks. "We observed 7,720 in-

dividuals of golden langurs in 706 unique groups and 31 lone males or floating males. Estimating minimum population size, we found there to be 7,396 in-

dividuals in 707 groups, in-

EMS

AI

The northern population of the primate with the golden sheen was estimated at 5,566 in 534 groups and 23 lone males. The population of the southern fragments was estimated at 1,830 langurs in 173 groups and eight lone males.

### 'Unstable situation'

While the Ripu Reserve Forest was home to the most (2,847) northern pop-

recorded in the latest survey.

On the flip side, the survey report underlined an unstable situation in the fragmented habitats of the golden langurs, particularly due to the absence of all-male non-breeding bands. The primatologists involved in the survey highlighted the need for corridor linkage among the fragmented habitats through plantations and canopy bridges to offset potential threats the primates face from anthropo-

genic interactions.

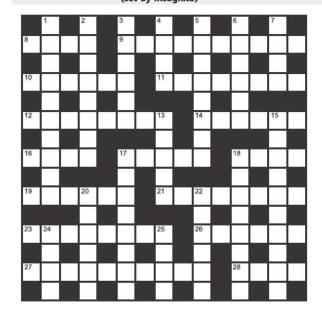
rector-General Piyush Anand said in most cases, the reasons behind the suicides were personal and not professional. He added that the force was conducting financial literacy classes to train staff against the possible pitfalls of gambling.

Mr. Anand was addressing a press conference on the occasion of the CISF's 55th Raising Day. (Those in distress may contact Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health suicide prevention helpline

011-40769002)

TH CROSSWORD + 14119

ing towards Delhi.



#### Across

- 8 Half-back and a couple of students get spherical object (4)
- 9 Remove part of intestine and unsettle? (10)
- 10 Activity for summer? Dad prepared gin cocktail! (6)
- 11 Heavy rainfall! Our pond managed to cover part of wall! (8)
- 12 Canine's organ of sight also throbbed to some extent (3,5)
- 14 Republican assistance given back (6)



- 16 Queen follows American addict, perhaps (4)
- 17 South African boy's food (5)
- 18 Erotica removed from notice-board arrangement for getting contract (4)
- 19 Standard English logo (6)
- 21 Excitedly Ron slits holes in the head (8)
- 23 Hates spies going around in German state initially (8)
- 26 Criminal and vagrants' collection of mug shots? (6)
- 27 Rich source of oil held wrongly around Eastern Europe (4-6) 28 John's containers (4)

#### Down

6

- 1 Yes, nailed badly around ring saw (4,4,2)
- 2 Is lector walking around covered walk? (8)
- After can is thrown from Canada, soldier gets initial 3 order/request to play slowly (6)
- Current editor performed very well (4)
- 5 Girl scowled and scowled (8)
  - Quickly buy pans (4,2)
- 7 Jacob's twin is in Mesa University (4)
- 13 Dancer from Indian movies twists heel before commencement of night (5)
- 15 Failing men agitated creator of spy going across at 18 (3,7)
- 17 Malevolent sibling abducted Indian at one (8)
- Graduate engineers take taxi back with knight not using saddle 18 (8)
- Skewer, without using energy, a graceful antelope (6) 20
- 22 Disreputable! Carrying new cocktail! (6)
- 24 Young lady starting to nurse... Not odd! (4)
- 25 Taste-maker's treaty? (4)

### SCAN TO PLAY SUDOKU



### Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



anda MANGALDEEP

# The paripoorna avatara

In his Peria Thirumozhi, Thirumangai Azhvar has an entire padhigam (set of 10 verses) extolling Lord Narayana's dasavataras, explained M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. He writes about nine of them in order in nine separate verses, but does not devote a separate verse for Kalki avatara. That is because a padhigam can, by definition, contain only 10 verses, of which the tenth has to be the phala sruti verse. So it would not have been possible to allocate a separate pasuram for Kalki. But Thirumangai Azhvar mentions Kalki in the phala sruti verse. There are three avataras in which the name 'Rama' features. We have the Parasurama and Balarama avataras in addition to Dasaratha Rama.

While talking of Parasurama and Balarama in the phala sruti verse, Thriumangai Azhvar refers to Parasurama and Balarama as 'Rama.' But for Dasaratha Rama, he uses the Tamil word "thAnAi," showing that this Dasaratha Rama was a paripoorna avatara, a complete avatara. The Ramayana is read with reverence, because it tells us about this avatara. We have only two Itihasas - the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Among them, Ramayana is superior, says Pillai Lokachariar. That is because it is entirely about the Lord's avatara, whereas, the Mahabharata is mainly about two warring factions of a family.

### DUBAI

Crescent moon spotted in Saudi Arabia, marking start of Ramzan



Officials saw the crescent moon on Sunday night in Saudi Arabia, home to the holiest sites in Islam, marking the start of the holy fasting month of Ramzan for many of the world's 1.8 billion Muslims. Seeing the moon on Sunday night means Monday is the first day of the fast. AP

### AMSTERDAM

Protests as Israel President attends Dutch Holocaust Museum opening



Dutch King Willem-Alexander officially opened the country's first Holocaust Museum on Sunday, as demonstrators angry at Israel's military campaign in Gaza protested against Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who also addressed the ceremony. Organisers of the event included those from Jewish groups calling for a Gaza ceasefire. AFP

### **JAKARTA**

Death toll from Indonesia floods. landslip rises to 21, six still missing



The death toll from flash flooding and landslips on the Indonesian island of Sumatra has risen to 21, an official said on Sunday, with six persons still missing. Torrential rains on Thursday triggered the disaster in Pesisir Selatan regency in the West Sumatra province, with more than 75,000 people forced to evacuate. AFP

### KATHMANDU

Nepal PM Prachanda to seek third vote of confidence by Wednesday

15



Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' is planning to seek a vote of confidence in Parliament by Wednesday, days after he forged a new alliance with the CPN-UML. He also expanded his Cabinet for a second time by inducting two new members. With this, the number of Ministers in his Council has reached 22. PTI

# Israel-Hamas war rages in Gaza on the eve of Ramzan

A Spanish charity ship with aid intended for the besieged enclave is awaiting clearance in Cyprus; truce talks involving U.S., Qatar and Egyptian mediators fail to find result ahead of fasting month

### Agence France-Presse GAZA STRIP

eadly fighting raged in Gaza on Sunday between Israeli forces and Hamas militants, with no truce in sight as the Muslim holy month of Ramzan neared and a dire humanitarian crisis gripped the besieged Palestinian territory.

A Spanish charity ship with food aid prepared to sail from the Mediterranean island-nation of Cyprus to help alleviate the suffering in the coastal Gaza Strip, now in its sixth month of war.

The non-governmental group Open Arms said its boat would pull a barge



Bright spot: A vendor sells olives and pickles in the Old City of the occupied West Bank city of Hebron on Sunday. AFP

October 7 Hamas attack on

Israel has killed 31,045 Pal-

estinians, mostly women

and children.

with 200 tonnes of food, which its partner the U.S. charity World Central Kitchen would then unload on the shores of Gaza.

Weeks of talks involving The war started by the U.S., Qatari and Egyptian mediators have aimed for a six-week truce and the release of many of the roughly 100 hostages Hamas is still holding in return for Palestinian prisoners released from Israeli jails. There have been no re-

sult so far.

The widely shared target had been to halt the fighting by the start of Ramzan. Both sides have blamed each other for failing to reach a deal.

Attention during the Muslim fasting month will focus on the al-Aqsa mosque compound in annexed east Jerusalem, a frequent flashpoint in the past as it is both Islam's third holiest site and sacred to Jews who call it the Temple Mount.

# Zardari sworn in as Pakistan President for a second time

#### Press Trust of India ISLAMABAD

Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday took oath as Pakistan's 14th President, a day after the veteran politician staged a remarkable comeback when he was overwhelmingly elected as the only civilian President of the coup-prone country for a second time.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa administered the oath to the 68-year-old Mr. Zardari in a small yet formal ceremony at Aiwane-Sadr, the Presidential Palace.

Mr. Zardari replaces Dr. Arif Alvi, who stayed in office for five months after completing his five-year term in September 2023. The swearing-in cere-

mony was attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, right, administers the oath of office to Asif Ali Zardari at the Presidential Palace in Islamabad. AP

Staff General Asim Munir among others.

Separately, a meeting chaired by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif and attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif besides other leaders decided that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) should be approached again with the request to

join the federal Cabinet.

President.

Meanwhile, dozens of

Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party supporters were arrested on Sunday in different cities of Punjab province for staging "peaceful" protests against alleged rigging in the polls and the "fake election" of the Prime Minister and the

Mr. Xi said that "the two countries have in recent years maintained close high-level exchanges, achieved fruitful results in the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and maintained a high level of development of bilateral relations".

### <sup>+</sup> China tightens grip over Internet during key political meeting

Agence France-Presse ingly struggled to circum-

U.S. evacuates some embassy staff as Haiti gang violence spikes

Agence France-Presse It also brought in

additional personnel

already control much of

Port-au-Prince as well as

roads leading to the rest of

the country, have un-

leashed havoc in recent

days as they try to oust

Prime Minister Ariel Henry

into and out of the Embas-

sy is consistent with our

standard practice for Em-

bassy security augmenta-

tion," the statement from

"This airlift of personnel

to boost security at

the compound in

**Port-au-Prince** 

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GENERAL	1) The Managing Director (Aayush Reddy), New Delhi Opposite Party No, 1 2) The Registrar of Companies, Hyderabad, Telangana Opposite Party No. 2	INSPIRING INNOVATION www.visionias.in	Mrs Bharti Chanana in favour of Mr. Rajendra Kumar Khosla (3.) Original Gift Deed dated 05.10.2009 executed by Mrs. Bharti Chanana through her GPA Mr. Rajendra Kumar Khosla and Mr. Mrs. Asha Wadhera

### Pak.-China ties are a choice of history, says Xi

Press Trust of India BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday congratulated Asif Ali Zardari on his election as Pakistan President, saying that the "ironclad" friendship between the two countries is a "choice of history" and the strategic significance of their ties has become more prominent considering the current changes in the world.

### BEIJING

China has intensified efforts to block software that enables Internet users to access banned websites during a top political meeting this week, a leading provider of firewall-leaping software said.

Beijing operates some of the world's most extensive censorship over the Internet, with web users in mainland China unable to access everything from Google to news websites without using a virtual private network (VPN).

And as thousands of delegates gather in Beijing this week for the annual "Two Sessions" meeting, VPN software has increas-

vent the censorship while outages have become much more frequent, even when compared to during previous sensitive political events.

#### Increased censorship

"Currently, there is increased censorship due to political meetings in China," a representative of the Liechtenstein-based service Astrill - one of the most popular VPN services for foreigners in China said. "Unfortunately, not all VPN protocols are functioning at this time," they said.

"We are working intensively on bringing all services back to normal, but currently have no ETA."

PORT-AU-PRINCE With Haiti's capital spiraling deeper into gang violence, the U.S. said on Sunday it has airlifted non-essential American staff from its embassy in Port-au-Prince

and brought in additional personnel to boost security at the compound. Residents of beleaguered neighborhoods were scrambling for safety on Saturday following the latest spasm of unrest, with a United Nations group warning of a "city under siege" after armed attackers targeted the presidential palace and police

headquarters.

the military's U.S. Southern Command added. The embassy said that it

"remains open." Criminal groups, which

## Portugal goes to the polls with the centre-right poised to oust Socialists

#### Agence France-Presse LISBON

Voters in Portugal went to the polls on Sunday in an early election that could see the country join a shift to the right across Europe after eight years of Socialist rule.

Final opinion polls published on Friday show the centre-right Democratic Alliance (AD) narrowly ahead of the Socialist Party (PS) but short of an outright majority in parliament, which could make the far-right Chega a kingmaker for forming a governing coalition.

But analysts warned the results of the election, Portugal's second in two



Face of future: Populist right-wing Chega leader André Ventura, casts his ballot at a polling station in Lisbon on Sunday. AP

nomic growth by cutting

taxes, and to improve the

year-old lawyer Luis Mon-

tenegro, called for a high

turnout. He has ruled out

The party's leader, 51-

country's public services.

years, remained wide open given the large number of undecided voters. Exit poll projections are expected at 8:00 p.m. (0130 IST).

The AD has campaigned on promises to boost ecoany post-election agreement with Chega.

Chega 'legitimate party' Chega's leader Andre Ventura, a former trainee priest who went on to become a television football commentator, has said his party is "as legitimate as the others".

Chega, which means "Enough", calls for tougher measures to fight corruption, stricter controls over immigration and chemical castration for some sex offenders.

The election was called after Socialist Prime Minister Antonio Costa, 62, unexpectedly resigned in November following an influence-peddling probe.



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"By order of the Court" Sd/- Paleti Srinivas & Appala Rames Advocates, Karimnagar & Godavarikhar Cell: 9440508955, 9348245424. varikhar

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24, Kila No. 3min (3-9), 2 (4-16), 1/3 (1-12), 10/min, (2-4) statusted in the revenue Estate of Village Dera Mandi, Teheill Mehrauli, New Delhi. Accordingly, Police complaint has already been lodged dated 07/05/2015 in 87.8-Crime Branch Delhi, Vide LR Number is: LR No: 35065/2015 and dated 24/08/2023 n P.S.-Crime Branch Delhi, Vide LR Number s: LR No: 3107/2023 the same is under mrestigation. And now Mr. Vikas Kumar Saini bee approached be kerv. Venue, BAMK for

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### THE HINDU

# MONEYVISE



# Why the secrecy around nomination?

COVERNOTE

Many investments do not reflect the name of the nominee on the document. Imagine the many situations that this can give rise to, none of them joyful

### K. Nitya Kalyani

We have got to a point where we have so many passwords that we can't remember them. We need password managers or at least, a little black book with passwords! Google, meanwhile, is force-moving us to a passkey regime involving fingerprint and face recognition promising to end memory and risk-related ills.

Gone are the days when the daughter-in-law of the family, after an exacting probation period no doubt, was given the key bunch signifying that she is the trustee of family jewels and finances

Today, we leave behind assets through various legal means like wills, settlement deeds, nominations and such. Many don't get organised enough to do it or die an untimely death, leaving family members grappling with the issue and, frequently, with each other.

This need not be so as such decisions can be recorded on the go as and when investments are made.

Even as there are moves to make us ware of nominations, there are

CREDIT CA

### Right strategy: Overall, responsible credit management is important to handle credit-card debt. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

# How to avoid falling into credit-card debt?

Spending too much can be risky, especially if you are unsure of future cash flows; you should be responsible with expenses by making conscious choices about purchases to avoid debt

### **MANAGING DEBT**

### **Rohit Chhibbar**

redit cards, if not used responsibly, can easily and quickly lead to a debt spiral. Not paying credit-card outstanding can become financially draining, as you keep accumulating interest on the balance as well as new purchases, making credit-card debt larger with each day.

While unforeseen emergencies can sometimes lead to unmanageable debt, in many cases overspending and irresponsible usage lead to such an insurmountable debt. Hence, it is important to manage credit cards wisely. Here are some ways to avoid credit-card debt.

#### Affordable nurchases

cially if you are unsure of

future cash flow. You

should be responsible with

expenses by making con-

scious choices about pur-

chases to avoid falling into

debt. Prioritise needs over

wants Avoid using the card

for impulse purchases or

Missed or late payments

are one of the primary rea-

sons why people fall into

credit-card debt. When

luxuries beyond means.

Pay bills on time



Missed or late payments are one of the primary reasons why people fall into credit-card debt; when you miss payments, issuers levy use a card offering more high interest rates, fees interest-free days

you miss payments, credit card issuers levy high interest rates and late fees, which can quickly accumulate. Furthermore, paying only the minimum amount due every month is also not advisable. It means carrying the balance month to month and accumulating interest charges on the balance as well as on any new purchases. Paying the entire balance each month on time is the best way to avoid credit card debt

When you have multiple cards with varied billing cycles, you can plan expenses to optimally use interest-free period;

Credit cards can offer an interest-free period of up to 50 days. When you have multiple cards with varied billing cycles, you can plan expenses to make optimum use of the interestfree period. The purchases you make at the beginning of the billing cycle would get more interest-free days as opposed to those made later. Hence, when you have to make a big-ticket purchase, you can use a card that offers more interwever, before opting for the option, check the interest rate, processing fee and related charges.

Limit number of cards Managing multiple accounts or payments could lead to missed payments and debt accumulation. Also, with each additional card, the temptation to overspend increases, eventually leading to the accumulation of charges and card debt. Also, there are higher chances of losing track of spends and payments. Therefore, limit the number of cards you have to what you can manage.

### **Review statement**

You should regularly check credit-card statements; it will help you understand spending pattern and the categories on which you spend the most. Sometimes, wrong debits can also raise card dues, which should be rectified at the earliest. Regularly reviewing your statements will help manage cards smartly and avoid falling in debt.

# Discerning side pocket

### THINKINVESTOR

In 2018, SEBI allowed bond funds to move corporate bonds to a distinct account if the bonds held by them did not pay timely interest or suffered credit downgrade; this account is 'side pocket'

### Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Recently, an asset management company (AMC) sent a notice to unit holders of one of its funds mentioning the fund was creating a provision for a segregated portfolio. Such a portfolio is referred to as a side pocket. In this article, we explain a side pocket. We also discuss other risks associated with bond funds and how bank deposits moderate these risks.

### Credit risk

To understand segregated portfolio, consider the risks bond funds are exposed to. Investment in government bonds exposes a fund to interest-rate and reinvestment risks. We will ignore reinvestment risk for this discussion. Interest-rate risk is the risk that bond prices will decline when the bond market expects interest rates to rise. In addition, investments in corporate bonds carry credit risk.

This risk is not just about defaults. It includes a rise in investors' perception of the bond-issuer's credit risk, which could lead to a decline in corporate bond prices. A perception that credit risk has risen can arise because of a failure by the company to pay interest on time or a credit-rating downgrade.

In 2018, SEBI allowed bond funds to move corporate bonds to a separate account if the bond held by the funds failed to pay interest on time or suffered a credit downgrade. This separate account is called a segregated portfolio. The concept comes from hedge funds that also invest in private equity. Being an illiquid investment, private equity is kept in a separate account called a side pocket while the main account carried all the liquid investments of the hedge fund. A segregated portfolio is a side pocket.

That said, it is important to understand that investing in bond funds are different from investing in bonds. If you buy a bond and hold it till maturity you will receive the bond's par value regardless of the interest-rate changes. That means direct investment in bonds does not carry interest-rate risk. Investment in bond funds do.

equivocal initiatives from authorities and we saw some of that in the previous instalments of CoverNote. This time around let us look at another dimension of the initiative that negates the intention.

### **Issues with nomination**

Almost all financial investments can be nominated and the nomination registered. Some, and this is puzzling, don't give you an acknowledgment or reference number for the nomination. Moreover, on the face of the instrument, say a passbook or bond, they may state whether a nomination has been made or not. Some even give a registration reference number.

Only some mention the name of the nominee.

There is logic in this because once printed, it reflects a validity, albeit of the status on that day. The point being a nomination can be changed, multiple times even.

#### Ascertaining nominee

Yet, imagine the runaround to ascertain the nominee of various investments after somebody has passed away.

Why can't the family member who is not nominated but is in possession of the instrument/ information simply suppress it so that, never mind that he isn't going to get the money, he can prevent someone else from getting it! Some centralisation of such a

record would be great. While we wait for simplification and standardisation to solve this pain point, guess we have to maintain a meticulously updated notebook listing investments/ assets and to whom each is nominated. Very retro! But if it works, it works!

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

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

Credit cards, with 40-

to-50-day interest-free pe-Avoid cash withdrawal riod, offer you the conve-Credit cards also give the nience of buying now and facility to withdraw cash from an ATM, up to a limit. paying later. However, However, cash withdrawhat comes with this benewals from credit cards can fit is the temptation to overspend. Spending too quickly lead to debt for two much can be risky, espereasons.

One, cash withdrawals do not qualify for the interest-free period, which means interest will be applicable from the day of withdrawal. And, two, when you withdraw cash, new transactions become ineligible for the interestfree period, which means you will incur interest charges with each purchase Cash withdrawals can quickly lead to debt accumulation and, hence,

must be avoided.

est-free days. This will help manage monthly cash flow with ease and avoid debt.

### **EMI facility**

Many credit cards offer Equated Monthly Instalment (EMI) options for big-ticket purchases. When facing difficulty making an expensive purchase, you can choose the EMI option and repay the amount in manageable instalments. Additionally, if you have already made such a purchase and are struggling to pay the credit-card bill, you can convert the outstanding balance into EMIs by contacting the card issuer. Opting for EMIs allows you to pay a larger chunk of debt in smaller and more affordable amounts. Ho-

Overall, responsible credit management is important to handle such debt.

By implementing practices such as creating a realistic budget, monitoring financial health and paying bills on time and smartly, you can effectively manage finances without debt burden. For those already struggling with debt, balance transfer at a lower interest rate or a personal loan can be an approach to clear the debt burden.

(The writer is Head of Credit Cards Business, Paisabazaar)

Rates and charges as on March 6

#### Conclusion

Bond funds generate returns from interest income and capital appreciation but carry interest-rate risk and reinvestment risk. Bond funds that invest in corporate bonds also carry credit risk.

Investing directly in government bonds eliminates interest-rate risk but exposes you to reinvestment risk. Cumulative fixed deposits and recurring deposits with banks do not have interest risk and reinvestment risk. They carry credit risk, but that risk is lower than what bond funds are exposed to.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Source: Paisabazaar.com

### **Personal Loans**

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 5.5%
State Bank of India	11.15-15.30	10,909-11,974	2,182-2,395	1.5% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.65 onwards	10,784 onwards	2,157 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	11.05-18.75	10,884-12,902	2,177-2,580	Up to 2% (min Rs 1,000 and max Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.75-14.75	10,809-11,829	2,162-2,366	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Punjab National Bank	10.40-17.95	10,772-12,683	2,144-2,537	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49 onwards	10,994 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.35-15.45	10,959-12,013	2,192-2,403	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.75-13.50	10,809-11,505	2,162-2,301	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	NIL
IDFC First Bank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 3.5%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	1% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Karnataka Bank	13.43	11,487	2,297	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500, Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.70 - 10.45	10,307 - 10,735	Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 10.60	10,319 - 10,772	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500
Bank of Baroda	8.75 - 12.10	10,319 - 11,148	Up to Rs 2,000
Canara Bank	8.70 - 12.70	10,307 - 11,300	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 5,000
Bank of India	8.75 - 10.75	10,319 - 10,809	NIL
UCO Bank	8.45 - 10.55	10,246 - 10,759	Nil
State Bank of India	8.75 - 9.80	10,319 - 10,554	Up to Rs 1,500
DBI Bank	8.80 - 9.60	10,331 - 10,525	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.70 - 13.00	10,307 - 11,377	NIL
ndian Overseas Bank**	8.85 - 12.00	10,343 - 11,122	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
CICI Bank	9.10 onwards	10,403 onwards	Rs 999 - Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.88 - 11.36	10,350 - 10,961	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000
Federal Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
South Indian Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
IDFC First Bank	9.50 onwards	10,501 onwards	Up to Rs 10,000
City Union Bank	14.35 - 14.85	11,725 - 11,586	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)



### NOT ANYTIME SOON

I will retire when I feel not good enough to play the sport: Rohit



Rohit Sharma opened up on his retirement plans following India's series win against England. "If one day if I wake up and feel I am not good enough to play the sport, I will just talk it out and let them know about it... I feel I am playing the best cricket now," Rohit Sharma said on Jio Cinema.

### INTROSPECTION NEEDED We just get lost with this term Bazball, says Hussain



Miffed at England's 4-1 shellacking by India, Nasser Hussain has advised the team's batters to work on individual performances and eschew their obsession with Bazball. "We just get lost with this term Bazball. The team, the management does not like the term and they need to look at their performances," Hussain wrote for Sky Sports.

### **BEING GENUINE**

Vaughan calls for a dose of honesty after England's series loss



Michael Vaughan fears not all England players have fully adapted to the existing team culture. "After a humbling series defeat in India, I believe that a dose of honesty is important for this England team... victories are what keep the fun bus on the road, not talking about how much fun you are having," Vaughan wrote for Daily Telegraph.

### **IPL BECKONS**

KKR ropes in Salt after Roy pulls out due to personal reasons

17



Kolkata Knight Riders has brought in Englishman Phil Salt as a replacement for compatriot Jason Roy who pulled out of the IPL due to personal reasons. This will be Salt's second season in the IPL. having played for Delhi Capitals last season. The 27-year-old has been bought at his reserve price of ₹ 1.5 crore.

India-England Test series in numbers

# **Capitals survive Richa's heroics** to snatch a thriller against RCB

The Delhi side rides on Jemimah and Capsey's 97-run partnership to post 181; the RCB wicketkeeper-batter's 29-ball 51 just fails to take her team past the finish line as Lanning & Co. prevail by a solitary run; Shreyanka's four-for goes in vain

### WPL SEASON 2

#### <u>Lavanya L</u> NEW DELHI

superior fielding effort and sheer resilience saw home side Delhi Capitals seal a heart-stopping one-run win against Royal Challengers Bangalore at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Sunday.

Needing 182 to win, RCB lost skipper Smriti Mandhana early. Ellyse Perry and Sophie Molineux's 80run stand consolidated the chase. A dramatic 11th over saw Alice Capsey first drop Perry at long off. Shikha Pandey and Taniya Bhatia made sure Capsey and DC didn't pay a heavy price, running out the Aussie allrounder off the last ball of the same over.

After Arundhati Reddy dismissed Molineux, the onus fell on Sophie Devine and Richa Ghosh's shoulders. With 40 needed off the last 18, Marizanne Kapp dismissed Devine off the first ball of the 18th. It boiled down to Richa with 17 needed off the last over. Richa creamed the ball over Jess Jonassen's head for a six. Disha Kasat was run out with no contribution to the scoreboard off the third ball after Richa's second-ball dot. After a nervy couple of runs, Richa got the maximum over the longest side of boundary to bring up her fifty. With two runs needed off



In her element: Jemimah's breezy half-century propelled Capitals to a challenging total. R.V. MOORTHY

**DELHI CAPITALS** 

(26b, 5x4), Shafali Verma c

1x6), Jemimah Rodrigues b

Shreyanka 58 (36b, 8x4, 1x6),

Alice Capsey b Shreyanka 48

(32b, 8x4), Marizanne Kapp (not

out) 12 (6b, 1x6), Jess Jonassen st

Molineux b Asha 23 (18b, 3x4,

SCOREBOARD

the last ball, Jonassen went full with Richa just managing to get the ball to backward point. Some sharp work from Jonassen saw her first smash the stumps at the non-strikers and do the same at the other end. Review showed Richa well short of the crease send-

**RCB BOWLING** Renuka 3-0-31-0, Shradda Meg Lanning Ibw b Shreyanka 29 3-0-26-0, Molineux 4-0-45-0, Asha 4-0-29-1, Shreyanka 4-0-26-4, Wareham 2-0-23-0.

**ROYAL CHALLENGERS** Smriti Mandhana Ibw b Capsey 5 (7b, 1x4), Sophie Molineux c

Jemimah b Arundhati 33 (30b,

Arundhati b Kapp 26 (16b, 1x4,

(29b, 4x4, 3x6), Georgia Wareham

2x6), Richa Ghosh run out 51

c Radha b Shikha 12 (6b, 2x4),

Shreyanka Patil (not out) 0 (0b);

Extras (w-4): 4; Total (for seven

Disha Kasat run out 0 (Ob),

7x4, 1x6), Sophie Devine c

5x4), Ellyse Perry run out 49 (32b,

wkts. in 20 overs): 180. **FALL OF WICKETS** 1-9 (Smriti, 1.3), 2-89 (Perry, 10.6), 3-93 (Molineux, 11.5), 4-142 (Devine, 17.1), 5-165 (Wareham,

18.6), 6-172 (Disha, 19.3), 7-180 (Richa, 19.6). CAPITALS BOWLING

# Test cricket is hard, you need each other to succeed: Dravid

Batting

Jaiswal

Crawley

Duckett

Rohit

Gill

#### Press Trust of India DHARAMSHALA

India coach Rahul Dravid underlined the importance of staying together and functioning as a unit to be triumphant in the tough world of Test cricket while delivering a motivational dressing room speech after India registered a memorable 4-1 series win over England.

"Series like this have to be earned and this is tough. Test cricket is hard at times. It's hard in terms of your skill. It's hard physically, as you've seen, it's hard mentally," Dravid said in a video posted on BCCI.tv.

"But it's great satisfaction at the end of it. The satisfaction that you get winning a series like this coming from one behind to be able to win four. I think it's just phenomenal," he added.

As key players like Virat Kohli and Mohammed Shami and K.L. Rahul, who played only the opener, were unavailable, India found heroes in some young names in the series. The Indian coach was a chuffed man after some of those young names emerged in flying colours is tied in with other neofrom the series. "For a lot ple's success.

Bowling Wkts BB Inn 10 26 5/51 36.11 Ashwin Hartley 9 22 7/62 68.36 Bumrah 8 19 6/45 32.78 19 Kuldeep 8 5/72 36.05 19 46.26 Jadeja 8 5/41 of you young guys, especially coming into this group, you are going to need each other to succeed. Whether you're a batsman or bowler or whatever you are, your success

Run

712

452

407

400

343

9

9

10

9

10

214\*

110

79

131

153

"All of you are invested in each other's success. And that's really important going forward. It's not about your success, but it's about how you can help other people succeed, will also help you which

Ave

89.00

56.50

40.70

44.44

34.30

00s/50

2/3

2/2

0/4

2/1

1/0

5W

2

1

1

ing DC into the playoffs.

Inconsolable Richa was inconsolable at the end of it all, with Meg

Lanning, Jemimah Rodrigues and others going up to comfort her. "This will sting but the sun will rise tomorrow and she'll get over it," Perry said after the game.

Earlier, Lanning opted to bat with the Capitals starting off cautiously.

Richa b Shreyanka 1 (2b), Radha Yadav (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-1, w-7, nb-1): 9; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 181. **FALL OF WICKETS** 1-54 (Shafali, 6.2 overs), 2-60 (Lanning, 7.4), 3-157 (Jemimah, 17.5), 4-176 (Capsey, 19.1), 5-179

(Jonassen, 19.4).

With the openers falling soon after the PowerPlay, Alice Capsey and Jemimah took over the baton and frustrated the RCB bowlers

no end, stitching a 97-run stand which helped the side to a competitive total. No total is safe at the

Kapp 4-0-30-1, Capsey 1-0-5-1, Shikha 4-0-34-1, Jonassen 3-0-39-0, Radha 4-0-36-0. Arundhati 3-0-24-1, Titas 1-0-12-0. Toss: Delhi Capitals. PoM: Jemimah Delhi Capitals won by one run. Monday's match: Guiarat Giants vs. UP Warriorz, 7.30 p.m.

team to defend one when the chasing side was going hammer and tongs, it was a fielding side as relentless Kotla, but if there was a as Capitals.

succeed," he said.

### Henry and Sears rattle Aussies

### Agence France-Presse CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand's Matt Henry (two for 37) and debutant Ben Sears (two for 22) cleaned out the top four

Australian batsmen on Sunday to leave the visitors on 77 for four and facing an uphill task in their chase of 279 to win the second Test in Christchurch.

The scores: New Zealand 162 & 372 in 108.2 overs (Rachin Ravindra 82, Daryl Mitchell 58, Kane Williamson 51, Scott Kuggelejin 44, Cummins 4/62, Lyon 3/49) vs Australia 256 & 77/4 in 24 overs (M. Marsh batting 27).

# Bagan brush past EBFC, climb to top of the table

### Arsenal stays at the top after Liverpool holds Man City

### Satwik-Chirag pair wins French Open title

### **ISL-10**

#### Amitabha Das Sharma KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan SG beat its traditional rival East Bengal by a comfortable 3-1 margin in the return derby of ISL at the Salt Lake Stadium on Sunday, to reach the top of the current standings with 36 points from 17 matches.

East Bengal regretted captain Cleiton Silva's inability to score from the spot in the 14th minute as Bagan goalkeeper Vishal Kaith judged it right to keep EBFC waiting for the break.

Bagan turned things around on its side from this point and doubled its resolve to find the lead in the 27th minute when Jason Cummings tapped home a rebound following a Dimitri Petratos effort that was blocked by the EBFC custo-



Bragging rights retained: East Bengal could not match Mohun Bagan's might. FOCUS SPORTS/ISL

match for Bagan even

though EBFC made a va-

liant effort after the break

and pulled one back

through Saul Crespo, who

scored a world-class goal in

East Bengal 1 (Saul Crespo 53)

lost to Mohun Bagan SG 3 (Jason

Cummings 27, Liston Colaco 37,

Dimitri Petratos 45+3-pen

the 53rd minute.

The result:

dian Prabhsukhan Gill. Bagan maintained the intensity of the attacks and doubled the lead in the 37th minute when Petratos set up Liston Colaco with a nice pass for the latter to slot home.

MBSG made it 3-0 from an injury-time penalty that was converted by Petratos himself.

This virtually sealed the

#### Agence France-Presse LIVERPOOL

A thrilling draw at Anfield between Liverpool and Manchester City on Sunday means that Arsenal stays on top of the Premier League after Kai Havertz spared Aaron Ramsdale's blushes with a crucial late strike in Saturday's 2-1 win against Brentford.

John Stones had given City the lead in the first half before Alexis Mac Allister pulled Liverpool level from the spot in the second half. The result leaves Arsenal and Liverpool on 64 points with the Gunners ahead on goal difference. City is third on 63.

Mikel Arteta's side was just minutes away from a damaging draw after Gunners keeper Ramsdale gifted an equaliser to Yoane Wissa. Declan Rice put Arsenal ahead early in the first half, but Ramsdale waited too long to clear just



Bullet header: Havertz nods home Arsenal's winner. GETTY IMAGES

before the interval and Wissa took advantage to block the ball into the net.

Havertz ensured Arsenal would not miss its chance to climb into first place with a bullet header.

The results: Premier League: Aston Villa 0 lost to Tottenham 4 (Maddison 50, Johnson 53, Son 90+1, Werner 90+4); Brighton 1 (Omobamidele 29-og) bt Nottingham Forest 0; West Ham 2 (Paqueta 46, Ings 90+1) drew with Burnley 2 (Fofana 11,

Mavropanos 45+1-og); Liverpool 1 (Mac Allister 50-pen) drew with Man City 1 (Stones 23).

Serie A:AC Milan 1 (Pulisic 40) bt Empoli 0.

#### **On Saturday: Premier League:** Arsenal 2 (Rice 19, Havertz 86) bt Brentford 1 (Wissa 45+4).

LaLiga: Girona 2 (Portu 13, Savinho 87) bt Osasuna 0; Granada 2 (Uzuni 21-pen, 45+3) lost to Real Sociedad 3 (Umar 33, Le Normand 80, Silva 85); Cadiz 2 (Juanmi 24, 64) bt Atletico Madrid 0. Serie A: Bologna 0 lost to Inter Milan 1 (Bisseck 37))



Easing past: Satwiksairaj and Chirag beat Chinese Taipei's Lee and Yang in the summit clash. FILE PHOTO

#### BADMINTON

### Press Trust of India PARIS

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty continued their love affair with Paris, lifting the French Open badminton crown for the second time with a dominating straight game win over Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan in the men's doubles final here on Sunday.

The World No. 1 Indian pair had finished runnersup in the French Open in 2019 before winning the title in 2022.

The Asian Games champions outwitted Lee and Yang 21-11, 21-17 in 37 minutes to regain the Super 750 tournament crown and also win their first triumph.

The Indian duo had beaten South Korea's Seo Seung Jae and Kang Min Hyuk 21-13, 21-16 in the semifinals on Saturday.

Sport

### BRIDE

18



### Parantap and Kruthik put Karnataka on top against UP

Karnataka made a strong start to its Col. C.K. Nayudu (U-23) Trophy final against Uttar Pradesh, raking up 325 runs for the loss of five wickets on day one in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The scores: Karnataka 325 for five in 90 overs (MacNeil H. Noronha 68, Prakar Chaturvedi 33, K.V. Aneesh 43, Yashovardhan Parantap 84 batting, Kruthik Krishna 58 batting) vs. Uttar Pradesh.

### Bangladesh downs India, wins SAFF U-16 Women's C'ship

India fell short of a title conquest, losing to Bangladesh 2-3 in the penalty shoot-out during the SAFF U-16 Women's Championship final in Kathmandu on Sunday. Both the teams were tied at 1-1 after the regulation time. Anushka Kumari found the net in the fourth minute for India. Shveta Rani's own goal in the 70th helped Bangladesh get back into the game and eventually clinch the crown.

### Rubina and Manish make do with mixed team pistol silver

Rubina Francis and Manish Narwal were beaten to the gold 16-12 by the Chinese duo of Li Min and Yang Chao in the P6 mixed team air pistol event of the WSPS Para shooting World Cup at the Dr. Karni Singh Range in New Delhi on Sunday.

The results: P6 mixed team air pistol: 1. China (Li Min, Yang Chao) 16 (562); 2. India (Rubina Francis, Manish Narwal) 12 (570 EWR); 3. India-2 (Bhakti Sharma, Rudransh Khandelwal) 16 (559).

R10 mixed team air rifle: 1. China (Zhong Yixin, Dong Chao) 16 (627.9 WR); 2. India-2 (Mona Agarwal, Aadithya Giri) 4 (622.9); 3. Ukraine (Iryna Shchetnik, Andrii Doroshenko) 16 (622.30); 4. India (Avani Lekhara, Swaroop Unhalkar) 4 (619.5). R11 mixed team air rifle: 1. Brazil (Jessica Michalack, Bruno Kiefer) 16 (622.7); 2. USA (Madison Champion, Ben Hays) 6 (627.4); 3. India (Pavani Banoth, Satya Rayala) 17 (601.0).

### LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: (final), day 2, Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m. PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 & 8.30 p.m. WPL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m. ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m. ague: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m (Tuesday) LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

# Shardul's counter-attack bails Mumbai out of troubled waters against Vidarbha

The hosts lose six wickets for 30 runs after a solid opening stand; the all-rounder's 75 helps them to 224 before the visitors slide to 31 for three

### **RANJI TROPHY**

### Amol Karhadkar MUMBAI

he venue may have changed. So did the opposition. But the trend of Mumbai's batting continued in the Ranji Trophy final against Vidarbha. The top-six caved in yet again before the lower order - led by the fearless Shardul Thakur - gave respectability to the total on a day dominated by bowlers. Had it not been Shardul's counter-attacking 75,

Mumbai would have struggled to put on 224 after being inserted in to bat on Day One at the Wankhede Stadium. Him and Dhawal Kulkarni, featuring in his last match for Mumbai as injured Mohit Avasthi's replacement, then left Vidarbha reeling at 31 for three at stumps.

The Mumbai essay was a remarkable session of two stints of batters' domination on either side of bowling supremacy. Prithvi Shaw's trademark coverdrives off Umesh Yadav

flicks through midwicket were a treat to the eyes as the Sunday crowd built up in anticipation of a runfeast. Yash Thakur, the first-change pacer, struck

a collapse as Vidarbha picked six for 30 to leave

Mumbai reeling at 111 for six from 81 for no loss.

Harsh Dubey - the leftarm spinner who was brought in place of Akshay Wakhare - struck gold in a long spell having got rid of Prithvi Shaw , Musheer Khan and captain Ajinkya Rahane.

Umesh Yadav found Shreyas Iyer in no-man's land at the crease to be caught-behind. In came Shardul and took the bowlers head on. Tushar Deshpande hung around as the duo's 42-run association helped Mumbai cross the 200-run mark.

The scores: Mumbai – 1st innings: Prithvi Shaw b Dubey 46 (63b, 5x4), Bhupen Lalwani c Wadkar b Thakur 37 (64b, 4x4), Musheer Khan Ibw b Dubey 6 (12b, 1x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Shorey b Dubey 7 (35b), Shreyas lyer c Karun b Umesh 7 (15b, 1x4), Hardik Tamore c Wadkar b Thakare 5 (41b), Shams Mulani lbw b Thakur 13 (37b, 1x6),

#### 19.6 overs), 2-89 (Shaw, 22.2), 3-92 (Musheer, 24.2), 4-99 (Shreyas, 27.5), 5-111 (Tamore, 37.4), 6-111 (Rahane, 38.3), 7-154 (Shams, 47.4), 8-176 (Kotian, 51.4), 9-218 (Deshpande, 62.1). Vidarbha bowling: Umesh 13.3-2-43-2, Thakare 16-6-36-1, Dubey 20-3-62-3, Thakur 11-2-54-3, Sarvate 4-0-25-0. Vidarbha — 1st innings: Atharva Taide (batting) 21 (46b, 2x4), Dhruv Shorey Ibw b Shardul 0 (3b), Aman Mokhade c Tamore b Kulkarni 8 (15b, 2x4), Karun Nair c Tamore b Kulkarni 0 (12b), Aditya Thakare (batting) 0 (4b); Extras (nb-2): 2; Total (for three wkts. in 13 overs): 31. Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Shorey, 2.3), 2-20 (Mokhade, 7.2), 3-24 (Karun, 11.3). Mumbai bowling: Shardul 5-0-14-1, Kulkarni 6-2-9-2,

Shardul Thakur c Dubey b Umesh

75 (69b, 8x4, 3x6), Tanush Kotian

c Wadkar b Thakur 8 (12b. 1x4).

Tushar Deshpande run out 14

out) 0 (7b); Extras (b-2, lb-2,

(34b, 2x4), Dhawal Kulkarni (not

nb-2): 6; Total (in 64.3 overs): 224.

Fall of wickets: 1-81 (Lalwani,

Deshpande 2-0-8-0. Toss: Vidarbha.

Rajnigandha

Achievers

win Sawai

Man Singh

Gold Vase

Sports Bureau

### 'We are not happy with the total we have put on board'

### Amol Karhadkar MUMBAI

Just like he came hard at the Vidarbha bowlers with the willow, Shardul Thakur minced no words at the Mumbai specialist batters after the first day's play of the Ranji Trophy final.

"We are not happy with the total that we have put on board. Certainly with the way we started of, if the top order had applied themselves, had the right attitude and approach, we could have reached 350 or even 370 with five or six wickets down at the end of the day's play," Shardul said.

From 81 for no loss, Mumbai were reduced to

ball boundary-less drought before Shardul's first four, Mumbai lost captain Ajinkya Rahane and Shreyas Iver, among others.

While Rahane has struggled right through the season with the willow, Shreyas has looked jittery ever since being excluded from the BCCI's central contracts list. Shardul stood right behind the duo.

### **Rough patch**

"It's just a rough patch for them and in a rough patch, nothing goes your way," Shardul said, adding that the duo has been "absolute match winners for Mumbai and India". "It's time to support them rather than criticizing them They are

of thinking towards their batting. And they both of them are absolutely team players."

While he was a tad disappointed at losing out on scoring a second hundred on a trot, Shardul acknowledged veteran coach Vilas Godbole for a batting tip offered ahead of the last week's semifinal.

"The other day at BKC, I was speaking to Vilas Godbole sir and he just made out a couple of fine points at my batting. He said at times you tend to not flex your knees and try to hit **Sports Bureau** the ball. He said the mindset should be to hit the ball Second seed Dalila Jakubut he said you should flex povic beat Yeonwoo Ku 6-1, your knees and try to go to-6-2 in the final of the Maha wards the ball. I did it in Uria \$25,000 ITF women's the last two games and I am glad it has come off, he said.

## Dalila beats Ku for singles title



Champion Dalila and Ku in Nagpur on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It was a double crown for the 32-year-old Dalila who had won her 23rd doubles title with Irina Maria Bara of Romania.

Dalila who converted seven of 10 break points. The champion collected ₹3 25 000 35 WTA

victory over Delta Polo in the final of the Sawai Man Singh Gold Vase 10-goal polo tournament at the Jaipur polo ground here on Sunday. Hurr Ali was declared the 'most valuable player'. The next event will be the 14-goal Northern India Championship at the Jaipur Polo ground from Wednesday.

Hurr Ali and Chris Macken-

zie scored five goals bet-

ween them and guided Raj-

nigandha Achievers to a 7-4

The results (final): Rajnigandha



111 for six before Shardul came to the rescue with a 69-ball 75. During an 108-

extremely hard workers. They put in a lot of efforts towards their batting, a lot

tennis tournament at the MSLTA Academy, Nagpur, on Sunday.

TENNIS

points. The runner-up got

₹1,75,000 and 22 points.

Achievers 7 (Hurr Ali 3, Chris Mackenzie 2, Dhruvpal Godara, Savir Mehraj Godara) bt Delta Polo (Santiago Marambio 4).

### Heroes knock out Blitz

### **PVL**

#### Sports Bureau CHENNAI

Calicut Heroes crushed Chennai Blitz 15-13, 15-13, 15-12 in their final league match of the Ru Pay-Prime Volleyball League at the Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Sunday.

Heroes thus topped the table with 12 points with a better set difference (13) and will now get an extra two points in the Super 5s beginning on Monday. Mumbai Meteors booked the final fifth spot in the Super 5.

Setter Mohan Ukkrapandian and attacker Jerome Vinith were the key players instrumental in knocking out Chennai, which failed miserably when it came to the crunch.

Calicut had players who delivered at the death. In the first set, it was skipper Jerome, and in the second it was Vikas Maan. Vikas' jump smash at 14-12 brooked no response.

Delhi Toofans beat Ahmedabad Defenders 15-11, 16-14, 15-11 to finish second in the league. Delhi will get one point in the Super 5s.

Teams qualified for Super 5s: 1. Calicut Heroes, 2. Delhi Toofans, 3. Ahmedabad Defenders, 4. Bengaluru Torpedoes, 5. Mumbai Meteors.

### Steeple-chaser Ekta breaks junior national record

### ATHLETICS

### Sports Bureau

After taking the 5000m gold comfortably in the morning, Madhya Pradesh's Ekta Pradeep Dey broke the women's 3000m steeple chase record by a massive 19 seconds on the concluding evening of the 22nd National Federation Cup junior (under-20) athletics championships in Lucknow on Sunday.

That makes the 18-yearold, clocked who 10:10.08s, the second-fastest in the world in the under-20 age group this year, behind Kenyan Sharon Chepkemoi (10:07.67s).

Incidentally, Ekta had clocked a mediocre 11:04.68 while finishing sixth in the Junior Nationals in Coimbatore in November 2023.

Meanwhile, UP's Sharuk Khan broke his own meet record in the men's 3000m steeple chase.

The results (winners only): Men: 200m: Dondapati Mrutyam (Odi) 21.59s. 800M: Vinod Kumar Banoth (Tel) 1:51.30s. 5000M: Vinod Singh (MP) 14:22.32s. 400m hurdles: Murad Sirman (Guj) 52.31s. 3000M steeple chase: Sharuk Khan (UP)

### AFI's plans to excel in 2036 **Olympics**

M. R. Praveen Chandran THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI)'s brainstorming meeting to formulate a strategic plan for excelling in the 2036 Olympics identified core areas which needed attention and the necessity to create a friendly ecosystem for the athletes, coaches and other stakeholders.

The AFI has decided to streamline the calendar to ensure that the athletes will have enough domestic competitions so that they can peak at the right time before major competitions. The AFI will also see that the athletes get adequate foreign exposure.

Speaking to The Hindu after the conclusion of the five-day meeting, the AFI president Adille Sumariwala said there will be two point strategy starting with the junior programme mainly the National Interdistrict Junior Athletic Meet (NIDJAM) and the Elite programme.

The AFI has decided to decentralise the national camps after the Paris Olympics and at the same time will allow institutions like Railways, Army, Navy, Police and academies run by JSW and Reliance Foundation to conduct camps at their respective centres.

## A fantastic weekend, says Verstappen



No starting trouble here: Verstappen backed up his Bahrain triumph with a win in Saudi. GETTY IMAGES

clerc said.

was seventh for Ferrari in

his first F1 race, one day af-

ter being called up as an

emergency replacement

for Carlos Sainz Jr., who

needed an operation to

for McLaren, with Aston

Martin's Fernando Alonso

fifth and George Russell

sixth for Mercedes. Behind

Bearman in seventh, McLa-

ren's Lando Norris held off

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton

in a fight for eighth place.

Nico Hulkenberg was 10th

for Haas' first point in F1

since the Singapore GP in

September.

Oscar Piastri took fourth

treat appendicitis.

### SAUDI ARABIAN GP

### Associated Press JEDDAH

Max Verstappen stayed firmly on course for another season of dominance in Formula One on Saturday by winning the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix.

Even after just two races, and despite turmoil at Red Bull, Verstappen seems in near-total control on the track as he aims for a fourth consecutive title this year.

"A fantastic weekend for the whole team and also for myself. I felt really good with the car," Verstappen said.

The Dutch driver won easily ahead of his teammate Sergio Perez. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was third

### Sehrawat, Kalkal book tickets; Ravi, **Bajrang tumble out**

### WRESTLING

### Sports Bureau KOLKATA

Promising wrestlers Asian champion Aman Sehrawat (57kg) and National champion Sujeet Kalkal (65kg) won their respective freestyle weight classes even as Tokyo Olympic silver medallist Ravi Dahiya and race because Red Bull was bronze medalist Bajrang a bit too quick and behind Punia failed to make the Inwe had a bit of a gap, but dian team in the selection we took the maximum trials held for the upcompoints we could today," Leing Asian championships and Asian Olympic Games Eighteen-year-old Britqualifiers at Sonipat on ish driver Oliver Bearman Sunday.

Sehrawat, who earlier

defeated Ravi 14-13 in a

thrilling round robin con-

test, recorded a convincing

10-0 win over Udit for the

top spot. Ravi also lost 10-8

to Udit.

Convincing win

mittee's guidelines, the winner of the trials in the Olympic weight categories will represent India in upcoming Olympic qualifiers including the Asian Olvmpic qualifier (April 19-21) and World Olympic qualifier (May 9-12).

The winners in non-Olympic weight categories and the second-placed wrestlers in Olympic weight categories at the trials will represent the country in the Asian championships (April 11-16) in Bishkek.

The squad: Men: Freestyle: Olympic weights: 57kg: 1. Aman Sehrawat, 2. Udit; 65kg: 1. Sujeet Kalkal, 2. Rohit Kumar; 74kg: 1. Jaideep, 2. Yash Tushir; 86kg: 1. Deepak Punia, 2. Sandeep Singh; 97kg: 1. Deepak Nehra, 2. Vicky; 125kg: 1. Sumit Malik, 2, Anirudh,

Non-Olympic weights: 61kg: Aakash Dahiya; 70kg: Abhimanyou; 79kg: Parvinder; 92kg: Vinay.

### Greco Roman: Olympic

Kalkal got past Rohit Kuweights: 60kg: 1. Sumeet, 2. mar 10-0. Earlier, Rohit Pravesh Kumar; 67kg: 1. Ashu, 2. posted a convincing 9-1 vic-Vinayak Patil; 77kg: 1. Vikash, 2. tory over Bajrang, who Sajjan; 87kg: 1. Sunil Kumar, 2. managed to overcome Ra-Ajay; 97kg: 1. Nitesh, 2. Narinder vinder 3-3 via criteria. Cheema; 130kg: 1. Naveen, 2. Former Worlds silver

Mehar Singh. medallist Deepak Punia Non-Olympic weights: 55kg: (86kg) booked his place in Arjun Halakurki; 63kg: Umesh; the Olympic qualifiers. 72kg: Ankit Gulia; 82kg: Rohit As per the ad-hoc com-Dahiya.

Ekta Dey

8:57.90s MR, OR 9:05.42. High jump: R. Castro Raj (TN) 1.95m. Triple jump: Bhupendra Singh Bisht (Ukd) 15.08m. Javelin throw: Dipanshu Sharma (UP) 68.89m Women: 200m: Dodla Sai

Sangeetha (Tel) 24.58s. 800m: Laxita Vinod Sandilea (Guj) 2:09.01s. 5000M: Ekta Pradeep Dey (MP) 17:08.81s. 400M hurdles: Shreeva Raiesh (Kar) 59.30s MR, OR 1:00.36s, 3000M steeple chase: Ekta Pradeep Dey (MP) 10:10.08s NR, OR 10:29.50s. Triple jump: Rishika Aswathi (UP) 12.40m. Javelin throw: Deepika (Har) 48.71m. Shot put: Tamanna (Har) 14.56m Heptathlon: Pavana Nagaraj (Kar) 5076 pts.



Sport

# Don't go silent into that good night, Harmanpreet

Rage does funny things to sportspeople — it can obliterate but can just as easily lead to performances of the highest quality; Harmanpreet tapped into the latter when she stormed the Kotla with her 48-ball 95 in the Women's Premier League



Lavanya Lakshminarayanan

back to the striker's end but Healy was in the way. In an attempt to avert a bit, she and Nat Sciver-Brunt) saw Harmanpreet make her way to the crease. Giants slowe down the MI tempo and made Yastika and Harmanpreet work for every single run. The skipper began slowly, working her way into the feel of the pitch and the kind of spaces she could pick out. By the end of the 14th over, MI needed a difficult 91 runs off 36 balls. The MI dugout had a few worried faces. Jhulan Goswami was seated in the rear row of the dugout, sinking into her seat just a little as the asking rate touched 15 an over. If you're a Chronicles of Narnia fan, the wise words of Aslan, the anthropomorphized lion in the series, would perfectly fit that moment in hindsight. "You doubt your value. Don't run from who you are," Aslan told little Lucy. Harmanpreet too decided to pay heed. She tapped into the purest form of that rage and what it could do if directed inwards.

seen many instances when Harmanpreet THE GIST has slammed the bat onto the pitch.

and the second

ver her 15-year-long (and counting) international career, rage is an emotion that has come to be associated with India captain Harmanpreet Kaur. Remember that unbeaten 171 blitzkrieg against Australia in the 2017 ODI World Cup semifinal in Derby?

When she brought up her century with a tense double, a mix-up with Deepti Sharma almost cost India a wicket. After diving to safety, it was not a century celebration one got to see. Instead, Harmanpreet hurled her helmet away and unleashed an angry tirade on Deepti.

That fire doused quickly enough, towards her partner at least, but she kept the flame fanned to decimate the bowling side, the best team in the world, to finish with an innings that saw 20 fours and seven sixes. That knock was a slap in the face to critics of Indian batting pedigree who for long, and perhaps rightly so, believed power hitting was not an Indian ability.

These embers of aggression surfaced many times over the next few years, more so after the captain's armband passed on to her. In 2023, during the three-match ODI series against Bangladesh, India drew the final game which Harmanpreet seemed to attribute to umpires favouring the host.

In an incident that brought back memories of a certain Shakib Al Hasan, Harmanpreet smashed the stumps when she was adjudged out on 14, visibly furious with the decision. During the presentation ceremony after, that seething rage came out as heavy-handed sarcasm as she reportedly called the umpires to join her and opponent captain Nigar Sultana Joty for the photo-op. This incident earned her a two-match ban, which led to the batter featuring only in the final of the Asian Games, which India ultimately won.

Australia brings out the aggressive best of Harmanpreet as captain Alyssa Healy would discover during the one-off Test in Wankhede last year. The visitor was gaining ground having erased India's 187-run first innings lead. Harmanpreet, an intelligent offie, brought herself on and took out Tahlia McGrath in her first over. She then went after Healy, who was looking set to impose herself.

A fuller ball on the stumps was hit back to her. Harmanpreet rocketed the ball

deflected the incoming ball which ran down deep third for four, leaving invisible fumes raging behind the India captain.

The duo exchanged words, Harmanpreet claimed field obstruction but this was not validated. She got her wicket though, off the very next delivery. A rattled Healy copped a length ball onto her pads in trying to sweep and up went the umpire's finger. Three reds in the review, but Harmanpreet's eyes were a deeper scarlet.

#### High benchmark

Saturday's Women's Premier League fixture between Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Giants gave those watching another glimpse of this shade of Harmanpreet, that vintage angry young Punjaban, ready to pump up her teammates but also give them a mouthful should they be anything less than the best versions of themselves.

Saika Ishaque bore the brunt of Harmanpreet's wrath early on. With a few misfields and a missed potential run out where she made a mess of the collection, she turned to Harmanpreet who shot expletives her way and then looked away just as quickly, the gravity of the skipper's ire dawning on her. MI had not been successful in keeping Beth Mooney and Dayalan Hemalatha quiet (the pair stitched a 12t-run stand) but had pulled things back enough to deny the Giants the joy of a 200-plus score.

Harmanpreet quietly walked back to the dugout. A few minutes later, Yastika Bhatia and Hayley Matthews made their way out to begin MI's chase. Harmanpreet was spotted quickly getting what looked like a cupcake down. Ashleigh Gardner's first delivery snuck past the gap between the stumps and a left-leaning Mooney to run away for four. Seconds later, there's Harmanpreet pacing about the dugout, padded, gloved and raring to go.

This brought back memories of that bullish knock in England nearly seven years ago.

"A day before I had goosebumps, I felt that something big was coming my way and I had to grab it. That day, I wasn't hungry or thirsty. I was only waiting for my chance to bat so I could go and express myself," she once said about the knock.

After a fluent start from Matthews and Yastika, two quick dismissals (of Matthews

#### Beast mode

Her wagon wheel is for all to see. From 20 runs off 21 balls until that point, she finished unbeaten with a 48-ball 95. There was an element of luck too. Phoebe Litchfield dropped a sitter, giving Harmanpreet a lifeline when she was on 40. Blood rushed into the cheeks of the young Australian as she realised who she had put down. And boy, would Harmanpreet go on to make her pay.

"Melie (Amelia Kerr) said she (Harmanpreet) had that look in her eye when she was battling with her at the end. She just knew what she needed to do, what she wanted to do, and executed it," Sciver-Brunt would reveal at the post-match press conference.

Over 10,000 people were there to bear testimony to a knock that paid homage to the Harmanpreet of old. No creative field setting, no on spot field changes, not even the bizarre match interruption when the sprinklers came on could stop her. An eight-minute delay followed with the super sopper getting to work. MI at that stage needed 23 off 12.

"Jhulan (Goswami, MI's bowling coach) was very annoyed. We were worried it would break the momentum since we just had two to three good overs. Melie told us that Harman was happy to get a break and get going. Even then, she was so focussed," Sciver-Brunt added.

During the course of the WPL, we've

chided herself for a loose shot or an opportunity lost. In times like that, it helps to have a partner who readily sets about executing your gameplan.

In a video by the league, Jhulan and Harmanpreet broke down the chase and the latter underlined Kerr's role in the storm that was to follow.

"The first priority was to rotate the strike to get a feel of the pitch. When Amelia joined me, we were just counting the number of sixes we needed. At that stage, we had 24 balls and needed at least nine sixes from them. Even if we missed one, we had more deliveries to try," Harmanpreet explained.

Kerr managed a mix of both. She worked on bringing Harmanpreet back on strike, keeping the conversation going in the middle and even breached the fence when she got a chance to, smacking Shabnam Shakil over deep square leg for six.

Giants' batters had eased apprehensions about the challenge the wicket would pose. Harmanpreet's mentality handled the rest. As that video concluded, Jhulan said, "We still have a long way to go and for Mumbai Indians to win, we need more innings like this. "I know, I know," Harman responded softly as she went in to hug Jhulan, well aware of the weight on her shoulders.

"Harman's different on game day and when it's not. When we're training or around the hotel, she's very relaxed, very involved with the group, very social. Come game day and she's a lot more focused and probably has just a bit more tunnel vision on what the task is.

"She's not often flustered about things. If she hasn't got off to a quick start, we're on the sidelines saying, "Ooh, could you go strike a bit more..." but as we saw today, she doesn't need to. I like to voice things when I bat, but she keeps to herself," Sciver-Brunt revealed.

Harmanpreet is a flawed hero and a private one. You won't see sides she doesn't want to show you. You won't even see her dissect her efforts in fine detail. Much of the brilliance of Harmanpreet Kaur is between her ears and the only expression of it that we are allowed to partake in is when her bat does the talking. Lucky are those who got to be part of that unforgettable conversation at the Kotla.

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Harmanpreet's knock helped MI record the highest chase in WPL's short history

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The 91 runs Mumbai Indians chased down in the last six overs are the most any team has done successfully in the final six overs (15-20) of a women's T20

#### .

Harmanpreet's unbeaten knock overtook Shafali Verma's 84 against Royal Challengers in 2023 as the highest score by an Indian in the WPL

# SCIENCE

# Scientists genetically modify 'sexual' fruit fly to reproduce asexually

The findings have implications to approaches to control insect pests by releasing large numbers of males sterilised by irradiation or males bearing genomes edited to derail progeny development, and thus reduce progeny numbers

### D.P. Kasbekar

he fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*) has been among the favourite organisms of genetics researchers for more than a hundred years. Many years of intense research with these diminutive creatures have led to many breakthroughs in our understanding of biology and evolution.

Recently, researchers from Cambridge University and the California Institute of Technology reported yet another such breakthrough. They were able to 'engineer' a sexually reproducing fruit-fly species to reproduce asexually, demonstrating the profound biological consequences of relatively minor genetic manipulation. The first study that reported this significant feat was published in July 2023; a follow-up study to it was published in the February 2024 issue of *Heredity*.

#### The Drosophila family

How was an organism that usually reproduces sexually turned into one that could reproduce asexually?

Fatherless reproduction is known as parthenogenesis. Earlier, other researchers had collected fruit for blo encourses from diverse.

fruit-fly-like specimens from diverse geographies and compared them in different ways with the canonical specimen and with each other, to gauge the extent of their natural diversity. The collection represented more than 1,600 *Drosophila* species.

Of these, one species, *Drosophila mangebeirai*, was found to consist only of females. The eggs produced by isolated females developed directly into female progeny without having to be fertilised by sperm from a male.

Many species (about 76%) that ordinarily reproduce sexually were found to also hatch a small fraction of eggs laid by isolated virgin females into larvae, a smaller fraction of which went on to develop into adults. The name for such species - i.e. which are arbitrarily parthenogenetic a small fraction of the time - is facultatively parthenogenetic. One of them was *Drosophila mercatorum*.

The canonical species used in research, *Drosophila melanogaster*, is however strictly sexual.

that would trigger parthenogenesis. RNA sequencing is a technique that can quantitatively estimate the level to which a gene is expressed. Using this technique, the researchers identified 44 genes in *D. mercatorum* eggs that were expressed differently when they were parthenogenetic versus when they weren't.

The DNA is a ladder-like molecule. Its two rails, or strands, are made of a long series of alternating units of phosphate molecules and the sugar deoxyribose molecules. Each sugar unit is attached to one of the four chemical bases: adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G), and thymine (T). The As and Cs on one strand link with the Ts and Gs on the other to form the rungs, or base-pairs, that hold the strands together.

The Drosophila melanogaster genome has 200,000,000 base-pairs distributed across four DNA molecules. Each molecule is the core of a chromosome. The four chromosomes together make up the genome. In all, this genome encodes about 13,600 genes.

On the other hand, the RNA molecule is comb-like. Its spine (strand) is made of alternating units of phosphate and sugar ribose molecules. Each sugar unit is attached to one of the four bases: A, C, G, and uridine (U), which make up the comb's tines. A gene is a segment of a few thousand base-pairs of the DNA molecule. The sequence of bases on one of its strands tells every cell the sequence of amino acids it needs to string together to make a protein. To do this, the cell copies the sequence of As, Ts, Cs, and Gs in the



The fruit fly has been among the favourite organisms of genetics researchers for more than a hundred years. MACROGIANTS (CC BY-SA 4.0)

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DNA's protein-coding strand to a sequence of Us, As, Gs, and Cs, respectively, to form the RNA. The RNA is then sent to structures called ribosomes, which assemble the encoded protein.

### Engineering asexual reproduction

The 44 genes whose expression differed between eggs of parthenogenetic and sexually-reproducing D. mercatorum strains had counterparts in the D. melanogaster genome. The researchers over- or under-expressed the counterparts to the levels in the D. mercatorum parthenogenetic eggs. In particular, they found that if the genome of a D. melanogaster specimen was modified to have two extra copies of the polo gene, an extra copy of the Myc gene, and a lower expression of the Desat2 gene, 1.4% of the specimen's e were parthenogenetic and whose offspring survived to adulthood. The researchers also found that these parthenogenetically produced adult flies could also mate with male flies and produce progeny. So a strictly sexually reproducing fly was made facultatively parthenogenetic.

### The polar bodies

A fly receives two sets of chromosomes. one from each parent. It transmits only one chromosome of each pair to its egg or sperm. Say a sperm has fertilised an egg. This egg will now have five sets of the genome: one in the egg's nucleus (maternal pronucleus), another in the nucleus from the sperm (paternal pronucleus), and three more nuclei called polar bodies that are sequestered in the egg's periphery. The polar bodies are a by-product of the mechanism by which the fly transmits only one chromosome of each pair to the egg nucleus. Normally, the male and female pronuclei fuse to form the progeny nucleus, and the polar bodies are lost. If an egg is unfertilised, however, it lacks the male pronucleus and the female pronucleus is unable to initiate embryonic development on its own.

Altering the protein levels of *polo*, *Myc* and *Desat2* likely rendered polar-body sequestration and disposal inefficient. This makes one or more polar bodies available to substitute for the missing male pronucleus and start embryonic development.

These findings have implications to approaches to control insect pests by releasing large numbers of males sterilised by irradiation or males bearing genomes edited to derail progeny development, and thus reduce progeny numbers. Unwittingly, this approach will also select for facultatively parthenogenetic individuals, thus limiting its long-term effectiveness. (D.P. Kasbekar is a retired scientist.)

### THE GIST

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#### The genes for parthenogenesis

The researchers set themselves two goals. First, to identify the genes that allow unfertilised *Drosophila mercatorum* eggs to complete parthenogenetic development. Second, to modify the *Drosophila melanogaster* genome to express the corresponding genes in a way

### **BIG SHOT**



The French League for Birds has estimated that more than 500 common guillemots – seabirds related to penguins and puffins – have been found dead along the French Atlantic coast since the year began. Guillemot beachings happen regularly in winter but not to the scale of the past weeks. Scientists say the birds likely died from exhaustion due to difficult conditions at sea. REUTERS

### WHAT IS IT?

### Connectome: the map of the brain

### Arkatapa Basu

Just like the saying 'many drops make an ocean', billions of neurons make up the human brain, which keeps us alive and kicking. These neurons interact with each other, and these connections allow us to perform complex activities and synthesise complicated ideas. Scientists have made sense of the way this neural network functions using the concept of the connectome. The connectome is a comprehensive map of connections - or synapses between neurons in the brain, sort of like a cartogram for the electrical and chemical signals the neurons send and receive. A neuron's dendrites receive chemical signals and convert them into electrical information, which is then sent through the axon, the neuron's tail. At the end, based on the electrical inputs, the cell releases new chemicals into synapses, relaying the message to the next neuron.

Mapping the connectome allows scientists to understand brain function and how attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or Alzheimer's disease affect it. By charting the cellular links, they gain insights into cognitive processes – and the disorders that



The connectome is a comprehensive map of connections between neurons in the brain. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

arise when the processes go awry – with which they can identify potential new drugs to treat such conditions.

Despite challenges posed by the brain's complexity and the vast amount of data it processes, the connectome has simplified scientists' understanding of the brain and paved the way for a clearer picture of our neurological health.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'