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EDITORIAL » PAGE 8



**M.P. ASSEMBLY POLL**  
**We work on collective decision, says Chouhan**  
NEWS » PAGE 13

## Ethics panel recommends disqualification of Moitra

Six members, including suspended Congress MP Praneet Kaur, vote in favour of report while four MPs oppose it; report to be tabled on Dec. 4; panel also proposes 'intense,' 'legal' probe by the govt.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Lok Sabha Ethics Committee on Thursday adopted a report recommending the expulsion of Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra from the Lower House over a "cash-for-query" allegation. Six members, including suspended Congress MP Praneet Kaur, voted in favour of the report while four Opposition MPs opposed it.

The opposing members have filed dissent notes calling it a "fixed match" and saying the complaint filed by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, which the panel reviewed, was not supported by a "shred of evidence".

The report will be now tabled before the Lok Sabha on the first day of the



Even if they expel me in this Lok Sabha, I will be back in the next Lok Sabha with a bigger mandate... This is a pre-fixed match by a kangaroo court, which is of no surprise or consequence  
**MAHUA MOITRA**  
Trinamool Congress MP

Winter Session of Parliament scheduled to begin on December 4. Ms. Moitra can be expelled only if the House votes in favour of the panel's recommendation. This is the first time, since the Ethics Committee came into existence in the year 2000, that the panel

has recommended expulsion of a Parliamentarian. "We will present the report to the Lok Sabha Speaker and he will take it forward," committee chairman and BJP MP Vinod Kumar Sonkar told reporters at the end of the meeting. The panel "in view of

### Trinamool flays panel's stance

**KOLKATA**  
The Trinamool Congress leadership on Thursday questioned why the Ethics Committee of Parliament was not taking up allegations against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs. It threw its weight behind Mahua Moitra, and stated that the MP was "competent enough to fight her own battle". » PAGE 12

highly objectionable, unethical, heinous and criminal conduct", recommended "intense, legal, institutional inquiry by Government of India [GOI]" in a time-bound manner.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 12

## Bihar House passes Bill raising ceiling on caste quota to 65%

**Amarnath Tewary**  
PATNA



Nitish Kumar

The Bihar Assembly on Thursday unanimously passed a Bill to increase reservation for Backward Classes, Extremely Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes from the existing 50% to 65%. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar assured House members that his government would implement the provisions of the Bill as soon as possible.

Together with the 10% Economically Backward Class (EWS) quota, the Bill will push reservation in Bihar to 75%, well past the 50% ceiling set by the Supreme Court.

According to the legislation, named the Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill, quota for Extremely Backward Class (EBC) will be raised from the existing 18% to 25%; for Backward Class (BC) from 12% to 18%;

for Scheduled Caste (SC) from 16% to 20%; and for Scheduled Tribe (ST), the quota will be doubled, from 1% to 2%. The existing 3% reservation for BC women has been scrapped.

Bills providing for the same increase in reservation in educational institutions and government jobs, which were drafted based on the recent caste survey in the State, too were passed unanimously through voice vote in the State Assembly.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 12



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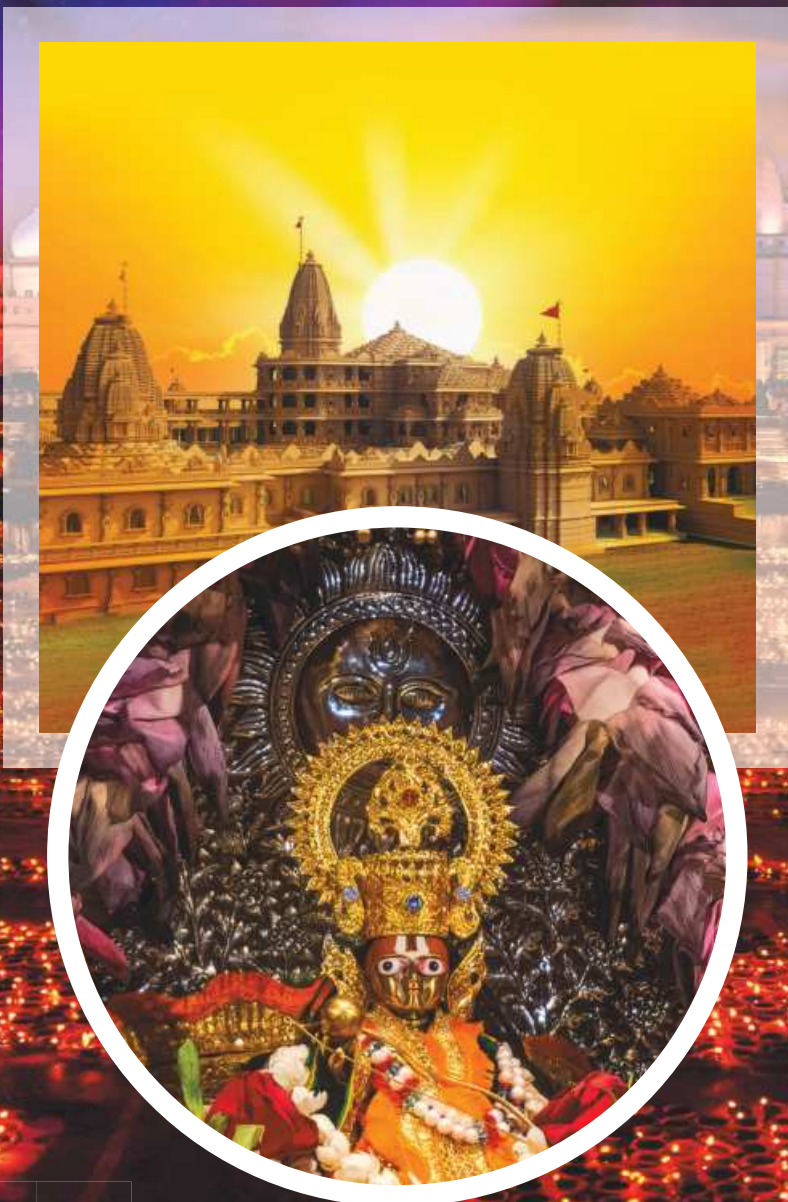
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Chief Mechanical Engineer

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#### ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2023 (OJEE-2023)

No.- OJEE / 567 Date: 09-11-2023

#### NOTICE

This is for the information of all the candidates who have qualified in OJEE-2023/ NEET UG 2023/ JEE(MAIN)-2023 examinations and are interested to take admission into B.PHARM courses offered by various institutes in Odisha for the session 2023-24 that the process of choice filling and locking is scheduled to start from 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 5.00 PM. Same schedule is also applicable for candidates who have qualified in OJEE-2023/GPAT for M.Pharm examinations and are interested to apply for admission in M. PHARM Course. Candidates are advised to visit OJEE website and carefully read the "Counselling Brochure -2023", Step by Step process for web-based counselling and also see the complete "Counselling Schedule".

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**CHAIRMAN, OJEE**

h-26

OIPR-14020/11/0019/2324

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WATER CORPORATION OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, WATCO DIVISION, SAMBALPUR

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

**Bid Identification No. GMWATCOSBP-11/2023-24 Dt.03.11.2023**

- Name of the work : 4 nos Work
- Type of Bid : Two Bid System
- Estimated Cost : Rs.113.31 Lakh to Rs.222.88 Lakh.
- Period of Completion : 3 (Three) Calendar Months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 11.00 AM of dt.10.11.2023 to 5.00 PM of 28.11.2023
- Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal : 5.00 PM of 28.11.2023
- Date & Time of opening of Technical bids : At 11.30 AM of 29.11.2023
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : General Manager, WATCO Division, Sambalpur, Brooks Hill, Near Stadium, At/Po - Motijharan, Dist. - Sambalpur - 768001.

Further details can be seen from web site : <http://tenders.ori.nic.in> or [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
General Manager, WATCO Division, Sambalpur.

C-1801

OIPR-13247/11/0015/2324

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RTP-134/23

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#### GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU Registration Department

TENDER NOTICE  
TNREGN/1/2023-24  
Tenders are invited from eligible bidders through online for data entry of Encumbrance Certificate details of Registration Department. The details of the tender is as follows:

Sl No.	Brief Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Approx. Value of work (Rs. in Crores) (excluding GST)	Bid Security through on-line transfer / as per procedure mentioned in DTGN (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability of Tender (on-line)	Submission of tender (on-line)
1	Tender Inviting Authority						
2	Name of the Work						
3	Purchase of Tender Document						
4	Earnest Money Deposit						
5	Pre Bid Meeting						
6	Due Date, Time & Place of submission of the tender						
7	Date, Time and Place of opening of the tender						

DIPR/5990/Tender/2023

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GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K22M

#### "e"-Procurement Notice No. 44/OCCL/2023-24 (on-line)

On-line tender is invited for the following work on EPC-Turn Key Basis:

Sl No.	Brief Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Approx. Value of work (Rs. in Crores) (excluding GST)	Bid Security through on-line transfer / as per procedure mentioned in DTGN (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability of Tender (on-line)	Submission of tender (on-line)
01	Implementation of Underground pipe line Irrigation to the Command Area of Ong Irrigation Extension Project, Subarnapur, Odisha on EPC-Turn Key Basis.	OCCL-LSIP/02/2023-24	Rs.272.39 Crores	Rs.2,73,00,000/-	24 (Twenty Four) Calendar months	From 13.11.2023, 3.30 PM to 27.12.2023, 5.30 PM.	From 13.11.2023, 3.30 PM to 27.12.2023, 5.30 PM.

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL  
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid : 28.12.2023, 12.00 Noon

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal : <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
CAD-2779 OIPR-34120/11/0056/2324

#### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, WATER RESOURCES, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR.

#### "e" Procurement Notice No.CEMKS 10 OF 2023-24

- Name of the Work : Raising & Strengthening of Arakhakuda Saline Embankment within RD 2.00 Km to 11.00 Km with construction of sluices.
- Amount put to Tender : Rs.21,06,05,297.00
- Bid Document Cost : Rs.10,000.00 (online)
- E.M.D. : Rs.21,06,100.00
- Class of Contractor : "Special" Class & "Super" Class
- Period of Completion : 18 Calendar months
- Other details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
		From	To	
Chief Engineer & BM, Mahanadi Kathajodi System, Bhubaneswar	CEMKS PID 04 OF 2023-24	13.11.2023 10.00 hrs	28.11.2023 17.00 hrs	29.11.2023 11.00 hrs

8. e-mail Id : [celmbbsr@yahoo.co.in](mailto:celmbbsr@yahoo.co.in)

Further detail conditions can be seen from the Govt. website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)  
The Corrigendum/cancellation of Tender, if any, will be uploaded and can be seen from the above website only.

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,  
Mahanadi Kathajodi System, Bhubaneswar  
A-802: OIPR-32252/11/0013/2324

#### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT

E-mail : [ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com](mailto:ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com)

#### Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) - 35 / 2023-24

- The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge work as detailed below :
- Nature of work : Road work
- No. of work : 01 no.
- Tender Cost : Rs.10,000.00 (on-line)
- Class of Contractor : A / Special Class Contractor
- Available of bid document : From 10.00 AM of 10.11.2023 to 5.00 PM of 28.11.2023 in the website
- Date of opening of Bid : Dt.29.11.2023 at 11.30 AM
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

B-1224

OIPR-34003/11/0059/2324

### Probe 'misuse' of funds by child rights panel: L-G

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Thursday approved a proposal of the Women and Child Development Department (WCD) to institute an inquiry and ordered a special audit into the alleged misuse of funds by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

No further requests for funds will be entertained until the inquiry and audit is complete, according to sources at the Raj Niwas.

Sources in the Delhi government called the L-G's decision a "witch-hunt of responsible and highly accomplished departments of the Delhi government".

A source at the Raj Niwas said the WCD Department noted that the commission had increased its financial demands "exponentially" from a mere ₹2 crore in 2017-18 to ₹15.20 crore this fiscal. Another source said the Directorate of Vigilance (DoV) had found that the panel was not submitting fund utilisation details.

The Delhi child rights panel has often clashed with the Centre on various issues in the past.

On July 1, it had written to the Union Health Secretary expressing concerns over the omission of disability-related questions from the National Family Health Survey. It had also written to the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, picking apart the guidelines it had framed for conducting preliminary assessment of children in conflict with law.

## JNU: Onam poster reflected 'political manipulation'

**Jaideep Deo Bhanj**  
NEW DELHI

A depiction of king Mahabali draped in the colours of the Palestinian flag on a poster of the event "Onam of Solidarity" seems to be the reason behind the JNU administration denying students permission to hold the programme at the Convention Centre on campus on Thursday.

A subdued programme was later held near Sabarmati Hostel, including a cultural event and a feast.

The university administration in a post on its official social media handle called the poster a "political manipulation of a festival". The poster in question was shared by the JNU Onam Committee, an elected body of students, on October 31.

The poster has "Onam of Solidarity" as the header in both English and Malayalam and depicts Mahabali, who is associated with the festival, wearing a black mundu (garment worn around the waist) with a white, green, and red border.

The JNU Onam Committee in a statement said, "The Onam cultural evening and Onasadhya (a feast) we booked for November 9 in the Convention Centre was cancelled by the administration arbitrarily citing the reason that Onam is a religious festival."

"We disagree with such an interpretation of our State festival. We condemn this anti-South Indian, anti-Kerala discrimination

**Students' body condemns JNU authorities, accuses them of acting in arbitrary manner**

against our community," the statement added.

In a statement on its official social media handles, the JNU administration said Onam was celebrated in August.

"The first poster released (by the student body) was a political manipulation of a festival. The JNU administration is secular and all so-called cultural festivals cannot be celebrated long after they are over. The later version (of posters) was for a food festival. All posters changed. No letter was sent to the Vice Chancellor for permission," it said.

**Tharoor backs students**

The students' body received support from Thiruvananthapuram Congress MP Shashi Tharoor. "If JNU has blocked the Onam celebrations by Keralite students on the campus, as some reports allege, that is a hugely retrograde step," he said in a post on X.

"Onam is a magnificent secular festival celebrating equality, prosperity and coexistence, which belongs to Malayalis of all faiths. JNU should be encouraging such celebrations," he said.

The JNU's official handle on X responded to the MP, saying "half truths need to be verified and condemned, not glorified".

# Delhi Ministers to hit the road for execution of pollution plans

Environment Minister Gopal Rai slams officials for 'inaction'; blames Centre's control over State govt. bureaucrats for it

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

All Ministers in the Delhi government will work on the ground to ensure the implementation of the emergency pollution control measures in the national capital, said Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday.

He said the ministerial inspections have been prompted by the fact that the emergency steps taken to check deteriorating air quality under Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) are not being enforced properly by officials.

Mr. Rai made the state-



The government is expected to submit to the Supreme Court its plans to tackle pollution on Friday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ment after he held a meeting with ministerial colleagues, and a day before his government is likely to place before the Supreme Court its plans to tackle air pollution.

The GRAP Stage 4 mea-

asures had come into force on Sunday. These include steps to tackle vehicular emissions, dust pollution and stubble burning.

Mr. Rai told the media that the Ministers will be inspecting different areas

of the city from Thursday night.

**Ministers' itinerary**

Transport Minister Kailash Gehlot will lead an inspection at the Kapashera border point, Education Minister Atishi at Ghazipur, Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj at the Gurugram border and Food and Supplies Minister Imran Hussain in Shahdara.

Mr. Rai will conduct an inspection on the Singhu border point. "All Ministers will collaborate with nodal officers in their respective districts to monitor officers working," he added.

Mr. Rai also slammed Delhi government officials for "inaction" in the fight

against air pollution.

He alleged that ever since Parliament passed the Delhi services Bill giving the Centre control over the bureaucrats in the Delhi government, officials have faltered on performing their duties properly.

"A prime example of this is the shutting down of the smog tower at Connaught Place without the elected government's nod," he said. Mr. Rai had earlier blamed Delhi Pollution Control Committee Chairman Ashwani Kumar for "unilaterally taking the decision to shut down" the smog tower.

The apex court on November 8 had ordered to make it operational.

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## IN BRIEF

Maratha quota activist plans  
Statewide tour from Nov. 15

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on Thursday announced a nine-day Statewide tour from November 15 while urging Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to expedite the process of giving Other Backward Classes (OBC) certificates to all Marathas in Maharashtra. Speaking from a hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, he said he would commence his tour from Kolhapur to seek the blessings of the Maratha community and end it in Shevgaon (in Ahmednagar district) on November 23. He urged his supporters to not take any money for the agitation, and to remain united till the government delivered the quota.

Body of missing Delhi trekker  
brought to Himachal's Kullu

The body of missing trekker Shiv Roy, a 30-year-old lawyer from Delhi, was brought to Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district on Thursday, police said. Roy had slipped and fallen into the Parvati river in Kullu while trekking on November 4. "The trekker's body was handed over to the family members after post-mortem," Superintendent of Police Sakshi Verma said. Roy, who was trekking along with a guide and porter, had fallen into the river at Potraghat while crossing a narrow stretch on his way back from Mantalai Lake. His body was spotted near the bank of the river about 2 km away. PTI

CPI expels  
former co-op.  
bank chief  
after ED  
detains him

The Hindu Bureau  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Communist Party of India (CPI) on Thursday expelled former Kandala Service Cooperative Bank president N. Bhasurangan from the organisation's primary membership after the Enforcement Directorate detained him for questioning on lending and deposit fraud-related money laundering charges.

The CPI also sought to politically distance itself from the embattled leader by removing him from the post of administrative convener of Milma.

## Contrasting stand

The move stood in contrast to the Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s political decision to shield its members facing a similar inquiry in the Karuvannur Service Cooperative Bank scam case.

U.P. Cabinet meeting  
held in Ayodhya, 14  
proposals approved

The Hindu Bureau  
LUCKNOW

In a first, the Uttar Pradesh government held its Cabinet meeting in Ayodhya's Ramkatha Mandap on Thursday. Ayodhya remained the focus of the meeting, with 14 proposals linked to the temple city being approved.

They included the formation of the Ayodhya Dham Teerth Vikas Parishad, giving the status of international research institute to the Ayodhya Research Institute, construction of a Temple Museum on 25 acres in Ayodhya, and according the status of State fairs to several fairs in the city.

## "Towards a new era"

"As many as 178 projects worth ₹30,500 crore are already in operation in Ayodhya. The temple city is moving towards a new era," Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said while giv-

Rahul, PM trade barbs as  
campaign reaches fever  
pitch in Madhya Pradesh

Modi compares Congress to 'vehicle in reverse gear', while the party MP says the PM takes pride in coming from OBC community, but claims poverty is the only caste when issue of census comes up

Mehul Malpani  
BHOPAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday took potshots at each other's party in separate election rallies in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh.

Addressing a rally in Bundelkhand's Chhatrapur, Mr. Modi said Congress leaders had "used" the country's poor for tourism for their friends from other countries when the party was in power at the Centre. He mentioned a G-20 meet in Khajuraho and said for the Congress the whole country used to "start and end in Delhi".

"Schemes used to be announced in Delhi. Foreign leaders used to come to Delhi. If Congress leaders ever took their foreign friends out of Delhi, what did they show? The poverty of India. For the leaders of the Congress, who were born with a golden spoon,



Star campaigner: PM Narendra Modi waves at supporters during a public meeting in Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh, on Thursday. PTI

the poor had become tourism," he said.

"Deprive Cong. of power" Mr. Modi also compared the Congress to a "vehicle which takes us in reverse gear" and said it had "done nothing" to resolve the water crisis in the Bundelkhand region. The Prime Minister also urged voters to deprive the Congress of power for 100 years.

Meanwhile, at a rally in Gwalior-Chambal region's Ashok Nagar, Mr. Gandhi reiterated his party's promise of holding a caste-based survey in the State and termed the exercise an "X-ray to detect the problems of the OBCs, Dalits, and tribals". "Narendra Modi ji says in every speech that he is an OBC. But when we talk about a caste census, Modi ji starts saying

that there are no castes in the country and poverty is the only caste," he said.

Taking on the BJP government in the State, Mr. Gandhi said, "The budget of Madhya Pradesh is approximately ₹3.5 lakh crore, and Shivraj Singh Chouhan and his 53 officers decide how it will be spent. Out of these 53 officers, only one officer is from the backward class."

The Congress leader also said the Bharat Jodo Yatra (his foot march from Kanyakumari to Kashmir) has given him a new perspective about the nation.

"We travelled 4,000 km across India. During that journey, we met lakhs of people. During this time, I also went through Madhya Pradesh and met farmers, mothers, sisters, and youth, and took to the streets to tell the country that I got a chance to understand them deeply. This trip completely changed me and gave me a new perspective," he said.

Online gambling  
ban won't apply to  
poker, rummy: HC

Mohamed Imranullah S.  
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Thursday refused to strike down the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Act, 2022 in its entirety, but ruled that the prohibition would apply only to games of chance, and not to games of skill such as rummy and poker.

The Division Bench of Chief Justice Sanjay V. Gangapurwala and Justice P.D. Audikesavalu said the State government had miserably failed to demonstrate how rummy and poker, which have been declared as games of skill by the Supreme Court, would become games of chance when played online.

"The contention of the State that the petitioners (online gaming companies) may use bots is without any basis. The said propositions, on behalf of the State, are merely on surmise," the Bench said.

It added that "the State could not gather authentic evidence about bots being used or that the software knows all the cards in the hands of each player, so also the unopened cards, or



The HC pointed out that the 2022 Act deals only with online games and not offline ones. FILE PHOTO

that the software could change the unopened cards. In the absence thereof, it will be too far-fetched to arrive at a decision on the basis of assumptions by the State".

## "Same brain activity"

Authoring the verdict, the Chief Justice wrote: "We are now transcending into the era of digitisation and entertainment. People, instead of playing in clubs, are now playing online. The games of rummy and poker, which are considered games of skill, are now sought to be played online. In online games, the same brain activity would be involved as required for offline games."

The Bench held that the definition of 'online gambling' under Section 2(i) of the Act should be restricted to games of chance.

Nagaland nod for 33%  
quota for women in  
urban local bodies

Press Trust of India  
KOHIMA

The Nagaland Assembly on Thursday unanimously passed a Bill seeking to reserve 33% of seats in urban local bodies (ULB) for women, resolving a contentious issue and paving the way for municipal elections in the State after two decades.

The provision for one-third reservation of seats in ULBs for women is kept in the Bill, as directed by the Supreme Court, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said.

## Municipal polls soon

The apex tribal bodies, which had earlier opposed such a reservation, now also accepted it and the State Election Commission (SEC) will announce the dates for municipal polls soon, Mr. Rio said.

ULB elections in the northeastern State have been long overdue as the last polls were held in

2004. Since then, elections were not conducted first on the unresolved Naga peace talks issue and then on 33% reservation for women in urban bodies, which the tribal bodies opposed, asserting that it infringes on the special rights for Nagaland guaranteed by Article 371(A) of the Constitution.

The Naga Mothers' Association, a key civil society organisation, and women legislators expressed happiness over the passage of the Bill.

Moving the Nagaland Municipal Bill, 2023 in the House, Mr. Rio said it has no provisions relating to taxes on land and buildings, as demanded by various quarters.

The provision for one-third reservation of the offices of the chairperson in ULBs for women, which was there in the earlier Municipal Act, has not been included in the Bill, the Chief Minister said.

Now, Veerashaiva-Lingayats in  
Karnataka reject 'error-ridden'  
caste census, demand recount

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

The All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha, the apex body of Veerashaiva-Lingayats, on Thursday took objection to the Karnataka government's Socio-Economic and Education Survey, known as the caste census, and demanded a recount.

The body urged the State government not to accept the report of the survey conducted in 2015 during the previous tenure of the Congress. Its findings have not been made public yet, though parts of it were leaked earlier.

Shamanur Shivashankarappa, senior-most Congress legislator and president of the mahasabha, issued a statement on Thursday saying the report was not "exhaustive" and "riddled with errors".

"There are several complaints that the enumerators of the survey did not



Shamanur Shivashankarappa

visit many households, which has reportedly led to an undercount of the community. The survey is eight years old and riddled with errors. So we demand that the survey be conducted again in a transparent way, using the latest technology, enumerating every household," he said.

## Similar stand

Last week, the Vokkaligara Sangha and the community's prominent seer, Nirmalanandana Swami, had taken a similar stand. He had argued that there was a reported undercount of Vokkaligas and demand-

ed that the government reject the survey report and hold a recount.

Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats, the two dominant landowning communities that claim to be numerically among the largest in the State, have reportedly been found in the census to be fewer in number than assumed. The census reportedly shows Dalits and Muslims as the largest communities in the State. The landowning communities fear the changed caste arithmetic will lead to a diminishing hold over State politics.

The demands come even as the chairman of the State Commission for Backward Classes, K. Jayaprakash Hegde, has said he will submit the report before his tenure ends on November 26. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had recently said that his government was committed to accepting the caste census report.

## As key issues get sidestepped, Hyderabad's voters seek solace in a resigned pragmatism

Serish Namiseti  
HYDERABAD

The drone hovers slowly over Hyderabad's blue Hussain Sagar lake. The domes of the alabaster-white Telangana Secretariat inch into frame as the drone circles to present the imposing structure built in April at a staggering cost of ₹616 crore.

The video in question is one that has been made by the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS)-led State government. "This is the jewel in the crown of Telangana," a voice-over in English announces crisply, noting that the State is "striving for the upliftment of the people, and the welfare of the downtrodden".

Just below this building, on the road that runs paral-

lel to the railway track, is the Patigadda slum, situated in the Sanathnagar Assembly constituency.

Raju, a driver who lives in the shanty, remarks: "We will vote depending on the mood that day. We no longer have trust in the government, and don't expect anything. We may or may not get the two-BHK [bedroom-hall-kitchen] houses". He is referring to the BRS government's 2BHK Housing Scheme - a programme rolled out in 2015 that aims to provide subsidised housing to the poor. So far, only 11,700 houses have been allocated in the first phase, with 13,300 more set to come.

"We don't expect any change from our representatives," chimes in Murthy, a street food vendor.



Infrastructural woes: Hyderabad is dotted with highways, bridges, yet, it remains plagued by problems typical across India. FILE PHOTO

"There has been no development here for the past 30 years. The roads are the same. They get flooded when it rains. The trash is not picked up regularly. If they can stop drunkards coming here to drink, it

would be great," he adds hopefully.

This is the predominant mood in Hyderabad city - one of low expectations from public representatives. The stage is set for a multi-cornered contest

between the ruling BRS, the Congress, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM). The narrative revolves around the cult of personality of the candidates, while many of the city's key issues are pushed aside.

## City problems

Hyderabad boasts of much development. The city is dotted with highways, bridges, and skyscrapers; yet, it remains plagued by problems typical across India: unmanageable traffic, poor road maintenance, problematic waste disposal systems, and subpar government schools and hospitals. None make it to the poll picture.

Instead, Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) brag about individual contributions and promise more to come. "We are building a new road from Attapur to Moosarambagh to ease traffic," says AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi.

However, Faheem Khan, a welder, who holds that Mr. Owaisi "stands by the people" in bad times, says: "I wish he would do something similar to what is happening in Delhi", referring to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's purported success in the fields of healthcare and education.

## Mounting expenses

"My grandchildren study in private schools. Shelling out money for school fees for people who earn less

than ₹2 lakh a year is not easy," says Krishnaveni, who resides in Malkajgiri. "Healthcare is also not cheap. But what choice do we have? Government hospitals have poor facilities and private hospitals are very expensive," she adds.

The underinvestment in education has persisted for the past few years. In 2016-17, Telangana spent just 8.2% of its budget on education, the lowest among its neighbouring States. Similarly, Telangana dedicates only 5% of its budget to healthcare, compared to an average of 6.3% allocated by India's other States.

Many citizens choose to approach elections with a resigned pragmatism, choosing the proverbial 'lesser of two evils', rather than holding out hope for

transformative policies. "Elections are far removed from issues and agenda, and turned into personality battles. Whoever lies better will win. The competition is about making promises sound believable," says former IAS officer Akunuri Murali.

## Poor short-changed

But the poor feel especially short-changed. "My father was promised a good house during [former A.P. Chief Minister] N.T. Rama Rao's first term. It has been nearly 40 years. We got concrete roads, some have built their own houses, but our lot has not changed. Can we really trust politicians after all these years?" is Murthy's rhetorical reply when asked about his political choice.

**IN BRIEF**



**KCR files nomination papers from Gajwel and Kamareddy**

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) president and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Reddy filed his nomination papers for Gajwel Assembly constituency in Siddipet district and Kamareddy on Thursday. He contested for the Gajwel seat and won it both in 2014 and 2018 elections. Mr. Reddy opted to contest from Kamareddy in addition to Gajwel this time.

**'Ayyan' app in 5 languages set to help Sabarimala pilgrims**

In order to help devotees visiting the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple navigate the forest routes, the Forest Department on Thursday unveiled a mobile app 'Ayyan'. Developed by the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary West division, the app provides information on all aspects of the pilgrimage, including the services available at Pampa and the Sannidhanam routes. The app, which can be installed from the Google Play Store, is available in five languages: Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu and Hindi. The app will be functional in both online and offline modes.

**Bengaluru to prepare DPR on utilising extra Cauvery water**

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will soon be preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) on utilisation of the additional 6 tmcft of Cauvery water allocated for the drinking water needs of Bengaluru. The Karnataka government has issued an order to utilise 24 tmcft of water as against 18 tmcft, which was being used earlier.

**More than 15 products from Uttarakhand bag GI tags**

**Sangeetha Kandavel**  
CHENNAI

From a local brick-tea to textiles made from a Himalayan plant, over 15 products from Uttarakhand have been given the coveted GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.

Uttarakhand's Berinag tea, highly sought-after by London tea houses and tea blenders, is made from the leaves of a plant that grows wild in the Himalayas, which are then compressed into a solid mass. *Bichhu buti* fabrics, made from Himalayan nettle fibres, was also on the list of products that bagged the GI tag.

The Uttarakhand *mandua*, a finger millet grown in Garhwal and Kumaon, which is part of the staple diet in many parts of the State and *jhingora*, a home grown millet were on the list.

**Timings**  
DELHI

<b>FRIDAY, NOV. 10</b>	RISE 06:40	SET 17:31
	RISE 03:39	SET 15:45
<b>SATURDAY, NOV. 11</b>	RISE 06:40	SET 17:30
	RISE 04:32	SET 16:13
<b>SUNDAY, NOV. 12</b>	RISE 06:41	SET 17:30
	RISE 05:29	SET 16:44

<b>Delhi Weather</b>	max	min
Delhi City	31	15
Safdarjang	31	15
Palam	30	19

**Delhi Palam Today**  
30°C A dry weather with critical pollution level to continue. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm with further increase in pollution level.

**Police in T.N., Karnataka to quiz Maoists held in Kerala**

Anti-naxal squads from two neighbouring States are in touch with Special Operations Group of Kerala to get probe details; ballistic experts to track the source of weapons seized from them

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KOZHIKODE

The anti-naxal squads from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka will soon interrogate the three suspected Maoists – Srimathi alias Unnimaya, Chandru, and Aneesh Babu alias Thampi – who were arrested by the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Kerala Police recently. Officers from the two States are in touch with the SOG to gather the preliminary investigation details.

Police sources reveal that the two main Maoist functionaries, Srimathi, a native of Karnataka, and Chandru, a native of Tamil Nadu, who were nabbed



**In the net:** Aneesh Babu, suspected Maoist accomplice, being brought to Kozhikode District Sessions court. K. RAGESH

after a gunfight in Wayanad on Tuesday night are suspected to be the brains behind a series of attacks in southern States. The two have been remanded in police custody but are yet

to reveal anything about their activities though the SOG is continuing their interrogation.

Aneesh Babu, a native of Tamil Nadu who was remanded in police custody

on Thursday for allegedly working as a messenger for Maoists, has also been evading questions. According to the police sources, Aneesh Babu, arrested from Koyilandy, has contacted the other two many times to exchange various confidential communications and parcels.

The source of an INSAS rifle and an AK-47 rifle seized from the Maoists during the Wayanad encounter still remains mysterious. Ballistic experts are now at work to find out the origin based on the arms' serial numbers. The SOG suspects that these could have been weapons stolen after ambushing CRPF jawans at various locations.

**Party will support BJP, Modi with all its might: JSP chief**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
VIJAYAWADA

Jana Sena Party (JSP) president Pawan Kalyan said in a message on 'X' on Thursday that the "nation needs Narendra Modi and his party will support the BJP and the PM with all its might to make his Vision 2047 a reality." He described Mr. Modi as a "crucial for the nation."

Mr. Kalyan thus gave a strong signal that in spite of forging an alliance with the TDP, he had no intention to sever his party's ties with the BJP, at least in the near future.

While announcing the tie-up with the TDP recently, Mr. Kalyan had made it clear that he would try to rope in the BJP so that the three parties could take on the YSRCP together in the 2024 elections.

**SC may decide on Naidu's plea after Deepavali break**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it is likely to pronounce judgment on a plea by former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to quash criminal proceedings against him in the skill development 'scam' case after the Deepavali vacations and adjourned his separate petition for anti-

patory bail in the FiberNet case.

A Bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M. Trivedi had reserved the judgment in the skill development case on October 17. On Thursday, when the FiberNet case was taken up, the judges said the verdict in the other case may be pronounced post the court holiday for Deepavali between November 13 and November 18.

**80 fishermen released by Pak. to be brought to Gujarat today**

**Press Trust of India**  
AHMEDABAD

Eighty fishermen from different parts of Gujarat were released from a jail in Karachi in Pakistan on Thursday and a State government team from here has reached Punjab to receive them, a senior official said.

They will be handed over to the State Fisheries Department team at the Attari-Wagah border on Friday afternoon, Gujarat Commissioner of Fisheries Nitin Sangwan said. "We will bring them to the State by train," Mr. Sangwan said.

"These fishermen were caught by Pakistani authorities nearly three years ago after accusing them of fish-

**They will be handed over to the Fisheries Department team at Attari-Wagah border; will be brought to Gujarat by train**

ing in waters of that country. They had set sail from Gujarat coast at regular intervals in 2020. As per our records, there are 173 Indian fishermen languishing in Pakistani jails," said Jivan Jungi, national executive committee member of India-Pakistan People's Forum for Peace and Democracy, an NGO.

In May and June, the Pakistan government had released nearly 400 Indian fishermen who were arrested under such charges.

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**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.in](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.in) & <https://etender.up.nic.in> Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

**A) Fresh Tender Work:**

Sl. No.	Job No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (in Lacs.)
1	29/DGM (E&M)/S.M. (E/M)-III/2023-24	Strengthening of street light at M.P. 2 Road near sector 28 turn and sector 18 Underpass, Noida (Dark Spot Identified by police)	39.72
2	24/DGM /Sr.M.(E/M) -II/2023-24	Providing Street light work 5% Abadi & Sharmik Kunj at Sector-66, Noida.	46.45

The above tenders can be uploaded by date **23.11.2023** up to **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated **24.11.2023** at **11.00 AM**.

**Office : 39 Sector Noida** **Dy. General Manager (E&M) Noida**

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Email: [sharedeptt\\_gc@jkbank.com](mailto:sharedeptt_gc@jkbank.com)  
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**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the certificates in respect of the under - mentioned shares of J&K Bank have been lost/misplaced and the holders of the said shares have applied to J&K Bank Ltd./ M/s KFin Technologies Ltd. (Share Transfer Agent) for issue of Duplicate Share Certificates.

S. No	Name of the Shareholder	Folio No.	Certificate No.	Distinctive No.'s	No of Shares	Address
1.	Mohammad Maqbool Mir	JKBO44578	507621	14596301-14602300	6000	Thandipora, P O Panzgam, Tehsil And District Kupwara, Kashmir-193224
2.	Amjad Ul Islam	JKBO57677	507872	14991301-14997300	6000	Ward 13, Near Police Station, Muslim Aabad, Bandipore, Jammu And Kashmir-193502
3.	Parvez Hassan Kripak	JKBO10240	501548	2874651-2875650	1000	Nehru Chowk, Doda, Jammu & Kashmir-182202

The Public is hereby warned against purchasing or dealing in any way with above share Certificate(s). Any Person(s) who has/have any claim(s)/objection in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim(s)/objection with the Bank at the Corporate Headquarters. M. A. Road, Srinagar/Share Transfer Agent at the address given below, within fifteen days from the date of Publication of this notice, after which no claim(s) will be entertained and the Bank/Share Transfer Agent will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates.

**Share Transfer Agent**  
M/s KFin Technologies Ltd.  
Selenium Tower B, Plot 31&32  
Financial District, Nanakramguda  
Serilingampally Mandal,  
Hyderabad 500 032

**Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited**  
Board Secretariat  
Corporate Headquarters  
M. A. Road, Srinagar - 190 001, Kashmir

**For Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.**  
Ref. No.: 10/2023-24

Place: Srinagar  
Date: 09<sup>th</sup> November, 2023

Sd/-  
(Mohammad Shafi Mir)  
Company Secretary

**ADVERTISEMENT-I**  
**Auction of 15-Year Himachal Pradesh Government Stock (Securities)**

- Government of Himachal Pradesh has offered to sell by auction the dated securities for an amount of ₹800.00 Crore with 15 (Fifteen Years) year tenure. Securities will be issued for a minimum nominal amount of ₹10,000/- and multiples of ₹10,000/- thereafter. Auction which will be held based under multiple price format will be conducted by Reserve Bank of India at Mumbai Office (Fort) on **November 13, 2023**.
- Interested persons may submit bids for the auction in electronic format, on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system as stated below on **November 13, 2023**:  
a. The Competitive bids shall be submitted electronically on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system between 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM.  
b. The Non-Competitive bids shall be submitted electronically on Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system between 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM.
- The yield percent per annum expected by the bidders should be expressed up to two decimal points. An investor can submit more than one bid at different rates of yield but a separate application should be submitted for each bid. The aggregate amount of bids submitted by a person should not exceed the notified amount.
- The Government Stock upto 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to the eligible individuals and institutions subject to a maximum limit of 1% of the notified amount for a single bid as per the Revised Scheme for Non Competitive Bidding Facility in the Auctions of the State Government Securities of the General Notification.
- No Bids shall be accepted in physical format in the auctions of State Government Securities, except in extraordinary situations as may be specified by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The result of the auction shall be displayed by the Reserve Bank of India at its website on the same day. Successful bidders will make payments on **November 15, 2023** before close of banking hours by means of cash, bankers' cheque /pay order, demand draft payable at Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai/ New Delhi or a cheque drawn on their account with Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai (Fort)/ New Delhi.
- The cut-off yield determined at the auction will be the coupon rate percent per annum on the stock sold at the auction. The interest will be paid on **May 15 and November 15**.
- The investment in Government Stock will be reckoned as an eligible investment in Government Securities by banks for the purpose of Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) under Section 24 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The stocks will qualify for the ready forward facility.
- For other details please see Notification No. Fin-2-C(12)-1/2023 dated **November 08, 2023** of Government of Himachal Pradesh.

(Ram Dev)  
OSD (Ways & Means)  
Finance Department  
Government of Himachal Pradesh  
Ph No. 0177-2880849

HP / 3774/23-24 **HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK..™**

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**Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended 30th September, 2023**

S. No.	Particulars	INR Lakhs					
		Quarter ended 30.06.2023 (Un-audited)	Quarter ended 30.09.2023 (Un-audited)	Quarter ended 30.09.2022 (Un-audited)	Half Year ended 30.09.2023 (Un-audited)	Half Year ended 30.09.2022 (Un-audited)	Year ended 31.03.2023 (Un-audited)
1	Total income from operations	38,721.94	39,743.46	39,788.79	78,465.40	78,508.45	156,494.36
2	Net profit / (loss) for the period before tax (before exceptional items)	25,206.73	27,274.83	25,220.17	52,481.56	48,584.52	98,857.50
3	Net profit / (loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	25,206.73	27,274.83	25,220.17	52,481.56	48,584.52	98,857.50
4	Net profit / (loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	21,434.60	22,495.58	21,389.49	43,930.18	41,336.09	78,866.33
5	Total comprehensive income for the period [comprising profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	21,458.16	22,519.14	21,454.26	43,977.30	41,465.64	78,960.58
6	Paid up equity share capital	395,100.00	395,100.00	395,100.00	395,100.00	395,100.00	395,100.00
7	Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve)	201,061.80	216,949.58	135,496.73	216,949.58	135,496.73	172,991.67
8	Net worth	596,161.80	612,049.58	530,596.73	612,049.58	530,596.73	568,091.67
9	Paid up debt capital / outstanding debt	18,038.76	7,750.08	26,281.40	7,750.08	26,281.40	19,705.76
10	Outstanding redeemable preference shares	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Debt equity ratio	0.03	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.05	0.03
12	Earnings per share (of INR10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)						
	Basic & Diluted (INR)	0.54	0.57	0.54	1.11	1.05	2.00
13	Capital redemption reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Debture redemption reserve	2,000.00	2,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
15	Debt service coverage ratio	15.81	7.06	12.37	6.13	9.66	9.16
16	Interest service coverage ratio	75.60	97.85	57.74	85.50	53.31	56.84

**Notes forming part of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended 30th September, 2023.**

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and half yearly financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly & half yearly financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and the listed entity ([www.dtl.gov.in](http://www.dtl.gov.in)).
- The Financial results for the quarter and half year ended on 30th September, 2023 have been reviewed by Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors at their meeting held on 09.11.2023. The Independent Chartered Accountant have conducted the limited review of these financials results.
- For the items referred in regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Bombay Stock Exchange and can be accessed on the URL ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)).
- No investor complaints were pending at the beginning of the quarter and no complaints were received during the quarter.
- Previous period's figures have been regrouped/re-classified wherever deemed necessary.

By order of the Board of Directors  
For Delhi Transco Limited

Date : 09.11.2023  
Place : New Delhi

Dr. Sanjay Kumar Lal  
Director (Finance)

## SPOTLIGHT



(From left) Devanath V.S., Ajmal T., and Giridhar K. Sajeew in Jalandhar, Punjab, where they are pursuing a BSc degree after losing their MBBS seats. R.V. MOORTHY

# Medical waste

The government is resetting medical education standards, giving colleges leeway with infrastructure, among other measures at the MBBS level. **Bindu Shajan Perappadan** finds that through these policy changes, students are adversely impacted, doctors fear the lowering of standards, and some States protest 'penalisation'

In 2015, Giridhar K. Sajeew secured a near perfect score in Class 12. The next year, he cracked the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), the qualifying exam to pursue an MBBS degree. While his NEET score didn't get him a government college seat, where the fee is less than ₹1 lakh a year, Giridhar did manage one in Glocal Medical, a privately-funded college established in 2015 in Mirzapur Pole village, Saharanpur district, Uttar Pradesh.

His mother, a retired head nurse, and his father, a clerk, both government employees from Kollam, Kerala, paid ₹25 lakh across the two and a half years he was there. "They took a loan and invested their retirement money. The fee was ₹10 lakh a year," says Giridhar, of the university run by the Abdul Waheed Educational and Charitable Trust, which was set up in 2009.

In 2019, when Giridhar had settled into the U.P. village with a view of the Himalayas, and just about got used to an alien language, away from his hometown of coconut trees and backwaters, Glocal lost recognition to run its MBBS course. The university, offering many other courses, had allegedly admitted 90 undergraduate MBBS students despite the then medical education regulatory body, the Medical Council of India (MCI), issuing a warning not to do so. The institute was allegedly unable to meet the minimum infrastructure, student-teacher ratio, and patient requirement to run the course, details that came out during the hearing in the case in the Allahabad High Court, which the students lost.

Glocal is an example of the danger that MBBS students are often exposed to when taking admission in a private establishment: the fee can range from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore, and the uncertainty of whether the college has met all the norms is a concern. On its part, the government is bringing in measures to increase the number of medical seats across the country, giving private players incentives in terms of a leeway with infrastructure, staffing, and other aspects, to set up colleges. However, doctors and teachers in medicine worry that this lowering of norms will impact the quality of education, and consequently the standard of patient care in India.

Giridhar and 66 other students, out of the 90 in his batch, lost their MBBS seats. "Our lives changed overnight. But we believed we would be transferred to other private medical colleges to continue our course," he says. But despite many appeals to the college, local authorities, and finally the court, the students were refused seats in other colleges. Another year and a half went by in the process, and by 2020, Giridhar decided to give up on the hope of becoming a doctor.

## Students suffer

"Becoming a doctor was my only dream," says Giridhar, who spoke about how he grew up watch-



In 2016, Glocal used a relaxed-norms clause, which was a multi-crore bank guarantee that it would have to forfeit if the university failed to meet the basic infrastructure requirements

**SAJEEV K.**  
Retired government employee and father of a student who lost an MBBS seat

ing and being inspired by his mother's profession. "I have always believed her work was very noble," he says, of his desire to serve.

He is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in Agriculture at another privately-funded college in Punjab, where the fee is ₹60,000 per semester for the four-year course.

Besides his dreams shattering, there is guilt. "I feel that I pushed my retired parents into a financial mess," he says, adding that the family is now again seeking the help of the court to at least recover the fee deposited with the college.

The owners of Glocal Medical are now reportedly on the run from the law, according to various media reports and students. The university did not respond to phone calls, and email messages bounced back.

"In 2016, Glocal used a relaxed-norms clause, which was a multi-crore bank guarantee that it would have to forfeit if the university failed to meet the basic infrastructure requirements, including that of teacher and patient strength during inspections," says Giridhar's father, Sajeew K.

He adds that out of the 90 students admitted in 2016 for the 2016-17 academic year, 23 were allotted this college through State counselling, a process that involves seat allotment through submission of documents.

The rest were admitted under the management quota and slated to be subsequently added as regular students by sending their names to the Central medical authority, at the time the MCI. "These students who lost their seats are the ones caught in the crossfire of the debarred college and government rules," says Sajeew. The 23 other students secured transfers to other colleges.

The management quota is only applicable in private institutions that can draft their own criteria for students who pass NEET and are willing to pay a fee 10 times or more compared with government colleges. Once the students who get top ranks are allotted Central and State government colleges, the rest can opt for private colleges. Within this system, quotas and sub-quotas play out, including those based on caste reservation, domicile, and several others.



The class of 2016 at Glocal Medical, a privately-funded college in Mirzapur Pole village, Saharanpur district, Uttar Pradesh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"There has to be some justice," says Giridhar, whose mother is now fighting a relapse of cancer.

## The number game

In 2023, over 20 lakh students appeared for the NEET exam, competing for less than 2 lakh MBBS and BDS seats across India.

As per government records, 11,45,976 students cleared the exam in 2023. In 2016, the year Giridhar took the exam, 7,31,223 candidates appeared for it, out of which 19,325 students qualified in the top 15%, and 4,09,477 qualified as per MCI's regulations, government data show.

In 2020, the MCI was dissolved following charges of corruption and red-tapism, and the National Medical Commission (NMC) was established. The commission, which has 33 members drawn from State Medical Councils, regulates medical education and professionals.

Data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare indicate that in the past nine years, India has seen an 82% rise in medical colleges (384 to 704 in 2023), and a 110% increase in MBBS seats (51,348 in 2014 to 1,07,948 in 2023).

The same data also show that in June this year, over 2,000 undergraduate medical students in 38 medical colleges across India were faced with the danger of being pushed into the same situation as the 67 students from Glocal.

Several colleges in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maha-

rashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Assam, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, and West Bengal either lost recognition or were served notices to correct deficiencies. All quickly made a course correction.

"Corruption breeds in these institutions, and the ultimate price is borne by students," says Sanjay Nath, a retired military man, whose son also gained admission in Glocal and lost his seat after it was derecognised. "For those in these colleges, it seems that these institutes are only collecting money and playing with the careers of several young people," he says.

A senior NMC official, who did not want to be named, says, "Transparency and quality control are our primary goals when it comes to medical education in India. We can't allow colleges to run if they don't meet our basic criteria."

Among the criteria are adequate infrastructure, a set teacher-student ratio, proper attendance keeping, and an internship programme.

In an attempt to keep a strict check on medical colleges, the NMC, at their head office in Delhi, has set up a control room. On monitors here, they tap into CCTV cameras across colleges to make sure everything from infrastructure to student-teacher ratio is maintained. "Our long-term goal is to do away with physical inspection and bring in technology-based assessment," the NMC official says, not giving clear answers on the way ahead with this system or on concerns of privacy.

## Quality concerns

Senior doctors say the expansion spree in the past few years has been coupled with the falling

standard of medical education and is a cause for concern. The Health Ministry and the NMC though claim that they are working towards making quality medical education accessible, and to bring more doctors into the workforce.

In December 2022, the Ministry informed Parliament that India's doctor-patient ratio currently stands at 1:834, better than the World Health Organization's prescribed norm of 1 doctor per 1,000 people. Yet, this year, the NMC decided that the doctor-population requirement is in the ratio of 100 MBBS seats for a 10-lakh population.

State governments feel this is an interference, as health is a State subject. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, in his letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the first week of October, requested that the Health Ministry be instructed to keep in abeyance the NMC notification that has imposed certain restrictions on the opening of new medical colleges. He said this was a way to penalise States that have invested more in their public health infrastructure over the years.

Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana have already crossed the 100 seat to 10 lakh population norm, and this would imply that they can't open and offer more seats locally.

"They are more than welcome to open colleges in Bihar, U.P., and even Delhi," says a senior NMC official, explaining that the rule was brought in to offer services where there is a deficit.

In its August notification, the NMC excluded physical medicine and rehabilitation, respiratory medicine, and emergency medicine from its list of required departments (now revised to 10 from the earlier 14) to run a medical college and hospital. The commission also withdrew its notification on bringing in a single exit exam for MBBS students across the country, much like the Class 12 board exam. Exit exams were to be considered as the entrance exam for the postgraduate degree. The implication was that medical colleges would be forced to ramp up quality.

## Vacant seats

Despite the push by the Central government to increase medical seats, the paradox is that India's private medical colleges often reflect vacant status. There were 273 vacant seats in 2019-20, this number increased to 326 in 2021-22, stood at 261 in 2022-23, and crossed 200 this year.

"This surprises no one," says Dr. Ganesh Kumar, the dean of Shaheed Nirmal Mahto Medical College, Dhanbad, Jharkhand.

He says while the Central government's initiative to increase the number of seats and medical colleges is welcome, colleges that do not meet the basic requirements should not be allowed to come up at all. "Even my own government-run medical college is faced with a faculty shortage, which it has been trying to rectify for nearly a decade now," he says.

Dr. Kumar elaborates that the major problems facing private medical colleges include the exorbitant fee (despite the NMC's directives to make it affordable), uncertainty of them being able to maintain their registration, the lack of Centre-State coordination during counselling, and students not wanting to go to remote areas. "This is why private colleges continue to be a gamble for many," he says.

Meanwhile, Giridhar and his friends – Ajmal T. and Devanath V.S. – former students of Glocal Medical, still cannot get over the shock of losing their MBBS seats. "Even today our struggle and search for justice continues," says Giridhar.

# A story of love that was destined

Writer-poet Mukul Kumar feels his latest work, *Lost in the Love Maze*, is a result of readers' curiosity about romance

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It takes great perseverance to pick up a pen to write after a long day at work; greater still if you are in a job which has little to do with poetry or fiction. But bureaucrat Mukul Kumar has been at it for more than a decade. Passionate about expressing himself through the written word, not a day dies before he pens down a poem or strings together a story. On occasions, the result is *As Boys Become Men*, on others, *Lost in the Love Maze*, his latest work (published by Tree Shade Books) throbbing with the pulse of the young.

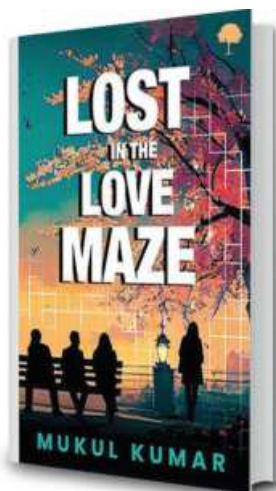
With the book beginning to reach book stalls, Kumar allows himself the luxury of nostalgia. "Before this book, I believed that writing was an independent endeavour, writers wrote by their own inspiration, and readers came into the picture only when a book came into being. But *Lost in the Love Maze* belied my belief."

"I was bombarded with feedback from readers about *As Boys Become Men* (2016), a multi-layered work in which ambition and friendship were the widest layers, and romance remained peripheral to the plot. Still the readers were left hungry for much more about the Mihir-Jyoti romance. *Lost in the Love Maze* took birth there and then. It was a bizarre realisation that the curiosity and commentary of readers could trigger a writer into writing. I feel this book was destined. "

## Different but connected

But it is not a sequel, he hastens to add. "*Lost in the Love Maze* makes an independent read, even though it draws the central characters, Mihir and Jyoti, from the earlier work. It takes their romance forward. It is their love story, but ends up being the story of love itself. It explores the two contrasting shades of love, one suffused with a sense of sacrifice, and another, powered by a sense of fierce possession. It also brings out the pain from the unrequited love that gets played out through two other characters, establishing in course that love doesn't care for order, instead it can be anarchic in consequence."

With such an interplay of



About love Cover of the new book by Mukul Kumar (below) SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

requited and unrequited love, how does Kumar describe his latest fiction?

"I describe this novel as a matrix of love, duty, ambition, and passion that reveals the conflict between love and duty, and love and ambition. A writer doesn't consciously aim at judging human behaviour and establishing any truth. Every individual has their own truth – the offspring of their sensibility and life experiences. This work juxtaposes familial love against romantic love, bringing out not only the eternal conflict between duty and love, dharma and desire, but also between the different shades of love as well."

Even as Mukul soaks in the applause for this piece of romance, doesn't he miss his first love, poetry? "Poetry and fiction are two contrasting forms of creativity. While poetry is spontaneous in emotions and thoughts, and majorly in words too, fiction is a planned venture, where inspiration or the guiding emotion may be spontaneous, but its creation has to be painstakingly crafted. I do believe that creation anyway is

divine. Poetry is the sudden divine transfiguration of the man into poet, while in fiction, the writer feels to be the human incarnation of God on earth where He too has to go through the rigour and pain of living."

Mukul confesses that being a civil servant entails a great responsibility and high level of engagement. "I find writing and managing poetry much easier, though I have been able to write three works of fiction so far. I feel the best is yet to come."



Poetry and fiction are two contrasting forms of creativity. Poetry is spontaneous, fiction is planned

## Rahul Verma

When I saw shelves overflowing with various kinds of ladoos in sweet shops, all set for Deepavali, across the city I was reminded of a scene that old Hindi films never tire of. The hero's mother, when he returns home after a day's hard work – or after some romantic yodelling – presenting him with a platter full of ladoos, for those globes of dal and wheat were considered auspicious.

Ladoos are a symbol of the festival, no doubt, but I think it is time we tipped our hats to other kinds of sweets that make the festival special. And on top of the list is *halwa*.

What is wonderful is that the sweet can be prepared with different kinds of ingredients – from semolina and wheat flour to various pulses, vegetables and eggs.

The secret of a good halwa lies in the way the main ingredient is roasted. It has to be cooked for long, and, if milk is being used, you have to let it simmer for a while.



## An affair with halwa

The festival of lights sees the popular sweet dish, *halwa*, selling in many avatars across the markets of Delhi

Moong dal halwa is among the most delicious halwas I've eaten, and it comes out best when the dal is well roasted, and then cooked in ghee. The best moong dal halwa is to be had at Churuwala Marwari's shop in Kucha Mahajani in Chandni Chowk. It is a small shop tucked inside a narrow lane, but if you follow your

nose, the heady aroma of ghee will take you right there. At Chaina Ram in Fatehpuri, you can gorge on Karachi halwa, which is a chewy sweet prepared with corn starch.

I enjoy the urad dal halwa you get at Giani di



The rural touch Chef Amninder Sandhu with the village women who have got new job opportunities at the forest restaurant; a plate of Ambaadi chaat and (below) special dish *ratalu tart* ABHINAV DESHPANDE

(roasted brinjal dry curry) with paratha and charred spring onion served in a bowl – eating this was a bit challenging and the chef might want to reconsider serving it on a plate for a better dining experience. Mancura Etina Sauvignon Blanc gives the dish a refreshing finish.

A new chance Food at Palaash is cooked by mostly tribal women from neighbouring Marathwadi village. "Over 80% of the workforce in the kitchen is from the village; our aim is to create employment opportunities," says Amninder. "These women possess a unique culinary finesse; pay meticulous attention to finer details. It makes the food special."

While the women were trained in the art of cooking different dishes by Chef Gupta, she learned how to control the flames in the open-fire kitchen from them. "It was challenging as I'm used to cooking on gas, but *maasis* (aunts) taught me how to control and cook on the open fire. It was a two-way learning," she says.

It took about three months to train the local women to execute parts of Palaash's degustation menu, which has a contemporary Western spin. "They executed basic things, but did them very well, like the *jowar bhakri* or the *theccha* or *paratha*. And of course, they have that gift that can be enhanced," says Amninder.

After a *gendaphool* (marigold) sorbet, I am served spicy bamboo smoked *phanas* (jackfruit) with Indrayani rice steamed with turmeric leaves, which give it a fresh, delicate aroma. Dinner ends with *mahua kala jamun* and pista ice cream presented in palash leaf cup wraps.

The tribal women who had been farm labourers, their jobs at Palaash have empowered a lifestyle transformation, marked by a stable income and increased participation of their husbands in household chores. "Employment has changed everything in my life," says Sunitha Ashok Ade from Marathwadi. She adds, "We lead a more dignified life now. And, the training has added a new dimension to our woodfire cooking skills." Beside her, Pushpa Sidam agrees. "I used to work as a farm labourer, and my life revolved around 'chul and mul' (stove and children in Marathi)," she says. "But now that has changed. I have learnt so many things and cooking here feels at home."

The seven-course meal at Palaash costs ₹4,000 plus tax (without alcohol) per person. Call 9699786275 to book a table

(The writer was at Palaash on the invitation of Chef Amninder Sandhu)

# Dinner in the forest

Chef Amninder Sandhu's Palaash, set in Maharashtra's Tipeshwar forest, offers a degustation menu prepared by tribal women over an open fire. We visit to try the *ambaadi chaat* and marigold sorbet

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Hail from the lush, forest-wrapped district of Adilabad in northern Telangana, where dining in the woods is a traditional affair. Exploring the forests with friends and family often involved cooking on a *chulha* (firewood stove) and enjoying meals served on plates made by weaving the leaves of palash (*Butea monosperma*) tree, also known as the flame of the forest.

But a recent visit to Palaash, an exclusive dinner-only restaurant run by Chef Amninder Sandhu near the virgin forests of Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district, unveiled a surprise: a distinctive seven-course meal, fusing Maharashtra and Assamese cuisine, slow-cooked on an open fire for hours. Since Amninder grew up in Assam, she has interestingly added the State's delicacy, bamboo smoked pork, and combined it with Maharashtra's Indrayani rice in the menu.

Tipeshwar Sanctuary is a picturesque five-hour drive from Hyderabad and a three-hour journey from Nagpur, the Orange City. A hotspot for wildlife enthusiasts, the mesmerising forest setting of the

restaurant at the Tipai Luxury Safari Resort by Wildlife Luxuries makes dinner feel like an adventure: it is set in the middle of the woods raising hopes of sighting wild animals, including a tiger.

## Variety of tastes

The degustation menu at Palaash opens with *amuse-bouche*, a delicate white chocolate ball bursting with fresh orange juice, followed by the *Ambaadi chaat*, a combination of homegrown tangy *ambaadi* (sorrel) leaf, charred *ananas* (pineapple) and curd. The subtle tanginess of the creamy curd and *ambaadi* leaf is well balanced by sweet pomegranate and tamarind and if you wish, you can pair the dish with sparkling wine.

Every recipe is inspired by locally sourced ingredients, says Amninder,

who is champion of sustainable open-fire cooking. "I like to cook Indian food the way it was always cooked. I think it's not always important to reinvent the wheel. If you can make it better, that's fine. If not, it can be celebrated in its original form. Palaash does just that by offering a regional local dining experience that stays true to its roots," she says.

## Pairing with wine

Head chef Vasundhara Gupta emerges from the island kitchen with *ratalu tart*, a beautifully presented dish consisting of the pastry base with a layer of dal makhani, *kashiphal* (pumpkin paste), *ratalu gulab* (sweet potato). For the vegetarians there is *arbi* (colocassia) *bhakri*, which is like a desi taco – cooked colocassia is spiced with *lal theccha* (red chill chutney) and placed on palm-sized rotis made with rice flour. Meat-eaters may like to tuck into a smoky raan cooked for over eight hours in the underground barbecue pit. Both the dishes go well with Chardonnay.

"Since every dish is slow cooked to retain its flavour, we start preparing for dinner in the afternoon," says Vasundhara while serving Nagpur's famous *saoji vanga*



Tribal women from Marathwadi village possess a unique culinary finesse; their attention to finer details, makes the food special

CHEF AMNINDER SANDHU

Delhiites are so fond of! I particularly like the gajar halwa you get at Agarwal Bikaneri Sweets in Mayur Vihar Phase 2: it is fresh, and not thickened with khoya, as gajar halwa often is.

These are all rich desserts that warm us in winter. With Deepavali comes the first sign of the cold season that is just around the corner. The best way to beat the chill is by eating a dish that cheers you up. You could cook some unusual halwas at home, too. A friend prepares beetroot, bottle gourd or pumpkin halwa (grated, steamed with sugar, and then simmered in milk) to tempt her daughters to try out veggies that they otherwise reject. I have even had *lehsun* or garlic halwa, and quite liked the delicacy.

And now I am in search of egg halwa and gosht halwa, which, I am told, are largely prepared only in homes.

The word halwa is believed to have originated from the Arabic 'halw', which means sweet. For Deepavali, what could be sweeter?

Evergreen dessert Gajar ka halwa and Karachi halwa (below) are popular alternatives to Diwali sweets GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Hatti's in Khari Baoli. Halwa prepared with wheat flour is best to be eaten at Chawri Bazar's Shyam Sweets, which does a mean nagori halwa, a delightful sweet-and-savoury combination that comes in the form of a small atta disc topped with sweet, ghee-soaked halwa.

If you like semolina, you could consider Saravana Bhavan's raisin-and-nut filled kesari. This week, of course, also belongs to the ubiquitous gajar halwa; big and small sweet-shops in all parts of the city are filled with this dessert



## STEP OUT



### Creative collation

The exhibition *Atypical Corollaries* is a unique exploration of artistic consequences of creative processes. The works of alumni from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Baroda, are on display. At Art Magnum, 60/2C Indian Oil Complex, Yusuf Sarai, Sri Aurobindo Marg; Till November 20; 11am to 8pm.

### Intricate tapestries

The River Flowing Through Me is artist KP Pradeep Kumar's solo show. Curated by Monica Jain, the exhibition, through diverse mediums including drawings, paintings, sketches, and moving images, explores man's symbiotic relationship with Nature. At Art Centrix Space, Jain Fair (behind Sector D2) Vasant Kunj; Till November 30; 11am to 6pm

### Experiments with chintz

The Chintz Story by Bappaditya Biswas exhibits intricate designs and patterns on high status chintzes, which textile historians record were used by the rich and famous for their wardrobes and furnishings. The artist has made floral motifs and composed his own patterns using natural dyes on treated cloth. At Threshold Art Gallery, C-221, Sarvodaya Enclave; Till November 24; 11am to 8pm.





## Chip off the block

As incentives for semiconductors sputter, course corrections are due

As funds for production-linked incentives (PLI) for manufacturing semiconductors lie under-utilised by upwards of 80%, the Union government must be far clearer on what it has achieved – and aims to accomplish – by continuing to spend crores of rupees on bringing more semiconductor fabrication capabilities to India. While the PLI scheme for IT hardware has a ₹17,000 crore outlay, the one for semiconductors and displays has ₹38,601 crore earmarked. On the employment and substantive value addition fronts, existing schemes in and of themselves show little promise: while chips are important for most hardware and appliances, making them employs advanced and automated systems, and manufacturing facilities employ few people for the value generated in sales. Not all big-ticket spending in the national interest translates into domestic employment, as import-heavy defence spending shows. But the central wager with these schemes, at much cost to the exchequer, lies in attracting an “ecosystem” that will increase the value addition of India’s electronics manufacturing sector. This is far from a guaranteed outcome, even if PLI benefits are availed optimally. The wager also relies on global manufacturing giants giving other benefits of a globally distributed supply chain a go-by, including cheap and accessible international transport facilities for chips.

The constellation of PLI schemes remains a wager nonetheless. And it must be bolstered by other efforts to strengthen India’s hand – encouraging semiconductor design talent to develop domestically. Some efforts here, such as the design-linked incentive scheme, show promise. But the bulk of the capital remains focused on the assembly and subsidising of large manufacturing plants, with much of the raw and even intermediate material still being imported. And with the limited scope of what the PLI funds are incentivising, multinational chipmakers are staying away from making substantive commitments, despite incentives. Private capital is also in a state of flux, with advancements in chips and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence leaving policymakers guessing on how best to allocate resources to boost their technological position for the coming decade. These outlays must, therefore, be pegged to a tangible outcome: is this a matter of safeguarding cyber sovereignty to protect India from another pandemic-style supply chain shock, encouraging the domestic electronics industry to make electronics cheaper for Indian consumers, or asserting India as a global electronics manufacturing centre? Clarity on desired outcomes would make failures easier to spot. It would also make it possible to course correct before massive PLI spending has already taken place with little to show for the outflow.

## Women in red

A menstrual hygiene policy should provide a range of services

Only in an ‘unseeing’ world would the judiciary need to set the government a deadline to do the obvious. The Supreme Court of India gave the Centre four weeks to finalise an optimum menstrual hygiene policy with focus on the distribution of sanitary napkins. The Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, further directed the government to set down a national model for the number of girls toilets per female population across government-aided and residential schools in the country. Menstruation is the reality for women of a particular age demographic, naturally involving a substantial percentage of half the population in the country. It is only now, over three quarters of a century after Independence, that India has come closest to even drawing up a menstrual hygiene policy. While advancements over the years, and expanding urbanisation, have brought menstrual hygiene products within reach of a larger group of young women, affordability is still an issue; access hurdles stand in the way of a wide swathe of women in semi-urban and rural areas. The evidence for this is apodictic: as per the latest National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS), 73% of rural women and 90% of urban women use a hygienic method of menstrual protection. There was a significant improvement in the percentage of women aged 15-24 who use a hygienic method of protection during their menstrual cycle, this rose from 58% in NFHS-4 to 78% in NFHS-5, primarily sanitary napkins, cloth and locally prepared napkins. The survey also revealed the close link between education and preference for hygiene – women who have received 12 or more years of schooling are more than twice as likely to use a hygienic method compared to those with no schooling. An irrefutable link has been established between menstruation and dropping out of school, because of stigma, and patchy or no access to sanitation (in terms of access to products, toilets and water). That little has been done to address this all these years reeks of callousness.

The Centre told the Court that a draft policy had been circulated for comments from various stakeholders and that it would be ready in four weeks. A policy is only half a revolution; to complete the circle, it is crucial the government ensures access to affordable menstrual hygiene products for all menstruating girls, but also clean toilets and water wherever the women may need them. Besides, the policy should also cater to the entire lifecycle of menstruation, providing for the entire range of health and social sequelae that result from it. The government must see, cognise, and commit to serve India’s women.

The Indian economy has grown at an impressive rate in the post-COVID-19 years. In FY2023, it grew year-over-year (YoY) at 7.2%, the fastest among major economies. In FY2024, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects India’s YoY growth at 6.3%, again the fastest among major economies. For those yet to absorb its full import (see <https://tinyurl.com/wzxhde5a>, for example), the tagline, ‘fastest-growing major economy,’ calls for some elaboration.

The word ‘major’ in the tagline makes it clear that India’s relatively high economic growth in the global context is not on account of its small size. India is currently the fifth largest economy in the world in U.S. dollar terms and is projected by the IMF to become the third largest by 2027. An economy as large as this and growing rapidly cannot be characterised by weak domestic demand, particularly when external demand growth has been uneven and uncertain.

### COVID-19 and growth rates

Some commentators contest the tagline, ‘fastest’. There is a view that post-COVID-19, YoY growth rates need to be replaced by compound annual growth rate estimated on the pre-COVID-19 year of 2019-20. This view seeks to measure annualised progress as if there was no pandemic. However, the fact is that there was a pandemic, and YoY growth rates measure progress despite the pandemic. In this perspective, the YoY growth rate of 7.2% in FY23 comprises two components: one that measures annualised progress over the pre-pandemic year and the other that measures annual recovery of the output lost to the pandemic. The latter in no way is less significant than the former.

Present-day economic dividends are also rooted in the steps taken to mitigate the economic challenges of the pre-COVID-19 period. In the first decade of this century, the Indian economy grew rapidly, propelled by strong growth in world trade and a domestic credit boom.

In the aftermath of the global financial crisis of 2007-08, growth in world trade fell, dampening the trade stimulus for economies worldwide, including the Indian economy. The domestic credit bubble also burst as high leverage in the corporate sector led to frequent defaults in repayments and a consequent surge in non-performing assets of public sector banks. The twin stresses on the balance sheets combined with elevated prices in real estate led

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It is a vindication of the success of India’s development record that the rising aspirations of citizens are being matched by their belief that these aspirations will be realised in their lifetime

to a lower investment rate in the Indian economy.

Public capex also could not add much to the investment rate as the new government that came to power in 2014 had no choice but to opt for fiscal discipline to address the legacy challenges of large fiscal deficits, high inflation, and a widened current account deficit. With trade and domestic investment weakening, the Indian economy grew at a rate less than its potential in the second decade, except for a couple of years when crude oil prices dropped, improved the trade balance, and supported higher growth.

### Government’s measures since 2014

The new government implemented a series of measures to lift the economy onto a higher growth path in the medium term. A calibrated liberalisation of the economy has resulted in an upward-level shift of net foreign direct investment inflows. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) introduced in 2015 has successfully addressed delinquency and lowered the non-performing assets in the banking sector, setting the stage for private corporate investment to take off. The demonetisation drive of 2016 has reduced black money by improving tax compliance.

Besides, the Goods and Services Taxes (GST) rolled out in 2017 has mobilised higher revenues and unified fragmented markets to build economic synergies. The reduction in the corporate tax rate in 2019 to one of the lowest in the world has increased corporate reserves, which are being leveraged to finance higher investments. These reforms have led to a strong churning of the economy, shutting out enterprises that deviated from market principles.

In FY22, the government embarked on a large Capex programme and provided resource support to State governments to increase their Capex budget. From 1.6% of GDP in FY19, the Capex of the central government has risen to 2.7% in FY23 and is budgeted to increase further to 3.3% in FY24 – all this while containing the fiscal deficit to its budgeted ratio to GDP. The idea behind the upscaling of the Capex budget was to not only plug gaps in physical infrastructure but also to “crowd-in” private corporate investment, which was investment-ready, having repaired its balance sheet and progressed to an optimal level of capacity utilisation. Data from Axis Bank, for example, shows private corporate investment rose by 22.4% in FY23, with 15 out of 19 sectors witnessing an expansion in private capital investment.

Along with accelerating economic growth, the government has been focusing on inclusive growth, as reflected in its commitment to Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas. It has taken various steps to lift people above the poverty line. Relentless government support towards livelihood enhancement, skill development, women’s empowerment, and infrastructure development has played a vital role in reducing the incidence of poverty in India.

### Poverty alleviation, rural welfare

A report by NITI Aayog, that was released recently, showcases a remarkable decline in the prevalence of multidimensional poverty in India; 13.5 crore Indians are estimated to have escaped multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21, with rural areas largely driving the decline in the headcount ratio of the Multidimensional Poverty Index. Further, there has been tangible progress in rural living standards, aided by a policy focus on basic amenities. The National Family Health Survey for 2019-21 provides ample evidence of a significant improvement in an array of indicators concerning the quality of rural lives, including access to electricity, improved drinking water sources, and coverage under health insurance schemes. Various health-related indicators, such as institutional births, immunisation and health insurance coverage, have also seen an uptrend.

The government’s support for agriculture has led to fruits, vegetables, the ‘dairy and livestock products combined’, and fishery growing at unprecedented growth rates. Consequently, the share of fruits and vegetables in the food basket has increased to 19.4% in 2021. The percentage of livestock products has come to account for about 38% of the total value of agri-food. The country’s food basket is more nutritious today than ever.

As a country with a large population and a per capita GDP of nearly \$2,400, India is aware of the long road ahead to achieve high-income status and a high quality of life for a majority of its citizens. It is a vindication of the success of India’s development record in a democratic polity that the steadily rising aspirations of citizens are being matched by their belief that those aspirations will be realised in their lifetime. Now, if experts realise that it is okay to acknowledge successes as it is to draw attention to shortcomings, the quality of public discourse will catch up with India’s economic progress.

The views expressed are personal

## Justice, anger and the Nithari acquittals

It is true that the bones of 19 children and women were found in Nithari, Noida, in 2006. It is also true that it was decided well before the trials in any of those cases that the two men, Surendra Koli and Moninder Singh Pandher, were guilty of these crimes, with the imagery of cannibalism etched in our collective memories. However, the terms of justice seem to be severely contested in light of the acquittals for Koli and Pandher. On the one hand is the scale of the loss to families of the victims and on the other is our collective commitment to the rule of law and presumption of innocence. It is not easy to stay committed to these principles in the face of such human tragedy. Does it matter whether there was reliable evidence to convict Koli and Pandher? Or, should we demand a conviction at all costs despite what we might make of the evidence?

### The legal journey

The saga began in December 2006 when human bones were found in the nala outside kothi number D-5 in Nithari, where Koli resided with his employer Pandher. This led to a lurid tale of rape, murder, and cannibalism that Koli confessed to to a Magistrate after spending almost 60 days in the custody of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). His pleas in the confession that he had been tortured and tutored by the police were ignored by the Magistrate. The CBI registered 16 cases for 16 murders.

In the first case that was tried, the Sessions Court relied on the confession and the discovery of human remains outside D-5 to convict and sentence Koli to death in February 2009. The Allahabad High Court and the Supreme Court of India, also relying on Koli’s confession, confirmed this death sentence. The case progressed to the level of the President of India rejecting Koli’s



### Stuti Rai

is a Litigation Associate at Project 39A, National Law University Delhi

The pursuit of accountability should not translate into a demand for convictions at all costs as it risks weakening an already broken criminal justice system

mercy petition, only for the High Court to find that it would be constitutionally untenable to execute him. Koli remains in Dasna district prison, where he is serving a life sentence for this murder.

The remaining 12 cases also had Koli’s confession as the mainstay of the prosecution’s case. Yet, the Allahabad High Court has now acquitted Koli, despite the very same evidence having been used right up to the Supreme Court in the first case.

What changed suddenly? The High Court has highlighted that Koli’s lawyers were able to get investigators to admit to legally significant flaws in these 12 cases that were not available in the first case, where Koli, an illiterate and poor man, had been reliant on a different lawyer. On the basis of these admissions, the High Court concluded that the investigation was deeply flawed, and that both the police and the CBI had failed to investigate a neighbour to D-5 – a surgeon who had been interrogated earlier for organ trafficking.

Unlike courts before it, the High Court gave due consideration to the report of a high-level committee set up by the central government to look into the Nithari murders that had recommended an inquiry into organ trafficking, given the precision with which the bodies were dismembered and the absence of torsos among the bones found. The court also noted that evidence of ‘substantially better quality’ had been put forth in these cases to establish that the confession had been procured through torture and tutoring. This is not Koli’s first acquittal; the trial court has also acquitted him of the remaining three murders.

### The public response

For many readers of this daily, all of this might

seem like unnecessary legal wrangling designed to obfuscate the truth. The perceived failure of the legal system to confirm public belief about Koli’s guilt seems to have unleashed immense anger and frustration. There is no willingness to pause and question the conduct of the investigation agencies in this case. Irrespective of what we might have been led to believe through media hyperbole, it is in our own collective interest to say that criminal convictions must meet a certain quality of evidence, and courts should not uncritically accept prosecution narratives. Media trials, based on evidence leaked by investigators, often sentence the accused even before their trial in a court of law begins.

When the police are not shy about manipulating evidence, and public pressure is relentless, it comes as little surprise when innocent (and generally poor) persons are paraded as the criminal concerned. Whether our appellate courts catch these wrongful convictions becomes a roll of dice, dependent on the judge’s identity and their tolerance for public pressure. In stark contrast to its approach in Koli’s case, the Supreme Court has recently acquitted 13 people who had been sentenced to death. The Court’s dissatisfaction with police investigations has become a refrain in such cases.

The anger with and frustration over the lack of accountability for the tragedy that unfolded in Nithari are certainly legitimate. However, the pursuit of that accountability should not translate into a demand for convictions at all costs. It risks further delegitimisation of an already broken criminal justice system. It also does injustice to us all by compromising the rule of law – our only protection against the might of the state, which can choose and punish people at its whim.

The views expressed are personal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Governors in the spotlight

When the Governor of a State delays taking action on Bills passed by an elected government, for reasons best known to the Governor, it undermines the will of the people. It is regrettable that the Governors in States where the Opposition is in power are engaging in deliberate inaction to advance their own interests or those of the Central government. With the Kerala government now seeking the intervention of the Supreme Court of India (Page 1, “Kerala moves SC against Governor again”, November 9), it is hoped that the Court

will establish a precise definition of what constitutes a “reasonable time” for the Governor to act on Bills. If it is not possible to establish a specific time frame, then, at the very least, it should be mandated that Governors provide an explanation for any delay in taking action on Bills.

Michael Jom, Thiruvananthapuram

The intemperate acts of Governors in sitting on Bills passed by the Assemblies and claiming absolute discretion over the matter amount to a trampling on the democratic rights of the

people. Successive central governments have misused the post of Governors for partisan political purposes. It is no exaggeration that under the government in power at the central level, acts by the office of the Governor have resulted in State government-Governor relations touching an all-time low. Going by actions in States that are not ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party, it makes one believe that Governors are under remote control from Delhi.

It is a fact that no clear-cut time frame is laid down in the Constitution for Governors to clear Bills. But

then, the founding fathers of our Republic would never have expected some Governors to turn into political pawns, absolutely devoid of constitutional decency. Governors have obviously outlived their utility and are doing incalculable damage to our federal structure.

Manohar Alembath, Kannur, Kerala

**Chief Minister’s comment** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s ‘derogatory’ comment made in connection with population control has justifiably invited strident criticism. Given the fact that sexist

and crude references to women have now become a seamless part of daily discourse in the country, parties across the political spectrum must restrain their partymen from using gender stereotypical language.

M. Jeyaram, Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

It is time we stop looking at and talking about women as objects. A woman must be treated with dignity.

Sujeet Mehrotra, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh

### Misinterpretations

I am rather disillusioned to note that *Sanatana*

*Dharma*, replete with lofty ideals and high principles, is a topic that is now in court just because a political figure has been airing his odd views on the subject. Those who have just an acquaintance with the subject should not make strange comments, giving rise to unnecessary misrepresentations.

Mani Natarajan, Chennai



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# Should Indians work longer hours?



**Arjun Nagarajan**  
is Chief Economist, Sundaram Asset Management Company Limited

## PARLEY

**I**nfosys founder Narayana Murthy recently said that young Indians should work 70 hours a week in order to compete with countries like China. Should Indians work more? Arjun Nagarajan and Anamitra Roy Chowdhury discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Sonikka Loganathan**. Edited excerpts:

### Should Indians work more hours?

**Arjun Nagarajan:** I want to de-emphasise the 70-hour number. Narayana Murthy said it in the context of India being at an inflection point with the largest population and a large demographic dividend. If we miss these decades, it is difficult to move up the value chain. India cannot compare with post-war Germany and Japan (as Mr. Murthy said), but the message is about taking ownership. In the 1990s to late 2020s, Indians worked 6-7 hours per day. Germany, during its heyday (industrial revolution), worked 40% to 50% more, and South Korea in the 1980s worked 30% to 33% more. Working longer is required, but these are broad generalisations and differ across sectors.



**Anamitra Roy Chowdhury**  
is Assistant Professor, Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, JNU, New Delhi

**Anamitra Roy Chowdhury:** The International Labour Organization set the working hours at eight hours a day and 48 hours a week. India ratified this. Many suggest increasing hours. But comparing it to the industrial revolution is like going back 200 years. Post-World War II Germany, facing labour shortages, brought in immigrants to rebuild the nation, which made longer hours necessary. In India, with our labour surplus, longer hours could impact unemployment. Germany now works 34 hours a week, Japan 37. But these are developed nations. Looking at our neighbours: Pakistan works 47 hours, Bangladesh 47, Bhutan 51, Sri Lanka 36, Nepal 40, while India averages 48. We must consider our labour market contextually and not just strive to exceed others, ignoring regional working hours conditions. Though not everyone in the industry may not seriously consider a 70-hour work week, its increasing prevalence in discussions is concerning. It is not in line with either developing or developed nations.

### How realistic is working 70 hours a week?

**ARC:** Working 14 hours a day for five days, or 11.5 for six days, doesn't account for travel, which may add another two hours. The latest Periodic Labour Force Survey data indicate a significant work hours gap between genders. This is wider in rural areas, probably due to women's additional unpaid care work. Overall,



Workers stitch cricket balls at the factory of the world's largest cricket gear manufacturer, Sanspareils Greenlands, in Meerut. REUTERS

in urban and rural areas, 5.5 hours daily versus men's 41 minutes. Increasing work hours will inherently bias the market against women. India's female labour force participation is already one of the lowest in South Asia. Moreover, research indicates diminishing returns for extended work hours.

**AN:** I agree that workers shouldn't be pushed beyond legal work hours. Research underscores the importance of a work-life balance, mental health, and physical exercise. Moreover, work hour averages vary by industry. For example, in the U.S., which is service-dominated, leisure and hospitality average around 25 hours weekly, whereas manufacturing is about 45 hours. In South Korea, the disparity is greater; transport and food services may reach 75 hours, while education is around 40. This shows that development stages and industry sectors – service or manufacturing – impact these averages. China, during its 1990 to 2012 manufacturing- and export-focused phase, saw increased work hours with negative outcomes. So, I'm not advocating that. I'm just saying it's crucial to consider a country's economic drivers and industry when evaluating work hours.

**While Germans and the Japanese worked longer hours after World War II, in the following years, their productivity increased due to better technology and their working hours dropped sharply. But for the past 50 years, India's productivity has been snail-paced. Will working longer hours compensate for this?**

**AN:** In discussing India's aim for a \$5 trillion economy, the overlooked factor is often the exchange rate. In 2019, the output per worker



There are only so many hours that can be extended and wages that can be suppressed before negative impacts occur.

**ANAMITRA ROY CHOWDHURY**

was \$74 for the U.S., \$69 for Germany, and \$8.7 for India. Converting these figures to local currencies for 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2019, you see different growth rates. From 1990 to 2019, the U.S. saw a 63% increase in productivity, Germany 59%, and India nearly nine times.

**ARC:** Productivity data are better measured per hour, and in purchasing power parity terms, which reflects local prices. Different countries work different hours, so productivity should be assessed per hour, not per worker. In 2017, productivity per hour was \$8 for India and \$69.8 for Germany. A German worker, working about 5.72 hours a day, is 8.7 times more productive than an Indian worker. To match this, an Indian worker would need to work 52 hours a day, which is impossible. Chinese workers were 1.44 times more productive than Indians. They work 46 hours a week; if we adjust for productivity. To match this, Indians should work for 66.24 hours. That is where, I think, the 70-hour mark comes from. Competing with China on hours brings us to unit labour cost, the labour cost to produce one unit of output. To calculate it, multiply the wage by the labour required per unit of output. This is the inverse of labour productivity, which measures output per unit of labour. If one country's labour productivity is double another's but the wages are the same, the more productive country has half the unit labour cost. To compete, the other country must either halve the wages or double the work hours to offset lower productivity. Therefore, asking for 70 hours of work without a wage increase effectively reduces wages, which is not viable.

**AN:** Sorry, I meant per hour too, which explains why our data are the same.

**The India Innovation Index report by NITI Aayog said that the gross expenditure in 2018 on R&D as a percentage of the GDP was 0.67%, one of the lowest in the world. How big a role does investment in capital and R&D play in increasing worker productivity?**

**AN:** When comparing productivity in India with developed countries, we overlook the fact that those countries have higher automation and wages due to smaller working populations. India, being capital-starved, has a savings-investment gap mirroring the current

account deficit. The priority is to optimise infrastructure and industry operations. Introducing artificial intelligence and technology could enhance worker efficiency. So, the short answer is that increasing capital investment is key to boosting worker productivity.

**ARC:** Productivity should be measured by output per hour worked. It increases with higher capital accumulation and better technology, improving capital productivity. Since workers can't invest, the onus is on investors and industrialists to enhance productivity. The ideal growth strategy is to invest in raising productivity per hour, thereby reducing unit labour cost and becoming globally competitive with increased exports. This contrasts with the less desirable method of suppressing wages, which India has tended to follow. There are only so many hours that can be extended and wages that can be suppressed before negative impacts occur. Notably, wages are not just costs; they fuel consumption too.

### Is it possible to maintain work-life balance while increasing worker productivity?

**ARC:** India has a severe job crisis. The current employment structure is worrying, with a modern economy expected to have more wage labour and less self-employment. Yet, self-employed individuals make up 57% of the workforce, of which 18% are 'unpaid helpers'. The organised sector, despite only employing 10% of the workforce, contributes 45% of the output and needs expansion to boost productivity. In a subsistence crisis, work hours may increase under pressure, necessitating strict enforcement of labour laws or external interventions to maintain work-life balance.

**AN:** Completely agree. Formalisation is the most important and has to happen in an organic fashion. Second, enforcing labour laws is crucial. Over and above that, what really changes the equation is leadership. Apart from the wage part of it – and wages have to be on a par with the amount of work or hours that you put in – an empathetic leadership makes a world of a difference, where the employee feels one with the firm, he loves the work that he does. Then the number of hours become a little secondary because you know you're working towards a different goal, you know that your needs are taken care of, that remuneration is not an issue.



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## NOTEBOOK

# When reality repeats itself, should the narrative?

The power climate communication gives to journalists can complicate their relationship with readers

Vasudevan Mukunth

**I**n December 2016, Cyclone Vardah made landfall near Chennai as a 'severe cyclonic storm', leaving two friends and me stuck in a house in the city for many days without power and water, as were most of the city's residents. It was at least two weeks before life returned to some kind of normal.

Even when we don't know whether global warming is responsible for intensifying a specific storm, we know its effects are allowing storms to intensify by and large including, like Vardah, those that form over the Bay of Bengal every winter. And once these storms make landfall, many things happen.

One is that in subsequent weeks, there is a surfeit of news reports, features, and commentary about the devastation these storms have wrought: fishers' nets and boats damaged, fish and cattle killed, people's homes and assets blown away, crops inundated, trees destroyed, infectious disease outbreaks, and deepening poverty. The state is accused of apathy, especially when institutional support is reported to be missing.

Such articles have been invaluable to piece together the social and political consequences of cyclones along India's east coast. But for a commissioning editor, the articles' recursive nature conflicts with an unwritten guideline: repeatedly exposing readers to similar narratives could cause them to lose interest. That is, while climate-related disasters happen every year, is there merit in publishing the same kind of post-disaster reports every time or should journalists strive for something new?

Communication is central to the way we negotiate climate change. Some prefer to alarm people with stories of devastated futures; others prefer making people more hopeful.

Journalists are privileged in this milieu because what we choose to communicate, and how, has a large effect. We need to communicate effectively. Climate alarmism overdone could lead to hopeless-

ness and inaction; feeding too much hope could lead to complacency and inaction; and repeatedly publishing the same sort of post-disaster reports could lead to disinterest and inaction. So, what should journalists do?

Two arguments I've heard in favour of repetition are "we're not covering climate crises enough" and "there's always new stuff - look harder". I don't think the first one is true of *The Hindu*, so I'm going to set it aside. The second is true: there is always something new to add to the narrative every year. However, finding and then reporting on it sensitively and sensibly costs a lot of money and time, more so as the difficulty of discovery increases. One result is that we have more of the same (not that that is otherwise a bad thing).

There is yet another argument that illustrates a deeper predicament: "just report what happened". This is discomfiting because climate-related disasters put seasoned science journalists in a position of power and responsibility, which then raises the question of whether we are exercising them right.

That is, will we be missing a trick by "just reporting what happened", only to discover later that we squandered our power by, say, choosing not to cover a particular incident in detail or to cover it differently? Or by trying to do more, will we overstep into activism and undermine our journalistic integrity and the publication's relationship with readers?

Layered on top of (or below?) these are the uncertainties inherent to climate change science itself.

I don't think there is one right answer - except maybe that journalists covering climate-related disasters need to have the room to make mistakes. Until we have a 'theory' to guide the coverage of climate-related disasters, and inform the relationship of such coverage with the operational principles of news-publishing, journalists shouldn't be faulted for getting something wrong on this front.

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## PICTURE OF THE WEEK

### Walking towards an uncertain future



Afghan refugees arrive on foot to cross the Pakistan-Afghanistan Torkham border, following the Pakistan's government decision to expel people who are illegally staying in the country. More than 165,000 Afghans have fled Pakistan since Islamabad issued an ultimatum to 1.7 million people a month ago to leave or face arrest and deportation, officials said on November 2. AFP

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 10, 1973

### Egypt and Israel to sign package deal to-day

Washington, Nov. 9: The U.S. Government announced to-day Israel and Egypt have accepted a six-point agreement intended to pave the way for negotiations to reach a permanent settlement in the war-torn West Asia. White House officials released the text of a letter from Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim listing the six points and saying

representatives of the two countries would meet to-morrow to sign the agreement. The text of the agreement, as given in Dr Kissinger's letter to Dr. Waldheim, included these points: 1. Egypt and Israel agree to observe scrupulously the ceasefire called by the U.N. Security Council. 2. Both sides agree that discussions between them will begin immediately to settle the question of the return to the October 22 positions in the framework of agreement on the disengagement and separation of forces under the auspices of the U.N. 3. The town of Suez will receive daily supplies of food, water and medicine. All wounded civilians in the town of Suez will be evacuated.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 10, 1923

### Bavarian coup

Munich, Nov. 9: After dictator Von Kahr had spoken at a large nationalist demonstration in Btrgerbraven beer cellars denouncing Marxist principles, the Fascist leader Von Hitler entered with six-hundred men and announced the Bavarian Government had been overthrown and added the new Government was in the hands of Ludendorff who was Commander-in-Chief while Von Hitler would his political adviser. Further the ex-chief of Munich police, Von Pochner, had been appointed administrator and General Von Lossow Minister for Defence. Hitlerite troops then surrounded the Cellars of the Oberland organisation with the Reich colours occupied number of places, particularly open spaces.

# Text & Context

THE HINDU

**NEWS IN NUMBERS**

**Overall reservation for deprived castes in Bihar raised**

**75** in percent. Bihar assembly on Thursday hiked the quota from 50% to 65% in government jobs and educational institutions. The quota for STs will be doubled, while for SCs it will be raised from 16% to 20%. PTI

**U.S. corporate bankruptcies amid sticky inflation in 2023**

**561** There were 50 corporate bankruptcy petitions in October. Four companies with over \$1 billion in liabilities filed for bankruptcy last month. Bankruptcies by U.S. companies jumped. REUTERS

**Factories closed as garment workers protest in Bangladesh**

**100** Up to 25,000 garment workers clashed with police in Bangladesh on Thursday as protests rejecting a government-offered pay rise forced the closure of factories outside Dhaka. AFP

**Pakistan releases Indian fisherman from Karachi jail**

**80** The Indian fishermen were released under the ongoing drive of the Pakistani government to expel illegal foreign immigrants and nationals from the country. PTI

**Earth had the hottest months in recorded history**

**12** About 7.3 billion people, or 90% of humanity, endured at least 10 days of high temperatures because of climate change according to a report by Climate Central. AP  
COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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## The Agartala-Akhaura rail link

How will this rail link benefit the travel time and distance between Agartala and Kolkata? What is the importance of Nischintapur in West Tripura in the context of this project? How long has the idea of the Agartala-Akhaura rail link been in discussions between the two countries?

**EXPLAINER**

Saptaparno Ghosh

**The story so far:**

On November 1, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurated the rail link between Agartala and Akhaura (in Bangladesh). It serves to re-establish connectivity between Bangladesh and India's northeast through Tripura. "Through this link, States of northeast India can also be connected to ports of Bangladesh," Mr Modi stated. Bangladeshi PM Ms. Hasina too highlighted that the long-awaited project would help energise connectivity and commerce in India's northeast and Bangladesh.

**What is the rail link about?**

The 12.24 km long rail line constituting of about 6.78 km dual gauge rail line in Bangladesh and 5.46 km in Tripura, would link the latter to Akhaura in its immediate neighbourhood and thereby, its broader rail network. Nischintapur in West Tripura would serve as the international immigration station, that is, provide facilities to process immigration-related scrutiny for passengers. Additionally, in September, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had declared Nischintapur as a Land Customs Station (LCS). It refers to any notified place meant for the clearance of goods imported or to be exported by land or inland water.

Other than the international transit, once completely operational, the project would also reduce the travel time between Agartala and Kolkata from about 31 hours at present to 10 hours. The existing commute distance between the two cities is 1,581 km and a requires a re-route via Guwahati and Lumding in Assam. This would be curtailed to 460 km.

"The Akhaura-Agartala rail link which will reduce the travel time and distance between India's Northeastern States and



**Shared progress:** People gather as the Akhaura-Agartala rail link enters the Indo-Bangladesh border during its trial run, at Nischintapur, in Agartala. ANI

Kolkata by providing connectivity through Bangladesh, helps realise the potential of this physical continuity," Sohini Bose, Associate Fellow for Neighbourhood Studies at the Strategic Studies Programme of the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in Kolkata told *The Hindu*. Furthermore, she states, "it will also help India to access the Port of Chattogram in Bangladesh through shorter routes and thus benefit overseas trade."

The project also is in continued adherence to the Central government's 'Act East Policy' and 'Neighbourhood First Policy'. As was pointed out by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) earlier, it would help the growth of small-scale industries in the border area, boost tourism in Northeast India and more importantly, help local producers with quicker import and export of items.

In June, NFR had anticipated the project would be completed at a total cost of ₹862.58 crore on the Indian side. Ministry for the Development of the Northeast Region provided the funds. In addition to this, India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) provided the Bangladeshi government an assistance of ₹392.52 crore for work on the other side. The construction on the Indian side was done by public sector enterprise Indian

Railways Construction International Ltd with Texmaco Rail and Engineering working on the Bangladeshi side.

**How many connectivity routes are operational now?**

As of now, five broad gauge connectivity routes are operational entailing links with Bangladesh - all of them from West Bengal. These include Gede railway station (West Bengal) to Darsana (Bangladesh), Benapole to Petrapole (West Bengal), Singhabad (West Bengal) to Rohanpur, Radhikapur (West Bengal) to Birol and Haldibari (West Bengal) to Chilahati. Work is underway to connect Mahihasan railway station in Assam to Shahbazpur in Bangladesh.

The memorandum of understanding for the Agartala-Akhaura rail link was signed in 2010 during Ms. Hasina's visit to India. In fact, ORF in a 2015 report on India-Bangladesh connectivity, had observed that past records revealed the rail link was suggested as far back as 1974 with the signing of a protocol between the two countries for cross-traffic movement. "The idea then became dormant and would only be revived many years later, during Trade Review Talks between India and Bangladesh in December 1998," the report held.

Trade between the two countries have

been on a consistent growth trajectory. There is an interchange of close to 100 cargo trains per month and approximately 2.66 metric tonnes were sent to Bangladesh in the previous financial year. The major commodities of export include stone, food grains, China clay, gypsum, maize, onion and other essential items, as and when required, from India.

As for people-to-people ties, it is facilitated by three passenger trains, namely, Kolkata-Dhaka Maitree Express, Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express and New Jalpaiguri-Dhaka Mitali Express.

**Is there a particular focus on rail connectivity?**

India's MEA had observed in a November 2022 note, that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the two countries stepped up their rail cooperation. This was because trade via land border faced abnormal disruption. Therefore, rail emerged as a "preferred, cost-effective and environment-friendly mode for cross-border transportation of essential commodities".

Furthermore, the Asian Development Bank Institute in a blog (July 2022) while enumerating developments in cross-border rail logistics, observed that following the success of movement of goods by rail, a parcel train service was introduced between India and Bangladesh. The low carrying capacity of these trains opened opportunities for export of smaller quantities of goods such as chemicals and textiles, among other things. The container train services and automobile cargo movement were also initiated.

According to Ms. Bose, the pandemic has taught countries "a lesson on the importance of supply chains". "It has consequently added fresh vigour to connectivity projects between India and Bangladesh of which railways are an important sector. Advancing Port and Road connectivity is also important for both countries and efforts to improve both are underway along with the railway initiatives," she said.

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacharjee)

**THE GIST**

In November, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Agartala-Akhaura rail link, connecting India's northeast with Bangladesh.

The rail link consists of a 12.24 km dual gauge rail line, reducing travel time between Agartala and Kolkata from 31 hours to 10 hours.

The project aims to enhance connectivity, boost trade, and strengthen ties between the two countries.

It supports India's 'Act East Policy' and 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and promotes small-scale industries and tourism in the region.

The project cost was around ₹862.58 crore on the Indian side, with funding from various sources.

The idea of the rail link dates back to 1974 and gained momentum in 2010 when the memorandum of understanding was signed.

## Why has the govt. issued a directive on deepfakes?

How do deepfakes work and what is the technology behind them? What are the implications of the increasing use of deepfakes by cybercriminals and scammers?

Nabeel Ahmed

**The story so far:**

On 8 November, the Indian government instructed "social media intermediaries" to remove morphed videos or deepfakes from their platforms within 24 hours of a complaint being filed, in accordance with a requirement outlined in the IT Rules 2021. The instructions came as deepfake videos of actors Rashmika Mandanna and Katrina Kaif surfaced online within the span of one week.

**What are deepfakes?**

Deepfakes have been around since 2017 and refer to videos, audios or images created using a form of artificial intelligence called deep learning. The term became popular when a Reddit contributor used publicly available

AI-driven software to impose the faces of celebrities onto the bodies of people in pornographic videos. Fast forward to 2023, deepfake tech, with the help of AI tools, allows semi and unskilled individuals to create fake content with morphed audio-visual clips and images. Researchers have observed a 230% increase in deepfake usage by cybercriminals and scammers, and have predicted the technology would replace phishing in a couple of years, Cyfirma, a cybersecurity company said.

**How does deepfake technology work?**

The technology involves modifying or creating images and videos using a machine learning technique called generative adversarial network (GAN). The AI-driven software detects and learns the subjects' movements and facial expressions from the source material and then duplicates these in another video or

image. To ensure that the deepfake created is as close to real as possible, creators use a large database of source images. This is why more deepfake videos are created of public figures, celebrities and politicians. The dataset is then used by one software to create a fake video, while a second software is used to detect signs of forgery in it. Through the collaborative work of the two software, the fake video is rendered until the second software package can no longer detect the forgery. This is known as "unsupervised learning", when machine-language models teach themselves. The method makes it difficult for other software to identify deepfakes.

**What do laws in India say about deepfakes?**

India's IT Rules, 2021 require that all content reported to be fake or produced using deep fake be taken down by

intermediary platforms within 36 hours.

The Indian IT ministry has also issued notices to social media platforms stating that impersonating online was illegal under Section 66D of the Information Technology Act of 2000. The IT Rules, 2021, also prohibit hosting any content that impersonates another person and requires social media firms to take down artificially morphed images when alerted.

**Why do people create deepfake content?**

The technology could potentially be used to incite political violence, sabotage elections, unsettle diplomatic relations, and spread misinformation. This technology can also be used to humiliate and blackmail people or attack organisations by presenting false evidence. However, deepfakes have positive usages as well. The technology has been used by the ALS Association in collaboration with a company to use voice-cloning technology to help people with ALS digitally recreate their voices in the future.

**How have other countries reacted?**

The EU has issued guidelines for the creation of an independent network of fact-checkers to help analyse the sources and processes of content creation. The U.S. has also introduced the bipartisan Deepfake Task Force Act to counter deepfake technology.

**THE GIST**

The Indian government has instructed social media intermediaries to remove deepfake videos within 24 hours, as required by the IT Rules 2021.

Deepfakes are created using artificial intelligence, allowing individuals to manipulate audio-visual content with relative ease.

Cybercriminals and scammers have increasingly used deepfakes, leading to concerns about their potential to replace phishing in the future.

Deepfake technology involves the use of generative adversarial networks (GANs) to modify or create images and videos by learning and duplicating subjects' movements and facial expressions.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

# Breaking boundaries: shifting perspectives in Hindi cinema

The transformation of female sexuality representation raises concerns about oversimplification and the potential for a regression in the portrayal while using humour as a means of addressing taboo subjects

Neha Mehrotra

In the lead up to the release of Siddharth Anand's *Pathaan* this year, there was a lot of talk, not of the film per se, but a small 20-second clip that seemed to have sparked anger among some of the political rank and file. It's hard to believe that after years of a slow but steady accretion of progressive films and portrayals, of women helming films about their own lives and desires, we have moved backward to a point where Deepika Padukone's saffron bikini in the song '*Besharam Rang*' caused people to take offence. Why? Because she is seemingly disrespecting, and sexualising a political colour. One female MP actually threatened to kick Deepika in the stomach, never watch any of her films and destroy her business. Feminism 101.

Evolution of portrayal

Over the years, the portrayal of female sexuality on screen has witnessed a constant evolution, from Deepa Mehta's *Fire* (1996) to *Dirty Picture* (2011) to *Lipstick Under My Burkha* (2016) to this year's *Thank You For Coming*. Several of these films spotlight sensuous women, who are actively indulging their desires, whether for sex, money or fame. How, then, does one understand films like these in relation to the whole '*Besharam Rang*' saga? There is a cognitive dissonance here: while one aspect of the Hindi film and television industry has gotten steadily more permissive and progressive, another part has tightened the shackles of societal mores, policing any and every transgression. This lays bare one of the most basic problems with breaking the glass ceiling - that a few female-driven films don't mean we have evolved into an equal society. In fact, these transgressions are often punished with a doubling down on female sexuality in more mainstream films. In light of this, let's take a look at the evolution of female sexuality on screen over the years.

Released in Indian theatres in 1998, *Fire* is loosely based on Urdu writer Ismat Chughtai's short story '*Lihaaf*', and is a seminal film when it comes to depictions of female sexuality on screen.

The film revolves around Radha and Sita, two women unhappily married into the same house. While Radha (played by Shabana Azmi) is a "barren woman" whose inability to have children has accorded her second-class status, Sita (Nandita Das) is plagued by her husband's affair with another woman. In the absence of marital love, Radha and Sita start spending time together, and eventually, develop a relationship. Radha, at one point, tells Sita, "This isn't familiar to me, this awareness of needs and desires" - spotlighting how female sexuality is often extinguished in Indian families.

To top it off, their names - Radha and Sita - draw parallels to the goddess Laxmi in Hindu mythology, alluding to divine sanction for their relationship. The film was revolutionary in its emphasis on two women desiring each other, an act that acknowledges female sexuality can exist outside of marriage and reproduction. This is a sexuality purely predicated on pleasure.

Though there was a general backlash to '*Fire*' (a 1998 *India Today* article on the subject begins with 'It started like a bush



A still from *English Vinglish*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

fire...) with the film being recalled by the Censor Board over objectionable content, it was eventually screened across the country - and moved the dial of female-centric cinema forward.

As we sailed into the 2000s, there came a slew of films like *Dirty Picture* (2011), *Aiyya* (2012) and *English Vinglish* (2012) that had strong women in the lead, talking, desiring, taking control, with the men relegated to an almost negligible background. For instance, *Dirty Picture* tells the story of Silk Smitha, an 80s dancer and actress known for her erotic performances, and widely hailed as a sex symbol. Starring Vidya Balan, the film depicts Silk unapologetically using her sexuality to make it in a man's world, and features Ms. Balan opposite three male leads over the course of the film - Naseeruddin Shah, Tusshar Kapoor and Emraan Hashmi, all of whom she has a love affair with.

There's a poignant moment when Silk, while accepting an award on stage, calls out the hypocrisy of those who dub her 'dirty': "*Apni film ko take off karne ke liye mujhe boarding pass ki tarah use kiya, phir bhi vulgar main hoon. Dance karvaya aapne, par vulgar main hoon. Family ke saath meri films dekh nahi sakte, par chup chup ke dekh kar dhadaake se sex karte jaa rahe hai. Par tab bhi vulgar main hoon.*"

That a film like this found mainstream success - it grossed over ₹117 crores at the box office and won Balan the National Film Award for Best Actress - is a testament to changing times and portrayals. It subverted Freud's famous Madonna-Whore complex that boxes women into one of two categories: Madonna, a woman who is admired and respected, or Whore, a sexy woman who is consequently disrespected. Balan on screen was both, signalling a living, breathing multiplicity.

Post 2015, there started emerging a perceptible shift in the way female sexuality was treated on screen. This began with *Lipstick Under My Burkha* in 2016, but was carried forward in films like *Bareilly Ki Barfi* (2017), *Lust Stories* (2018) and *Badhai Do* (2022).

The most significant change in all of them was the use of comedy to deal with sex and sexuality, particularly that of women. Until this point, most films depicted female sexuality as a serious affair, to be treated with the gravitas they believed the topic deserved. But then came *Lipstick Under My Burkha*, which spotlighted the secret lives and desires of four women in the small town of Bhopal. The film's voiceover has 55-year-old widow *Buaaji* (Ratna Pathak Shah) reading from an erotic novel featuring a woman called Rosy and her *tadakte phadakte sapne*. This, in itself, is a source of subtle comedy as the narration has Rosy doing things like spying on her neighbour as he bathes, an act of sexual agency mirrored by *Buaaji*, who starts taking swimming lessons and seducing her instructor.

Successive films played up this comic element, and soon, a number of films featuring female sexuality were made as comedies. Whether it is *Bareilly's barfi* Bitti Sharma who, as the film indicates, is just like a boy - smokes cigarettes, stays out late, break dances and takes full control of her love life; or the librarian Rekha (Neha Dhupia) in *Lust Stories*, who wears low-cut blouses and masturbates in the library, women's sexuality was handled with a lighter touch, that emphasised a sexy frivolity that didn't take itself too seriously. Sometimes, comedy spilled over into horror, giving you a film like *Stree* (2018), which was dubbed a comedy-horror. In this, a *chudail* named *Stree* plagues the town of Chanderi, her MO being "*woh purusho ko uthaati hai, aur sirf vastra chhodti hai.*" In a comic role reversal, it's the woman who is depicted as a predator on the loose, and the men who, to protect themselves, are instructed not to stay out too late. Though ironically astute, the premise betrays an underlying confusion about what exactly the *Stree* wants: sex or respect.

Comedy, horror

Both comedy and horror have their advantages: comedy often serves to lighten heavy topics and make them palatable to a wider audience, while horror can heighten the senses, punctuating the point of the film with greater efficacy. But there is a flipside - the problem with relegating female sexuality to the comedy or horror genres is that it can end up flattening a rather complex subject, in the process stripping it of nuance; which is what, to a certain extent, happened in *Stree*. And which is what also happened in the 2023 sex comedy *Thank You For Coming*. Directed by Karan Boolani, the film has all the tick marks of a progressive film centering on woman: it features a strong female cast of Bhumi Pednekar in the forefront, flanked by the coterie of Shehnaaz Gill, Kusha Kapila, Dolly Singh and Shibani Bedi. It also emphasises female pleasure, particularly orgasms, with the film serving as one long search for who gave Pednekar her first and only orgasm. But underneath the progressive paraphernalia lies a post 30s woman terrified of turning old, and in perpetual search of a Prince Charming. A lot of the film's main themes - sexual pleasure, relationships, harassment - are bludgeoned in the name of comedy, which, ultimately, is not even very funny.

In today's saffron bikini-ridden times, laughing seems a welcome respite, and perhaps a good coping mechanism to counteract the harshness around us. It's also a great way to surpass censorship of what are considered taboo subjects. But amid the laughter, we should be careful not to undo the progress made over the years, and end up triggering a devolution of female sexuality on screen.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir - Mr. B. V. Prasad, Lalithanagar, Visakhapatnam, wants to know the difference between 'clean' and 'cleans'."

"Both mean 'to remove foreign matter'. 'Clean' is the word that is commonly used. Clean the room. It is so dirty. 'Cleans' is used when you want to convey that what is to be removed is foul or polluting. 'Cleans' means 'to make morally or spiritually clean, to purify or free from guilt or sin'. When you clean something, you try to remove what is foul or obnoxious. We must cleans public life in our country. You clean your teeth. He said we could cleans ourselves of our sins through prayer. 'Clean' rhymes with 'spleen'. 'Cleans' rhymes with 'tens'. The 's' is pronounced 'z'."

"Sir, Ms. Prithvi Krishna, Avadi Road, Madras, wants to know the meaning of 'Before you can say Jack Robinson'."

"'Before you can say Jack Robinson' means 'immediately, instantly'. It would seem that there was a Jack Robinson who used to visit his neighbours suddenly and would leave immediately on arrival. He was in the habit of saying 'hello' and 'goodbye' in quick succession. Ram gave the answer before you could say Jack Robinson."

"Sir, Mr. Y. V. S. Subrahmanyam, Butchemma Agraharam, Amalapuram, wants to know the difference between 'walk out' and 'boycott'."

"'To walk out' is 'to leave suddenly and angrily, especially as protest or strike'. When the Speaker refused to accept the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition, the Opposition walked out of the House. He walked out of the meeting in protest. 'To boycott' is 'to refuse to do business with, attend or take part in, as a way of showing disapproval and opposition'. During the Freedom Movement, a lot of Indians boycotted British goods. Many nations are boycotting South African goods. You walk out when you are dissatisfied. You boycott on principle. The duration of a boycott can be short or long. The word is from Captain Boycott (1832-1897), an Irishman, who was isolated from others for his taking over a farm from an evicted tenant. The Irish League had declared in 1880 that no such land should be bought by another and if anyone did, he should be avoided like the plague. Everyone refused to work for Boycott and persecuted him in several ways. So 'boycott' now means 'organised refusal to trade or to associate with a country, business concern, or individual'."

"Sir, Mr. K. Pradeep, Indira Nagar, Madras wants to know the difference between 'pin code' and 'zip code'."

"They mean the same thing. They refer to a number that is used in the postal address of a place to help sorting of mail. A five-digit number is used in America and a six-digit number is used in India. The word ZIP is used in America. It means 'Zone Improvement Plan'. PIN is used in India, it means 'Postal Index Number' Code. 'Post Code' is used in Britain. 'Post Code' in Britain is a combination of letters and numbers." *Published in The Hindu on December 19, 1989*

THE DAILY QUIZ

Writer Neil Gaiman was born on this day in 1960. Here is a quiz on the works of one of the most well-known postmodern writers

K. Abhinava

QUESTION 1

This character in a Neil Gaiman book inspired the creation of a character in '*The Matrix*' movie. In the movie, the character is played by Laurence Fishburne. Identify the character and the book.

QUESTION 2

Which of Gaiman's novels was adapted into a feature-length film using stop-motion animation in 2009?

QUESTION 3

An iconic episode of '*Doctor*

*Who*' was written by Gaiman. It explores the doctor's relationship with the police box after the soul of TARDIS is transported into a human vessel. Identify the episode and the actor who played the legendary doctor.

QUESTION 4

What is the name of the magical, otherworldly market in Neil Gaiman's novel '*Neverwhere*'?

QUESTION 5

In '*The Graveyard Book*', the protagonist who is raised by ghosts in a cemetery after his family is murdered is called Somebody Owens. Is the statement true or false?



Visual Question: The image is from a series adapted from a book written by Gaiman. Who is the co-writer of the book?

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

1. Name the Asian country that got its Independence from France on this date. **Ans: Cambodia**
  2. Name the author familiar to Indians as the writer of 'Sare Jahan se Accha'. **Ans: Muhammad Iqbal**
  3. The chemical element with the Atomic Number 110 takes its name from the city where the institute is located. Name the element and city. **Ans: Darmstadt and Darmstadtium**
  4. Who did Garry Kasparov beat to become the youngest World Chess Champion? **Ans: Anatoly Karpov**
  5. Name the German vessel. **Ans: SMS Emden**
  6. This free and open-source web browser had its initial release on November 9, 18 years ago. **Ans: Firefox**
  7. Name the French President who passed away on November 9, 1970. **Ans: Charles De Gaulle**
- Visual: This is the seal of which Indian State. **Ans: Uttarakhand**
- Early Birds: Anurag Gangwar | K.N. Viswanathan | Ravi Shankar | Suresh Kumar | Varghese Joseph

Please send in your answers to [dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in](mailto:dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in)

## Word of the day

**Candour:** ability to make judgments free from discrimination or dishonesty

**Synonyms:** openness, fairness, sincerity

**Usage:** She has earned a reputation for candour.

**Pronunciation:** bit.ly/candourpro

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /kændə/

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

## From Page One

## Ethics panel suggests Moitra's disqualification

The panel has left it for the GOI to investigate and establish the money trail. "The 'money trail' of cash transactions between Mahua Moitra and Darshan Hiranandani as a part of 'quid pro quo' should be investigated by the Government of India in a legal, institutional and time-bound manner," it said. The panel also admonished its own member and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MP Danish Ali for "twisting/moulding the intent of question put forth by Chairperson".

## National security

Assisting the panel in its probe, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) submitted a background note, in which it argued that several documents posted on the Lok Sabha website are not available in the public domain and "leakage of sensitive material" could be exploited by "inimical elements to the detriment of national security". It said there was a danger of foreign agencies accessing such sensitive material specifically because Mr. Hiranandani, with whom Ms. Moitra is accused of sharing her login credentials, had many "foreign relatives".

The MHA also said that an "unauthorised access" can also lead to other "potential hazards" such as "serious cyber attacks", potentially disabling the system entirely and crippling the functioning of the Parliament. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) informed the panel that Ms. Moitra's login was accessed from Dubai 47 times.

In his submission to the panel, advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, Ms. Moitra's former partner, based on whose evidence Mr. Dubey filed the complaint, said that he has never met Mr. Hiranandani. But he said that he witnessed first-hand, phone conversations between Ms. Moitra and Mr. Hiranandani about exchange of money and gifts for asking questions.

## Bill raising quota ceiling to 65% passed in Bihar

The amended Bill will now be sent to the Governor for his assent before it becomes a law.

During the debate on the Bill, BJP legislators asked the government for some clarifications over the 10% EWS reservation. "Though our party supports the raise in reservation, we also want to know if the government has included the 10% EWS reservation in the 35% khuli gunagun koti [Open Merit Category] bracket?" asked Arun Shankar Prasad, the BJP's Khajauli MLA.

Responding to them, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary said, "Yes, the 10% EWS reservation quota has been included in the 35% Open Merit Category. The Bihar government has proposed to raise reservation only for BC, EBC, SC, and ST communities."

Mr. Kumar had proposed the amendment to raise reservations on November 7, hours after it was tabled in the State Assembly and on the same day, it was approved by the State Cabinet. The caste survey report released on October 2 said EBCs comprise 36% and BCs 27.1% of the State's 13.1 crore population. Together the two caste groups account for nearly 63% of the population.

"If need be, there could be a raise in this reservation as well and I'll be happy for this," said Mr. Kumar while adding, "My government will implement the raise in quota as soon as possible." "If special status is given by the Centre to Bihar, the State will excel even further," Mr. Kumar repeatedly said during the debate.

When a BJP legislator raised a question over the financial burden the government has to bear to implement the increase in quota, Mr. Kumar said, "The State government has to spend over ₹2.5 lakh crore to implement it but if the BJP legislators push for special status, Bihar will excel and develop even more".

## U.S. Secretary of Defence Austin arrives in India for '2+2' ministerial dialogue

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd J. Austin arrived in India on Thursday for the '2+2' ministerial dialogue scheduled to be held on Friday. He was received at the Palam technical area here by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and was given a Guard of Honour.

"Various issues will be discussed but I would not like to prejudice it," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in response to questions at the weekly press conference on the expected outcomes from the dialogue.

The tensions in West Asia are expected to figure prominently in the discussions.

Mr. Austin and U.S. Secretary of State Antony



**Strategic visit:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh welcomes Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Blinken will co-chair the Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue with Mr. Singh and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday.

It will be followed by a bilateral meeting between Mr. Austin and Mr. Singh, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

"A number of strategic,

## Trinamool backs Mahua, says she is competent to fight battle on her own

Abhishek Banerjee asks why Ethics Committee has not taken action on several pending cases, including that against BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri, who 'used foul language' in the House; party calls resolution to expel the MP an attempt to stifle her voice

Shiv Sahay Singh  
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress leadership on Thursday threw its weight behind Krishnagar MP Mahua Moitra, saying she was "competent enough to fight her own battle". The ruling party in West Bengal asked why the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee was not taking up allegations against BJP MPs.

"I think Mahua Moitra is competent enough to fight her battle on her own. They [the agencies] have been calling me and interrogating for the past four years, trying to tag me in different cases. This has become their standard operating procedure," Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee told mediapersons hours before the Ethics Commit-



This is the first time that the Trinamool leadership has extended support to Mahua Moitra in the 'cash for question' issue. ANI

tee adopted a report recommending the expulsion of Ms. Moitra from the Lok Sabha.

Mr. Banerjee raised questions on why the committee had not taken action in several pending cases, including that against BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri who "used foul language in Parliament". "There are several such cases where a

privilege motion against BJP MPs is still pending and there is no hearing. But if somebody wants to question the government or raise concerns over the malpractices by Adani, how can they be expelled as MPs," he asked.

This is the first time since allegations of "cash for query" surfaced against Ms. Moitra that the Trin-

amool leadership has extended its support to the MP. The party's response on the issue so far had been vague.

Trinamool spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said the resolution to expel Ms. Moitra was an attempt to "stifle her voice". "The BJP cannot defeat us in elections, that is why they are targeting us through the back door. The Ethics Committee should answer why allegations against BJP leaders are pending before the Committee. The Ethics committee has tried to unethically remove Mahua Moitra from Lok Sabha," the spokesperson said.

## 'Kangaroo court'

Speaking to news agency PTI, Ms. Moitra, said, "Even if they expel me in this Lok Sabha, I will be back in the next Lok Sabha

## India files appeal against death penalty to 8 former Navy personnel in Qatar

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The External Affairs Ministry on Thursday said that the Indian Embassy in Qatar had been granted consular access on November 7 to the eight former Indian Navy personnel who are facing death penalty in the West Asian country.

The Ministry said India was considering "further



On November 7, our Embassy received another consular access to the detainees

ARINDAM BAGCHI  
MEA spokesperson

legal steps" in the case.

"On November 7, our Embassy received another

consular access to the detainees. We are in touch with the family members too, and the External Affairs Minister met them earlier this month in New Delhi," Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

Mr. Bagchi assured "all legal and consular assistance" to the eight former officials who were working in Al Dahra company of Qatar. The Court of First In-

stance of Qatar passed a judgment on October 26 handing out the death penalty to them.

"The judgment is confidential and has only been shared with the legal team. They are now pursuing further legal steps, and an appeal has been filed. We will also remain engaged with the Qatari authorities on this matter," Mr. Bagchi said.

## On the draw



## Bihar CM loses cool in Assembly, attacks Manjhi

The Hindu Bureau  
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday lost his cool again in the Assembly and said it was due to his 'stupidity' that he had made Jitan Ram Manjhi the Chief Minister of the State. Mr. Manjhi became Chief Minister of the State in May 2014 when he was with JD(U) and Mr. Kumar had stepped down from the post on moral grounds after the 2014 Lok Sabha election.

## Two bullet-ridden bodies found in Manipur, say police

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Two days after four Kuki-Zo people, including the mother of an Army jawan posted in Jammu and Kashmir, were abducted by a mob in Manipur's Kangpokpi district, the police on Thursday said they have found the bullet-ridden bodies of a man and a woman at two different locations in Imphal.

A police source said the bodies were "most likely" of the abducted persons, but noted that the "formal identification is yet to be done".

The 65-year-old father of the soldier, who was rescued by the security forces, continues to be in a critical state at the Army Hospital in Guwahati.

Kuki Inpi, an apex body of Kuki tribes, said in a statement that two people were "mercilessly murdered" by Meitei groups. It said that on November 7, five Kuki-Zo people were travelling to L. Phaijang village in Kangpokpi district to perform customary nuptial practices when they were abducted by the mob.

The body of a middle-aged woman with a bullet wound on her head was found in Imphal West district on Wednesday, while the body of a man, presumed to be in his forties, was found in Imphal East district late on Tuesday night, PTI reported.

The bodies have been sent to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal for post-mortem examination.

## Need to expedite trial in cases against MPs, MLAs, SC tells HCs

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave Chief Justices of High Courts the responsibility to form a Special Bench each in their High Courts to maintain a constant vigil over the criminal trials of MPs and MLAs, some of them accused of crimes punishable with death or life imprisonment, and ensure they reach the finish line.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, months ahead of the Lok Sabha election in 2024, spurred the State High Courts into action to prevent criminals from donning the mantle of lawmakers in the country.

"These cases have a direct bearing on our political democracy. Hence, there is a compelling need to make every effort to ensure that these cases are taken up on priority and decided expeditiously," the court observed.

Amicus curiae Vijay Hansaria and advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, the petitioner, said 40% of the MPs and MLAs have criminal antecedents.

## Stark differences

The court said it would be difficult to form uniform guidelines for trial courts across the country on how to deal with these cases. The judgment said there were stark differences in the actual number of cases pending between States and even districts within States.

The Supreme Court directed the Chief Justices of High Courts to register suo motu cases in their respective jurisdictions titled "In re: Designated courts for MPs and MLAs" to monitor the early disposal of criminal cases pending against MPs and MLAs.

The Special Bench of

The Winter Session of Parliament will begin on December 4 and end on December 22, the Centre said on Thursday.

The session will have 15 sittings spread over 19 days, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said in a post on X (formerly Twitter). "Amid Amrit Kaal looking forward to discussions on legislative business and other items during the session," he said.

Several important Bills are likely to be taken up for consideration and passage during the Winter Session, including three legislation seeking to replace the Indian Penal Code, the Evidence Act, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, as well as a Bill related to the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.



each High Court may either be headed by the Chief Justice or comprise judges assigned by the Chief Justice. The High Courts should give principal district judges responsibility to allocate the cases to special designated courts for effective disposal of the pending criminal cases.

The designated trial courts should give first priority to cases concerning offences punishable with death or life imprisonment and then for five years' imprisonment and other charges with lesser punishment. The courts should allow no adjournments unless in rare or compelling circumstances.

The Special Bench of a State should monitor the progress of the trials by listing the suo motu case at regular intervals and by asking for information from the principal district judges through status reports on the progress of the pending trial proceedings. The Bench can take the assistance of the Advocate-Generals of the States concerned and public prosecutors. The High Courts should host an independent tab in their official websites providing district-wise details of the year of filing of the criminal cases against the legislators and the status of the trial.

The Chief Justices of High Courts should list and hear cases in which there was a stay of the trial passed by the Special Benches and pass appropriate orders, including vacation of the stay orders to ensure commencement and conclusion of the trial.

**APPEAL**

**Master Mohd Asad Imad**, son of Imran Siddiqui 12 years admitted in Christian Medical College, Rangpet is suffering from Thalassemia Major. This is a type of life threatening blood disorder. The best option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSC). The estimated cost of PBSC at this hospital is approximately Rs. 15,00,000/-.

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor TRUST**, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. 044 42044165 & 044 35691848, Mobile: 9884607377, Email: [savepoorlives@gmail.com](mailto:savepoorlives@gmail.com). Our website: [www.savepoorlives.com](http://www.savepoorlives.com)

# ASSEMBLY POLLS 2023

MIZORAM » MADHYA PRADESH » RAJASTHAN » CHHATTISGARH » TELANGANA

## PM's 5G mantra resulted in M.P.'s growth, says FM

Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday that Madhya Pradesh came out of its "bimaru (ill)" status only because of the "5G mantra" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP.

Addressing a press conference in the poll-bound State's Bhopal, Ms. Sitharaman said, "And this governance has

five sutras (principles), which I am calling 5G." She added: "They are growth, good governance, goodwill, guarantee of Modi ji, and gareeb kalyan (welfare of the poor). These are the five sutras because of which the bimaru M.P. has today become bemisal (unparalleled) Madhya Pradesh"

The BJP leader noted that Madhya Pradesh has witnessed a 12-fold increase in per capita income under the party's rule. "It has gone up from ₹11,171 in 2002 to ₹1.40 lakh," she said.



Nirmala Sitharaman said M.P. has seen an increase in per capita income under BJP rule.

## BJP will end Naxalism in five years, says Shah

Making his pitch for a "double engine" government in poll-bound Chhattisgarh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that if the BJP came to power, Naxalism would be eliminated in five years.

Addressing rallies in three different parts of the State, including Jashpur, Mr. Shah alleged that rampant "religious

conversion" had been taking place under Congress rule, even as he invoked the late Dilip Singh Judev, scion of the Jashpur royal family, and an "anti-conversion crusader".

Mr. Shah said that for 70 years, the Congress delayed the Ram Temple, stalling it, diverting it, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi was going to dedicate the grand temple in Ayodhya next year.

He also alleged that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was involved in scams running into thousands of crores of rupees.



I have come here to appeal to people of Rajasthan to wake up to the clear and present danger and reject these attempts to hijack democracy

P. CHIDAMBARAM  
Congress leader

## Congress chief targets BJP over caste census

At a rally in Chhattisgarh, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday accused the BJP of doublespeak on caste census. "[Home Minister Amit] Shah says that we have never opposed it. Narendra Modi says this is not right, you are dividing the backwards and the Scheduled Caste," he said.

He also accused Mr. Modi of using religion for votes.



My Bharatiya Janata Party government made four crore pucca houses for poor people but I haven't made one for myself

NARENDRA MODI  
Prime Minister



Voicing concerns: Social activist Aruna Roy addressing the Jan Manch where the manifesto was released on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## In Rajasthan, a manifesto from the people and for the people

The Hindu Bureau  
JAIPUR

A "people's manifesto" released by civil rights groups ahead of the Rajasthan Assembly election has called upon political parties to give the highest priority to the democratic rights of citizens. The manifesto was released on Wednesday in the presence of representatives from the ruling Congress, the BJP, and other parties.

Activists from the Rajasthan Election Watch and the Suchna Evum Rozgar Adhikar Abhiyan prepared the manifesto in consultation with citizens, social organisations, and experts in different fields. Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan founder-member Nikhil Dey said the manifesto would affirm the people's right to monitor the election and keep a watch on the conduct of candidates.

### Awareness yatra

The activists complained that the Election Commission (EC) had not given its nod for a proposed yatra to be undertaken by Rajasthan Election Watch to generate awareness among the voters. People's Union for Civil Liberties president Kavita Srivastava said that though permission had been sought on October 23, there was no response from the poll body so far.

"We are considering the option of approaching the Rajasthan High Court on the issue through a [writ] petition, as this amounts to an infringement of the democratic rights of people," she said.

Social activist and Magsaysay Award winner Aruna Roy said that since people had the "supreme voice" in a democracy, they should exercise their franchise wisely. "With the space for dissent constantly shrinking in the country and restrictions being imposed on the freedom of speech, our responsibility to defend democracy has increased manifold," Ms. Roy said.

Sitaram Lamba, a Congress manifesto committee member; Rakhi Rathore of the BJP; I.V. Gupta of the Aam Aadmi Party; Tara Singh Siddhu of the CPI; Sanjay Madhav of the CPI(M), and Shailendra Awasthi of the Samajwadi Party were among those who attended the Jan Manch, or people's forum, where the manifesto was released.

Dalit activist Bhanwar Meghwanshi raised a concern about the BJP giving ticket to Bari MLA Girraj Singh Malinga, who had allegedly assaulted a Dalit engineer in his constituency last year. "The BJP's action of inducting Mr. Malinga into the party and fielding him from the same seat has revealed its anti-Dalit mindset. The victim is still undergoing treatment in the hospital," he said.

They took exception to the BJP's decision to field former MLA Kanwar Lal Meena from Anta despite his alleged involvement in a violent attack on a 2016 Jawabdehi Yatra (accountability march) in Jhalawar district.

Several people participated in the function and took a pledge to raise the issues highlighted in the manifesto in their own constituencies. The activists will approach candidates and obtain a promise from them to work for the protection of people's rights.



# 'BJP works on collective decision, it's my duty to fulfil responsibilities given by party'

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister dismisses reports of anti-incumbency factor, says he is getting a lot of love from people; he says BJP is the only party that can ask its MPs and Union Ministers to contest Assembly poll due to its discipline; he also lists plans for women, farmers, and to check paper leaks

### INTERVIEW

## Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Ishita Mishra  
Mehul Malpani

While the BJP is going with a collective leadership pitch for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election and is not projecting Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan as its chief ministerial face, Mr. Chouhan says he will discharge whatever duty he will be assigned by the party. He speaks on the anti-incumbency factor, schemes for women, exam paper leaks, and other issues. Excerpts:

If BJP gets majority, will we see Shivraj Singh Chouhan as the next Chief Minister?

The BJP works on the basis of collective decision. Here, things are not confined to one family like in Congress. Whatever the top leadership of the party decides, every worker follows it. I am also an ordinary worker of BJP and it is my duty to discharge the responsibilities given to me by the party.

Do you think fielding MPs and Union

Ministers in Madhya Pradesh is a useful election strategy?

See, BJP believes in transparency in politics. Clean politics is our identity. All I can say is that BJP is the only party that can ask its MPs and Union Ministers to contest Assembly election and no other party can do this. Such is the discipline of our party.

You are the Chief Minister for almost two decades. You think the anti-incumbency factor can be a spoiler for BJP this time?

People sitting in Delhi talk about things like anti-incumbency. You come to Madhya Pradesh and you will find that there is only pro-incumbency for the BJP. I am getting a lot of love from people. The women of M.P. and I have become brother and sister and for children, I am their Mama (maternal uncle). It is my pledge to upgrade the lives of people of M.P.

The Ladli Behna Scheme has given an added popularity to you among women. What more do you have planned for women in future?

We started with Ladli Lakshmi in 2006 so that



GETTY IMAGES

the daughter does not become a burden but a boon. Most people consider daughter's wedding as a burden and hence would not let her come into this world, so we came up with Mukhya Mantri Kanya Vivah Yojana. Then we also gave 50% reservation to women in the civic body elections. Madhya Pradesh was also the first State to give 30% reservation to women in police recruitment. Now, we have given 35% reservation in all government jobs to daughters, while it is 50% in teaching jobs.

There is a whole series of such work. In 2017, I started giving ₹1,000 to my Baiga, Bhariya and Seheriya sisters (three tribal communities that have considerable population in M.P.) and the results were great.

I believe a woman will never waste money, so when money comes in her hand, she uses it for her family's benefits, especially

in improving the nutrition of children. If a woman has money, her self-confidence and self-respect increases. On February 28, I decided to bring Ladli Behna on floor and launched it on March 5 and after applications and scrutiny started giving money from June 20.

Today, 1.32 crore sisters are getting benefited from this scheme and their lives have really changed. Even in their homes, the standard of behaviour towards them has changed. They get more respect and their opinion is valued. We have brought it till here, now our further plan is to make every sister in Madhya Pradesh a lakhpati. This means that she will at least have an earning of ₹1 lakh a year or ₹10,000 a month. We have started doing this with the help of self-help groups. There are 53 lakh women in M.P. with the self-help groups and about 15 lakh of them have be-

come lakhpati and are earning ₹10,000 a month. Now, I want to make every sister a lakhpati, who earns more than ₹10,000 a month, becomes self-dependent and financially empowered, and they don't have to beg anyone. So, this is our step for the future.

Farmers, especially in Bundelkhand, are in distress. There are attempts both by the Centre and State to solve water crisis but will farm loan waiver, as promised by the Congress, can be in place if BJP government comes to power?

Since Independence, Congress has ruled the country and M.P. for many decades. It is well known that the previous governments have meted out step-motherly treatment to Bundelkhand. They only tricked our people in the name of development. Today, when we have a double-engine government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we got the gift of Ken-Betwa Link Project for the people of Bundelkhand which will solve the water crisis, especially agricultural, and will bring prosperity in the lives of farmers.

As far as farm loan waiver is concerned, we are al-

ready doing it. When we came to power, we paid around ₹2,200 crore as loan waiver of farmers. In the past three years, the BJP government has given approximately ₹3 lakh crore in the accounts of farmers through various schemes. It is the BJP under PM Modi that gives ₹12,000 to farmers as Samman Nidhi.

What are your promises to the youth in M.P., because for the past several years there have been repeated and unabated case of question paper leaks in the State. What action has your government taken to stop this? Do you have any future plans in this regard?

We do not just make promises, but also fulfil them. Youth are the future of the country and we have made many efforts to ensure employment for the young population. We have started Mukhyamantri Sikhokamoo Yojana (learn and earn scheme).

For paper leaks, we have also adopted complete transparency in the examinations and there are clear instructions for strict action against those found guilty of such acts. We hold exams in cases of paper leaks and get it investigated by judicial commissions.

## A murder creates tensions in Narendra Tomar's Dimani

Mehul Malpani  
DIMANI

It's only noon, but local residents warn of safety concerns due to the recent violence at Dimani in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh. "Leave as soon as you can as the tensions might increase here," says Lakhan Singh Nishad, a commercial driver.

Amid heavy electioneering in Dimani, where the BJP has fielded Union Agriculture Minister and Morena MP Narendra Singh Tomar, the violence on the night of November 3 has stirred up tensions. What started as a dispute between two friends over playing loud music on a tractor ended with gunfire, with Aidal Singh Gurjar al-

legedly killed by some men from the influential Tomar community. Following protests by the deceased's family and villagers, the administration bulldozed the houses of the accused on November 4. Dimani Station House Officer Udaybhan Singh Yadav says they have arrested one accused, while eight others are on the run. "We have deployed security in the victim's village," he says.

Madhya Pradesh is going to the polls on November 17. Dimani, which is part of the Gwalior-Chambal region, has emerged as one of the hotspots after the BJP decided to field Mr. Tomar from here.

The BJP won two only seats in Morena district in



Narendra Singh Tomar

the 2018 election, with the Congress bagging four, including Dimani. Out of the 34 seats in the Gwalior-Chambal region, the BJP won only seven, while the Congress won 26.

Local residents in Dimani are excited about a Union Minister contesting from the seat, but admit

that the election "is not going to be easy" for Mr. Tomar; they allege a "lack of connect" from his side.

Sanjay Sakwar, a farmer from Kachnodha village, says, "What has he done for the area? We are struggling even for the basic facilities here. He has never visited our village after elections." He points to an electricity transformer in his locality and claims that it has been dysfunctional for nearly four years.

Kalyan Singh Tomar, also a farmer, points to the problem of stray cattle in villages across the area. "During the [Congress's 15-month-long] Kamal Nath government, he had opened gaushalas and the cattle had been moved there. Now, they just roam

around the villages, destroy crops and even attack people," he says.

### Politicising murder

In Kachnodha, the lane where the murder accused lives bears a deserted look. Kalyan Singh Tomar, who lives near the house of the accused, prefers to remain quiet about the incident. "Nobody will talk about it here but the matter remains tense," he says.

In the victim's village of Rathol Ka Pura, relatives and neighbours have gathered outside his house to sympathise with the family and demand the arrest of all the accused. "If the police arrests them and takes appropriate action, everything will remain normal in the area," says Jaswant

Singh Gurjar, the brother of the deceased. He insists that he does not want the matter to get politicised or for the incident to trigger enmity between the two communities.

A journalist, who also hails from the Tomar community, says the matter has already been politicised, with the Gurjar votes likely to be consolidated in favour of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidate Balveer Singh Dandotia, even as Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar is likely to face anger from the Tomar community after the bulldozing of the house of the accused.

In Dimani town, Yogesh Singh Tomar has a different view, vowing that the Tomar community will ensure a win for the Minister.

## KTR escapes unhurt after falling off campaign vehicle in Nizamabad

The Hindu Bureau  
HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K.T. Rama Rao had a lucky escape on Thursday after he fell off a campaign vehicle in Armoor town of Nizamabad.

Mr. Rao, Armoor BRS candidate Jeevan Reddy, and Rajya Sabha member K.R. Suresh Reddy, along with others, were travelling by the open-top van when the driver suddenly applied brakes. Due to the impact, the

railings came off and the three leaders fell off the van.

While Mr. Suresh and Mr. Jeevan fell down on the road and were injured, Mr. Rao escaped with minor injuries as his security personnel held him.

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"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd [www.coalindia.in](http://www.coalindia.in) / respective Subsidiary Company. CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>."

Mysore District Co-Operative Milk Producers Societies Union Ltd.,  
Bannur Road, Alanahalli Post, Mysuru-570028.  
Phone No. 0821-2474475, Fax No.0821-2474476,  
e-mail : [purnymul@gmail.com](mailto:purnymul@gmail.com)

IFT No:KMF/2023-24/IND0428 Date:09.11.2023  
Tender Notification - (Through e-Tender only)

Mysuru Dist. Co-Op Milk Union Ltd invite tender for Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of new fully Automatic 1.5LLPD Expandable to 2 LLPD UHT milk plant and Utilities at Mysuru Mega Dairy plant on turnkey basis through E-procurement portal. For the tender document please visit e-procurement platform at <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Last date for uploading of document 06.01.2024 till 05.00 PM.

For further information please contact Manager (Purchase) during working hours, (Mobile No:6366430803)

Sd/- Managing Director  
Mysore District Co-Operative Milk Union Ltd.,

**IN BRIEF**



**SC grants relief to Surjewala facing non-bailable warrant**

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave reprieve to Congress leader Randeep Surjewala by staying the execution of a non-bailable warrant (NBW) issued against him by a Varanasi court in a 23-year-old case. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud urgently heard Mr. Surjewala's petition, represented by senior advocate A.M. Singhvi. The top court froze the NBW for five weeks and gave Mr. Surjewala four weeks to file an application in the trial court to cancel the NBW. The case dates back to 2000 when Mr. Surjewala, the then national president of Youth Congress, was charged with allegedly creating ruckus during a protest in Varanasi.

**PM Modi's degree: Gujarat HC rejects Kejriwal's review plea**

The Gujarat High Court on Thursday rejected the petition filed by Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal seeking a review of its March judgment quashing an order of the Central Information Commission that had directed the Gujarat University to provide details of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's academic degree to Mr. Kejriwal. Justice Biren Vaishnav, who passed the order, held that the court would "tend to agree with the submission" of Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, representing the varsity, that Mr. Kejriwal having lost his legal remedy continues to "harp upon his pursuit in the case that does not reflect good taste in public life".

**Aadhaar authentication continues to face glitches**

Service was unavailable for over 54 hours till September this year due to issues such as delay in sending OTPs and 'minor fluctuations' faced by servers, nodal agency UIDAI said in RTI reply

**Aroon Deep**  
NEW DELHI

**A**adhaar authentication services were interrupted for over 54 hours in 2023, representing a significant outage for the largest identity platform in the world.

In a Right to Information (RTI) response to *The Hindu*, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) revealed that delays in sending one-time passcodes (OTPs) by SMS, and 'intermittent' and 'minor fluctuations' in authentication were faced by Aadhaar servers for hours-long periods throughout the year till September, amounting to 54 hours and 33 minutes of disruptions.

Aadhaar authentications are key to how the 12-digit identifier functions: while a 'card' is typically issued to Indian residents, authentication to access services only happens when someone puts in their fingerprint or keys in an SMS passcode to access ration items or verify their identity to access government services.

The UIDAI did not respond to emailed queries on the downtime faced by



A PDS card holder authenticates his fingerprint for receiving essential items at an outlet in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu. Aadhaar authentication services rely on UIDAI servers.

its servers.

**Technical uncertainty** Authentication - which has many uses like Aadhaar-enabled ATM machines and daily employee attendance at some government offices - relies on servers administered by the UIDAI and linkages with telecom operators, which may not always work when needed.

Prolonged and repeated outages throw up uncertainty on the reliability of Aadhaar services when

they are needed.

Since Aadhaar was launched back in 2009, over 100 billion authentications have taken place.

Reetika Khera, an economics professor at IIT Delhi who has closely studied the identity programme for years, said that access and transparency issues on technical failures have long plagued Aadhaar. The data obtained by *The Hindu* "confirm that technical glitches are baked into the system," Dr. Khera wrote in an email.

"People are being punished and deprived of their entitlements on account of UIDAI's incompetence," she charged, citing fieldwork she was involved in where "server problems" kept cropping up.

Dr. Khera said that the UIDAI should publish these outages for all to see on its websites. So far, information on server disruptions are only shared with agencies that have access to these systems to carry out authentications, as and when disruptions occur.

**Centre faults Punjab's farm fires for Delhi's air pollution problem**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

With Delhi's air quality plummeting precipitously, a meeting chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, in which senior officers of the governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi participated, has concluded that the current crisis was mostly on account of stubble burning.

Central government sources said that 38% of the air pollution was contributed by stubble burning.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav posted on X on Thursday that "... 93% of farm fire (stubble burning) events this year have happened in Punjab and that was because the Aam Aadmi Party had failed to provide alternatives to farmers." Since 2018, the Centre had given ₹1,426 crore to Punjab for crop residue management machines but to little effect, he alleged.

Data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute's satellite monitoring division suggests that of the 35,350 crop residue burning events recorded this year, 65% have been reported out of Punjab. So far, 23,620 events - the lowest in four years - have



A file photo of a farmer burning stubble in a field in Amritsar, Punjab. PTI

been reported this year (September 15-November 9) from the State, compared to 34,868 last year.

Haryana has only reported 1,676 events, or about 4%, down from 2,693 last year and much lower than the 4,753 in 2020. Madhya Pradesh, which ranks after Punjab reported 3,032 instances - or about 8% - and down from 4,374 last year.

However, nearly 32 lakh hectares have come under paddy in Punjab this year, compared to 13 lakh hectares in Haryana.

The data from Madhya Pradesh was not immediately available. At the meeting held on Wednesday, officials said that 90% of harvesting was complete in Haryana compared to 60% in Punjab and therefore "immediate steps" were necessary to curtail burning.

**'CBI an independent agency, not a limb of the Union govt.'**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government claimed in the Supreme Court on Thursday that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was its own boss and the government had no control whatsoever over the probe agency in the registration, investigation, and prosecution of cases.

The Centre's argument before a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Arvind Kumar was based on a suit filed by West Bengal. The State alleged that the Central agency was probing several cases and registering FIRs in the State without taking prior consent from the West Bengal government.

"CBI is an independent agency. CBI is not a limb of the Centre. It is a statutory body under the Delhi Special Police Establishment

**West Bengal filed a suit in SC alleging the Central agency was registering FIRs without prior consent of State govt.**

[DSPE] Act," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Union government, argued.

Mr. Mehta submitted that an original suit under Article 131 of the Constitution is filed in a dispute between the Union and a State or between States.

He said the suit was not maintainable and should be dismissed outright as it had deliberately missed the point that the Centre had nothing to do with the CBI registering cases in West Bengal. The agency was acting on its own terms. The Centre had no hold over the CBI's decisions in investigative

matters.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for West Bengal, said the case was not about the Centre's influence over the CBI. He said the issue raised in the suit was about the jurisdiction of the CBI to investigate cases in a State which has withdrawn consent to it.

Mr. Sibal said it was preposterous for the Centre to contend that only a Central agency could investigate offences made out in a Union law. "So, a State police force has no power to investigate offences in a Central law...a preposterous proposition," he exclaimed.

The West Bengal government argued that the CBI's power to investigate offences can extend to other States under Section 5 of the DSPE Act, provided the State gives an express consent under Section 6 of the same Act.

**Pak. firing kills BSF jawan; third ceasefire violation since Oct. 17**

**Peerzada Ashiq**  
JAMMU/SRINAGAR

A Border Security Force (BSF) soldier was killed as the Pakistani Rangers resorted to "unprovoked" ceasefire violation along the International Border (IB) at Samba in Jammu on Thursday. This is the third such violation since October 17.

"The Pakistani forces targeted our posts thrice in Samba. We will chalk out a strategy to deal with cross-border fire effectively in the future," Director-General of BSF Nitin Agarwal said in the Kashmir Valley.

He said the BSF gave a befitting reply to the Pakistani firing. "We have come to know about damages on the other side too. We are confirming the details. We are ascertaining the reasons behind frequent ceas-

fire violations by Pakistan and will plan our strategy accordingly," he said.

According to officials, the Pakistan Rangers resorted to "unprovoked firing" along the border around 12:20 a.m. "The Pakistani Rangers started firing at the Narayanpur post in Ramgarh, Samba. The BSF also retaliated and the firing between the two sides continued for some time," the officials said.

Head Constable Lal Farnn Kima of 148 Battalion succumbed to his injuries.

India and Pakistan renewed their pledge to abide by the 2003 ceasefire pact in February 2021. Since then, there were very few incidents where Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged fire along the Line of Control (LoC) or IB.

**SC attains full strength as case log nears 80,000**

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court welcomed three new judges on Thursday, taking the judicial strength to its sanctioned capacity of 34, even as the pendency clock on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) dashboard threatens to hit a high of 80,000 cases in the next 24 hours.

Delhi High Court Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, and Rajasthan and Gauhati Chief Justices Augustine George Masih and Sandeep Mehta were sworn in as Supreme Court judges within three days of the Collegium recommending them, even as October alone saw the filing of nearly 5,000 cases.

'Perennial pendency' The November 6 Collegium recommendation high



lighted the perennial pendency and said it intended to tackle the backlog of the court, which bobbed up and down the 70,000-mark in 2022 following the pandemic, despite administrative and institutional changes, by getting rid of the problem of judicial vacancies.

"In view of the ever mounting pendency of cases, the workload of judges has increased considerably. Bearing in mind the above, it has become necessary to ensure that the court has full working judge strength leaving no

vacancy at any point of time," the Collegium had observed in its resolution on November 6.

According to the NJDG dashboard, the total pendency in the Supreme Court as of Thursday evening is ticking at 79,717 registered and unregistered cases. Of these, 24,834 cases are less than a year old. Total cases instituted in October were 4,915 while 4,454 were disposed of in the same month. The year 2023 has so far seen 47,135 cases instituted and 46,193 disposed of.

Chief Justice Chandrachud inherited 69,647 cases on November 9, 2022 when he took office as top judge. The swearing-in of the three judges and the court reaching its full judicial strength coincides with Chief Justice Chandrachud completing a year as the Chief Justice of India.

**THE CROSSWORD+ 14017** (set by Crescent)

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

**Across**

- Delight in rescuer saving one (6)
- Trivia broadcast if broadcast lacks supporter (8)
- Good, free network (4)
- Field day welcomed by lifeless soccer team (4,6)
- A touch to ease in case of necessity (2,1,5)
- Happy essentially to permit short program (6)
- Bill providing choice to eat sample of prime nuts (4)
- Line stops advances (5)
- Complain about average cycles (4)
- Run naked of course (6)
- Innocuous leader in House without top members? (8)
- Pigment left to mix in crucible (7-3)
- Everything on time? Unbelievable! (4)
- Verbally attacks plump boy (6,2)
- Section in bases where bats rest (6)

**Down**

- Hot air behind tail of car through opening throttle (8)
- One made up, not author's original, including Wodehouse's alias? (3,2,5)
- Rehearsal to air function (3,3)
- Despicable people, smug, expressing one basic complex (8)
- Reserved pass given to daughter (4)
- Counsel failing to support upcoming lawyer (6)
- Prospector could be awaiting this brief success (5,2,3,3)
- Nothing in place, unit suffering pilferage (10)
- Enjoy head's correspondence (8)
- Set out, else run out (8)
- Must remorse include some shaking? (6)
- Sharp reply in anger dismissing one wrong (6)
- Stylish after hundred years (4)

**SUDOKU**

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

**Solution to previous puzzle**

W	F	S	C	F	Z	D	R	
D	O	P	E	T	I	A	R	A
O	A	Y	T	R	C	O		
A	S	H	R	A	M	F	R	E
L	I	I	W	E	O			
C	L	U	E	L	E	S	S	
H	S		H	L				
C	A	P	S	T	A	N		
S	M	A		E	L	E	V	A
T	A	I	C	H	I	T	E	N
A	R	M	C	H	A	I	R	
O	O	B	A	W	H	R		
L	A	M	A	L	U	C	I	A
R	S	E	T	Y	D	S		

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

**MADGALDEEP** 31  
Long lasting fragrances of devotion

**FAITH**

**Durga Stuti, effective prayer**

Today, we do not know from which direction we have to face challenges. In ancient times, this was comparatively easy - most confrontations were the handiwork of asuras, with rishis and saints at the receiving end. They would promptly beseech the Lord, who would ensure dharma was re-established. In Kali Yuga, we face various hardships and God sends spiritual leaders to this world, who guide humanity on navigating worldly perils, said Tiruvaidamarudur Brahmasri Nidhiswara Shrowthigal in a discourse.

One such mahan is Appaya Dikshitendra, whose body of spiritual work is vast, ranging from Markandeya Puranam, Srivaraha Puranam, Devi Bhagavatam, to Hari Vamsam among others. It includes the Durga Chandrakala Stuti, a total of 16 shlokas, composed on Durga. He always held that no matter what travails one faces, focusing one's mind on the Goddess is a protective armour, as it were. The Durga Chandrakala Stuti in particular is an effective prayer when one is facing severe issues, be it on the health, finance or work front. *Deshakaleshu dushteshu durga Chandra kala stuti sandhyayoranusandheyaa sarvavadviniivirttaye* (whenever life becomes difficult in this world, whoever chants this, twice a day in sandhyakala, will find all threats vanishing forthwith).



To play an interactive  
version of this crossword  
online, scan the QR code

**RAMALLAH**

**Ten Palestinians killed in an Israeli raid on Jenin, says Health Ministry**



Ten Palestinians were killed on Thursday during an Israeli raid on Jenin in the north of the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The Israeli Army said its forces were operating in Jenin but did not provide further details. Israel has arrested over 1,000 Palestinians in the West Bank since Oct. 7, the Army said. AFP

**MADRID**

**Spain's Socialist Party to grant amnesty to Catalan separatists**



Spain's Socialist Party has struck a deal with a fringe Catalan separatist party to grant an amnesty for potentially thousands of people involved in the region's failed secession bid in exchange for its key backing of acting Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez in forming a new government. AP

**YANGON**

**Armed rebellion risks break-up of Myanmar: junta-backed President**



Myanmar's junta-backed President Myint Swe said the country is at risk of breaking apart if the military cannot crush a joint offensive by ethnic armed groups along the border with China, state media reported on Thursday. Fighting has raged for almost two weeks across northern Shan state near the China border. AFP

**KYIV**

**Ukraine says calls for talks with Russia 'uninformed or misled'**



Ukraine on Thursday criticised calls for Kyiv to hold negotiations with Russia, following reports its allies were pushing for talks in the wake of a underwhelming Ukrainian counter-offensive. "Those who argue that Ukraine should negotiate with Russia now are either uninformed or misled," Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said. AFP

**Israel to begin four-hour pauses in northern Gaza**

Pauses emerged out of discussions between U.S. and Israeli officials in recent days; U.S. says a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas militants is not in order because it would help Hamas

Reuters  
Associated Press  
WASHINGTON

Israel will begin four-hour pauses in northern Gaza starting on Thursday to allow people to flee hostilities, the White House said in what it called a step in the right direction.

White House National Security spokesperson John Kirby said the pauses emerged out of discussions between U.S. and Israeli officials in recent days, including talks U.S. President Joe Biden had with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Kirby said the pauses would allow people to get out of harm's way and for deliveries of humanitarian aid and could be used as a way to get hostages out.

"We've been told by the Israelis that there will be no military operations in these areas over the dura-



Israeli troops during operations in northern Gaza on Wednesday, amid continuing battles between Israel and Hamas. AFP

tion of the pause, and that this process is starting today," Mr. Kirby said.

"We understand that Israel will begin to implement four-hour pauses in areas of northern Gaza" with an announcement to come three hours in advance," he said.

He called the news a step in the right direction. "We think these are significant first steps here and obviously we want to see them continued for as long

which tens of thousands have fled in recent days.

Israeli troops were around 3 km from Shifa Hospital in the heart of downtown, the hospital's director said. Israel has been vague on troop movements, but officials say Gaza's largest city is the focus of their campaign to crush Hamas following its deadly October 7 assault inside Israel.

The Israeli military says Hamas's main command centre is located in and under the hospital complex and that senior leaders are hiding there, using the facility as a shield. Hamas and hospital staff deny the claims and say the military is creating a pretext to strike it.

International journalists who entered the north on a tour led by the Israeli military on Wednesday saw heavily damaged buildings, fields of rubble and toppled trees along the Mediterranean shoreline.

**U.S. strikes Iran-linked weapons site in Syria**

Agence France-Presse  
WASHINGTON

U.S. warplanes carried out a strike on an Iran-linked weapons storage facility in eastern Syria on Wednesday in response to attacks against American personnel, U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said.

It is the second time in roughly two weeks that the United States has targeted a location in Syria it said was tied to Iran, which supports an array of armed groups that Washington blames for a spike in attacks on its forces in the West Asia.

The United States is striving to deter Iran and its proxies from turning

**It is the second time in roughly two weeks that the United States has targeted a location in Syria**

the Israel-Hamas fighting into a regional war, but the repeated attacks and strikes in response risk a conflict between Washington and Tehran.

A senior U.S. defence official said the strike was being combined "with very clear messaging through multiple channels. And the message is, to Iranian senior leaders, 'We want you to direct your proxies and militia groups to stop attacking us'".

**Police clash with workers in Dhaka**

Agence France-Presse  
GAZIPUR

Up to 25,000 garment workers clashed with police in Bangladesh on Thursday, officials said, as protests rejecting a government-offered pay rise forced the closure of at least 100 factories outside Dhaka.

A government-appointed panel raised wages on Tuesday by 56.25% for the South Asian nation's four million garment factory workers, who are seeking a near-tripling of their monthly wage.

Police said violence broke out in the industrial towns of Gazipur and Ashulia outside the capital af-

ter more than 10,000 workers staged protests in factories and along highways to reject the panel's offer.

Thousands of workers also clashed with the elite Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and police at Kona-bari and Naujore in Gazipur, with police using batons and tear gas to drive them into alleys.

"Some 15,000 workers blocked the road at Kona-bari, and vandalised vehicles and other properties. We had to disperse them to maintain law and order," Gazipur municipality administrator Sayed Murad Ali said. At least two injured workers were taken to hospital, police said.

**Donald Trump's rivals vow to support Israel and argue over China and Ukraine**

Associated Press  
MIAMI

In their first debate since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, the Republican presidential candidates all declared hawkish support for Israel but squabbled over China and Ukraine as they faced growing pressure to try to catch Donald Trump, who was again absent.

Sparring over several issues were Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley, who has

appeared competitive with Mr. DeSantis' distant second-place position in some national polls. Much of the debate focused on policy - especially foreign policy issues - rather than Mr. Trump and his record.

Ms. Haley, the former South Carolina Governor and United Nations Ambassador, declared she would end trade relations with China "until they stop murdering Americans from fentanyl - something Mr. DeSantis has yet to say that



Nikki Haley

he's going to do." In return, the Florida Governor said Ms. Haley "welcomed" Chinese investment to her

state, referencing a land deal with a Chinese manufacturer while she led South Carolina.

Also appearing onstage were South Carolina Senator Tim Scott, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy.

All the candidates said they were staunchly behind Israel as it mounts an offensive in Gaza following Hamas's October 7 attack that killed over 1,400 people.

**U.K.'s Braverman accuses police of bias for refusing to ban pro-Palestine march**

Sriram Lakshman  
LONDON

U.K. Home Secretary Suella Braverman has accused the Metropolitan Police of bias following its refusal to ban a pro-Palestine march in London this Saturday. Ms. Braverman also referred to protestors as "hate marchers".

The protests have been held weekly since Israel's retaliatory strikes on Gaza began last month, but will coincide with Armistice Day ceremonies in London on November 11, prompting the government to object to them. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has been urged by several lawmakers to sack Ms. Braverman over her language. Mr. Sunak had "full confidence" in Ms. Braverman, a Downing Street spokesperson told *The Hindu* on Thurs-



Suella Braverman

day. "Unfortunately, there is a perception that senior police officers play favourites when it comes to protesters," Ms. Braverman wrote in her op-ed in *The Times*, arguing that during COVID, Black Lives Matter demonstrators were "enabled" and "allowed to break rules".

"I do not believe that these marches are merely a cry for help for Gaza," she wrote, as she compared them to marches in North-

ern Ireland to assert the primacy of "certain groups - particularly Islamists".

Ms. Braverman accused the police of a "double standard", arguing right-wing nationalist protestors are "rightly met with a stern response". No.10 Downing Street had not cleared Ms. Braverman's article, the spokesperson said, and was "looking into what happened in this instance".

Mr. Sunak had said on Wednesday that holding protests as Britain commemorates the end of First World War was "disrespectful". Mr. Sunak had summoned Met Chief Mark Rowley, and had said he would hold the police "accountable" for safeguarding Saturday's remembrance services for Britain's war dead.

Mr. Rowley had said the

Met was determined to keep commemorative services safe but could not ban the protest as it did not have the absolute power to do so. The conditions under which a protest could be banned, had not been met in this instance, Mr. Rowley argued, noting that the protest organisers had agreed to stay away from commemoration service locations.

Labour's Shadow Business Secretary called Ms. Braverman's language "divisive" and "inflammatory". Among those calling for Ms. Braverman's ousting was Liberal Democrat leader Ed Davey. "Rishi Sunak must finally act with integrity by sacking his out-of-control Home Secretary," he wrote on X. "He's got a Home Secretary who is out of control," said Labour leader Keir Starmer.

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
Tivrandrum Division  
Tender Notice No. V/W/TVC/27/2023 Dated 07/11/2023

Divisional Railway Manager/Works Branch/Tivrandrum Division, Tivrandrum-14 for and on behalf of the President of India Invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice and Complete details are given in our e-tender portal [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)

Sl. No.	Description	Approx. Value Rs. (in lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit Rs.	Period of Completion
1.	TVC Division - DEN/South jurisdiction - Proposed strengthening of steel Girder Bridges.	178.46	239200	SIX
2.	Pro. Regirdering with new metalised girder of Br.No.161 Up (3 x 19.54m span) at Km: 76/900-77/00 in SRR - ERS section and Br.No. 174 Up. (1 x 18.30m span) At Km 84/100 - 200 in ERS - KTYM - KYI section. Erection of 4 spans and supply & fixing of H Beam sleepers.	171.56	235800	SIX
3.	Tivrandrum Division TBSR Renewal of corroded channel sleepers with new H-beam steel sleepers 440 nos. (Bridge no:176-376 nos and Bridge no 367-64 nos)	124.08	212000	SIX
4.	Nagercoil: Improvement to TTE's Rest room for gents.	17.28	34600	FIVE
5.	Tivrandrum Division Attention to yards in Alleppey P.Way Section	114.36	207200	TWELVE
6.	Vallathol Nagar Raising of platform No.1	180.63	240300	TWELVE
7.	ADEN Kollam Subdivision - Kollam P-way section Maintenance and repairs of minor bridges including clearing of waterway and approach drains.	77.02	154100	SIX
8.	Tivrandrum Division Attention to yards in Mavelikkara P.Way Section.	59.75	119500	TWELVE
9.	Tivrandrum Division Increasing Super Density (5) for a length of 4.268 km (KY) TVC section 2.768 km, NCJ-TEN Section-1.500 km)	34.48	69000	SIX
10.	TVC Division - Provision of office accommodation for SSE/JE/Signal & Tele in S&T branch at NNN, KCVL, KPY & SRTL	54.07	108200	TWELVE
11.	Proposed Maintenance of Newly created P.Way Assets at KCVL Yard for a period of one year	59.89	119800	TWELVE
12.	Tivrandrum Division - Attention to yards in Kollam P.Way Section	76.35	152700	TWELVE
13.	TTR (TWS+CMSC)-9 sets (1 in 12-6 sets, 1 in 8-5-3 sets) and TTR(CS+CMSC)-7 sets (1 in 8-5-3sets, 1 in 12-4 sets).	83.96	167900	TWELVE
14.	Provision of Passenger Lifts at AWY-2 Nos (PF1 & 2/3).	25.43	50900	NINE
15.	Tivrandrum Division Increasing Sleeper Density (5) for a length of 6.631 Tkm (SRR-ERS Section-1.946 km, ERS-KTYM-KYJ Section 4.685 km).	49.82	99600	SIX
16.	Deweeding in colony, station premises and platform in all station at SSE/W/ERS section.	27.44	54900	TWELVE
17.	Nagercoil Jn. - Repairs to platform shelter on platform No.1.	33.07	66200	FIVE
18.	Replacement of existing 12.20m steel girder of Br.No.2352-ON (1x12.20m), Br.No.2355 UP (2X 12.20mm) & Br. No.2389 ON (1x12.20m) in QLN - TVC Section.	316.06	308000	SIX

Tender Closing date and time: SI No: 1 to 18 : 29-11-2023 at 11.00 hrs  
Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken into account while submitting.

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\*Other benefits as Leave Travel Concession, New Pension Scheme, Medical Facility and Children Education allowance applicable to Central Government Employees from time to time.  
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**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
Materials Management Department  
Auction Programme Notice No: 12/2023

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.

Sl. No.	E-Auction conducted by	Date of auction for the month of December 23	Material for auction
1	GSD/PER	07/12/23 14/12/23 21/12/23	...
2	CSSD/GOC	06/12/23 13/12/23 20/12/23 28/12/23	The details of item to be sold
3	SSD/PT	04/12/23 11/12/23 18/12/23 26/12/23	
4	MAS Division	05/12/23 12/12/23 19/12/23 27/12/23	in e-auction will be available in catalogue in
5	SA Division	04/12/23 11/12/23 18/12/23 26/12/23	
6	TVC Division	05/12/23 12/12/23 19/12/23 27/12/23	
7	PGT Division	08/12/23 13/12/23 20/12/23 28/12/23	<a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a>
8	TPJ Division	01/12/23 08/12/23 15/12/23 22/12/23	in Website
9	MDU Division	01/12/23 08/12/23 15/12/23 22/12/23	

Total no. of auction for the month of December 2023 - 35 Nos  
Note: Surplus Diesel Locomotives "as is where is condition" may be auctioned.  
For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site <http://www.reps.gov.in> -> E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions.  
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For qualification criteria & experience visit our website [www.wapcos.co.in](http://www.wapcos.co.in)





**TRENT'S DISTINCTION**

**Boult becomes first Kiwi bowler to claim 50 wickets in ODI WC**



K. MURALI KUMAR

Trent Boult became the first New Zealand bowler to claim 50 wickets in ODI World Cup during the match against Sri Lanka in Bengaluru on Thursday. Kusal Mendis was his 50th victim in the World Cup (28 innings). Only Mitchell Starc (19) and Lasith Malinga (25) have managed to claim 50 wickets in fewer innings than Boult.

**PREDICTION**

**India has played very well, it will win the World Cup: Kirmani**



K.R. DEEPAK

Former India wicketkeeper Syed Kirmani has backed India to win the World Cup on the back of its exceptional performances in the tournament. "India will win the World Cup, they have played very well. It has been a great tournament, well hosted by India. Some of the cricket, from the team or an individual, has been amazing."

**ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE**

**Funnier things have happened, says Teja about India contest**



AP

The Netherlands believes it can pull off an upset win against India with all-rounder Teja Nidamanuru saying, "it's a game of cricket and funnier things have happened". India is the only unbeaten side in the tournament with eight wins from as many games. In contrast, Netherlands is at the bottom after the loss to England on Wednesday.

**IN AND OUT**

**Croes replaces the injured Klein in The Netherlands squad**



AFP

Noah Croes replaced the injured Ryan Klein in the Netherlands' squad for its final World Cup league game against India. Croes, who has played one ODI, was named as a replacement after Klein was ruled out due to a lower back injury. With two wins from eight games, the Netherlands is out of the semifinal race.

# Kiwis 'almost' seal a semifinal spot after Sri Lankans fail to put up a challenge

New Zealand moves to sole fourth in the table, two points ahead of Pakistan and Afghanistan; a superior net run rate for Williamson's men means the other contenders need astronomical victories in their last league games for qualification



**Complete performance:** The Kiwi bowlers, led by Boult, right, got the ball talking and set up the side's easy victory over Sri Lanka. K. MURALI KUMAR



**SCOREBOARD**

**SRI LANKA**  
Pathum Nissanka c Latham b Southee 2 (8b), Kusal Perera c Santner b Ferguson 51 (28b, 9x4, 2x6), Kusal Mendis c Ravindra b Boult 6 (7b, 1x4), Sadeera Samarawickrama c Mitchell b Boult 1 (2b), Charith Asalanka lbw b Boult 8 (8b, 1x4), Angelo Mathews c Mitchell b Santner 16 (27b, 2x4), Dhananjaya de Silva c Mitchell b Santner 19 (24b, 2x4, 1x6), Chamika Karunaratne c Latham b Ferguson 6 (17b, 1x4), Maheesh Theekshana (not out) 38 (91b, 3x4), Dushmantha Chameera c Boult b Ravindra 1 (20b), Dilshan Madushanka c Latham b Ravindra 19 (48b, 2x4); Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4; Total (in 46.4 overs): 171.

**FALL OF WICKETS**  
1-3 (Nissanka, 1.5 overs), 2-30 (Mendis, 4.1), 3-32 (Samarawickrama, 4.4), 4-70 (Asalanka, 8.2), 5-70 (Perera, 9.3), 6-104 (Mathews, 16.4), 7-105 (Dhananjaya, 18.3), 8-113 (Karunaratne, 23.3), 9-128 (Chameera, 32.1).

**NEW ZEALAND BOWLING**  
Boult 10-3-37-3, Southee 8-0-52-1, Ferguson 10-2-35-2, Santner 10-2-22-2, Ravindra 7.4-0-21-2, Phillips 1-0-3-0.

**NEW ZEALAND**  
Devon Conway c Dhananjaya b Chameera 45 (42b, 9x4), Rachin Ravindra c Dhananjaya b Theekshana 42 (34b, 3x4, 3x6), Kane Williamson b Mathews 14 (15b, 2x4), Daryl Mitchell c Asalanka b Mathews 43 (31b, 5x4, 2x6), Mark Chapman run out 7 (6b, 1x4), Glenn Phillips (not out) 17 (10b, 3x4), Tom Latham (not out) 2 (2b); Extras (w-2): 2; Total (for five wickets in 23.2 overs): 172.

**FALL OF WICKETS**  
1-86 (Conway, 12.2), 2-88 (Ravindra, 13.3), 3-130 (Williamson, 18.2), 4-145 (Chapman, 20.3), 5-162 (Mitchell, 22.4).

**SRI LANKA BOWLING**  
Madushanka 6.2-0-58-0, Theekshana 7-0-43-1, Dhananjaya 2-0-22-0, Chameera 4-1-20-1, Mathews 4-0-29-2.

**Toss:** New Zealand; **PoM:** Boult. *New Zealand won by five wickets with 160 deliveries to spare.*



**Positive sign:** Ferguson will look to pull strings if the Kiwis book a semifinal clash against India. K. MURALI KUMAR

**Ashwin Achal**  
BENGALURU

In all likelihood, New Zealand will face India in the World Cup semifinal at Mumbai on November 15. For New Zealand fast bowler Trent Boult, there can be no greater thrill than taking the host nation in a World Cup knockout match.

The Indian team is on an unbeaten run in this tournament. When the two sides met in the league stage a couple of weeks ago, at Dharamshala, India won by four wickets. Boult, however, believes that big match pressure can get to even the best in the business.

**Quality players**  
"India has quality players who know these conditions very well. They have very, very good players, but pressure does things to the best of players," Boult said after New Zealand recorded a comprehensive victory over Sri Lanka.

Boult has good memories of the 2019 World Cup semifinal, when New Zealand edged out India by 18

runs. "I can't speak on what they (India) are thinking. "But from our point of view, to play against the host nation – a team in red-hot form – in a World Cup, at a great ground... you couldn't script it any better.

**Lot of excitement**  
"There'll be a lot of excitement. It doesn't get any bigger than taking on India in front of 1.5 billion people," said Boult, who scalped three wickets against Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's tournament ended with a seventh loss in nine games. Head coach Chris Silverwood put the poor returns down to inconsistency.

"Inconsistency – it would be fair to use that word. We'll look back on certain games and rue missed opportunities.

**Inconsistent**  
"If we'd have taken the opportunities that were put our way, this could have looked a lot different. But the fact is that we have been inconsistent," Silverwood said.

**ODI WORLD CUP**

**Ashwin Achal**  
BENGALURU

New Zealand moved into prime position to grab the last World Cup semifinal spot with a comfortable five-wicket win over Sri Lanka at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Thursday. The Kiwis (10 points) moved to sole fourth on the table, two points ahead of Pakistan and Afghanistan. New Zealand – backed by a superior net run rate – is sitting pretty in this three-team sprint. The victory was made possible primarily by a sub-standard batting show by Sri Lanka – bundled out for 171. New Zealand finished the chase in only 23.2 overs.

Devon Conway (45, 42b, 9x4) and Rachin Ravindra (42, 34b, 3x4, 3x6) put the Kiwis on the right track with an 86-run opening partnership. Ravindra overtook Quinton de Kock (550 runs from eight innings) to become the tournament's highest run-scorer with 565 runs from nine innings.

**Keeping it going**  
Daryl Mitchell kept the momentum high with a breezy 31-ball 43. Sri Lanka, thoroughly outplayed, ended its campaign with a whimper. It was only rain that could have scuttled New Zealand's hopes of sealing a knockout berth. The weather stayed kind, however, to ensure a full game. Earlier, the Lankan batters displayed poor appli-

cation to let the team down. Opener Pathum Nissanka and Sadeera Samarawickrama pushed hard at deliveries outside off to offer catches behind the stumps. Captain Kusal Mendis was dismissed in embarrassing fashion – skying a wild pick-up shot to third-man. The top-order collapse left Sri Lanka at 32 for three in 4.4 overs. Kusal Perera took no half measures, going hard at loose balls to record a 28-ball 51. Charith Asalanka was the fourth to go, trapped on the pads by a Trent Boult

**Points table**

	M	W	L	PTS	NR
India (Q)	8	8	0	16	2.456
South Africa (Q)	8	6	2	12	1.376
Australia (Q)	8	6	2	12	0.861
New Zealand	9	5	4	10	0.743
Pakistan	8	4	4	8	0.036
Afghanistan	8	4	4	8	-0.338
England (E)	8	2	6	4	-0.885
Bangladesh (E)	8	2	6	4	-1.142
Sri Lanka (E)	9	2	7	4	-1.419
Netherlands (E)	8	2	6	4	-1.635

Q: Qualified | E: Eliminated

# We pride ourselves on being able to evolve and grow, says Teja

**Amol Karhadkar**  
PUNE

It started its World Cup sojourn with a fortnight-long preparatory camp in Bengaluru. On Sunday, it will end its topsy-turvy ride in the Garden City, that too against table-topper India. Despite the Netherlands being placed at the bottom of the points table and India rolling over each of its opponents so far, the Dutch aren't throwing in the towel. "We play our brand of cricket. We do what we do well. We have got some great manoeuvres of the ball. We have got guys who can play spin well. We have also got guys who can take

wickets," the Netherlands batter Teja Nidamanuru said after being walloped by England on Wednesday night. **Let England escape** The highlight of the Netherlands' World Cup campaign has been its win against South Africa. But the Dutch defeat – the lone non-Test playing nation to have qualified for the marquee event – let England off the hook after reducing the World champion side to 192 for six. Despite the loss, Nidamanuru, whose unbeaten 41 was the highest score for the Netherlands on Wednesday, drew positives from the World Cup campaign for his team.



Teja Nidamanuru. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

"We pride ourselves on being able to evolve and grow, which this exposure against the top nine teams in the world has done for us. So being in the last place, that's the cricket that we're playing right now," he said. "I am sure that we will pick ourselves up and move forward in the coming tournaments. We have the T20 World Cup next year that we have already qualified for, so that's another opportunity for us to build towards. "I have no doubt that we will definitely be causing a few upsets there and playing well and wanting to play in the semifinals as well."

# This format shows who the best teams are when it comes to semifinals: Stokes

**Amol Karhadkar**  
PUNE

The World Cup may be approaching its business end, but the debate over the format of the tournament has persisted right through the last six weeks. Ben Stokes, the England all-rounder, has given a thumbs up to the format. With the 10 teams to play each other once, that too in conditions as varied as one gets in India, the teams that have adapted well have produced consistent performances. Stokes stressed on the same factor after setting up England's resounding win against the Netherlands on Wednesday. "The guys who have already progressed to the



**Fail to turn it on:** England players enjoy a moment of success in a dismal campaign as the defending champion. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

semifinals have just played the best cricket overall and obviously there is different conditions to factor into that," Stokes said. "This format is the best. This format shows you who the the best teams are when it comes to semifinals rather

than the sort of what was the Super 8 on group stages. You don't have anyone who is getting (through due to) the technicality or something like that. When everyone plays everyone, the teams who put the most consistent perfor-

mances are always the ones going through." While India, Australia and South Africa have been the most consistent teams, England has had a nightmarish campaign in a bid to retain its title. Ever since it was thrashed by New Zealand in the tournament-opener, never has England looked like being a formidable unit. When asked whether he has been able to pinpoint what has gone wrong in England's campaign, Stokes didn't hold himself back, just like the way he bats. "Everyone has been asked this and it's just simple. We have played crap. I said the same last week and it's the same." Stokes, and England, came to life a little too late for his liking.

# Afghanistan, South Africa seek morale-boosting win

The Afghans would hope to put up an inspired show after the defeat against Australia while the Proteas, who surrendered meekly to India, would look to hit top form ahead of the semifinals

## ODI WORLD CUP

Shavan Acharya  
AHMEDABAD

The Afghanistan cricketers and support staff spent their entire Thursday afternoon living on hope and a prayer.

They had to address a sponsored event, but the eyes of the entourage frequently darted towards their smartphone screens to find out about the scores of the New Zealand vs Sri Lanka World Cup fixture in Bengaluru.

By the time they reached the Narendra Modi Stadium for their optional training session on the eve of the last group league fixture against South Africa, Afghanistan's hopes were dented further.

With New Zealand pulling off a convincing win against Sri Lanka and inching closer to the semifinals, in all practicality, the campaign seems over for the Afghans.

Even though, mathematically, there are some vague chances, Afghanistan's net run rate of -0.338 is the worst among the three teams - New Zealand, Pakistan being the other two - vying for the fourth slot in the semifinals.

So far in the tournament, the team racked up



**Pride at stake:** Afghanistan players would be hungry to bounce back after the demoralising defeat to Australia. VIJAY SONEJI

four wins - including the ones against England and Pakistan - and as captain Hashmatullah Shahidi stated, it would be hoping to make a strong statement against South Africa, which has already reached the semifinals.

The Afghans need to pick themselves up from the improbable defeat and put up a spirited performance. The batters - Ibrahim Zadran, Shahidi, Rahmanullah Gurbaz - have all been impressive in the tournament, but a lot lies on the spinners, and at a venue that's familiar to Rashid Khan, who plays for Gujarat Titans in the IPL, he needs to play a significant role. So far in the

tournament, Rashid hasn't been in his element and has struggled to find breakthroughs.

South Africa, too, are keen on bouncing back after a humiliating defeat against India. Captain Temba Bavuma, who has just scored 122 in six outings, hasn't been able to contribute significantly, and ahead of the knockouts, he needs to find form.

However, Quinton de Kock has piled on the runs in his swansong, while Heinrich Klaasen and Aiden Markram, too, have stepped up. Keshav Maharaj has been its go-to-bowler in the middle-overs, but it needs to be seen

whether South Africa opts for an extra spin option of Tabraiz Shamsi.

Today's match

South Africa vs. Afghanistan Cricket Board

South Africa vs. Afghanistan  
Ahmedabad, 2 p.m.

H2H IN ODIs

Played 1

South Africa 1 | Afghanistan 0

EYE ON THE SKY

High: 36°C  
Low: 20°C  
Clear

SOURCE: IMD

# It was inspiring to see Maxwell hitting with no foot movement: Miller

Shavan Acharya  
AHMEDABAD

Midway through the media interaction on Thursday, David Miller was asked whether Glenn Maxwell's incredible innings against Afghanistan inspired him to hit a 200 as well, batting at No.6.

"Of course," the South African replied with a smile.

It's been a couple of days since Maxwell battled severe cramps and went on to hit his career-best unbeaten 201 to guide Australia to an iconic three-wicket victory at the Wankhede Stadium.

Miller - known for hitting



**X-factor:** Miller, having a look at the pitch for the Afghanistan game, said it was really special to watch Maxwell's knock. VIJAY SONEJI

big sixes - believes that in the ever-changing landscape of international cricket, one needs to keep believing throughout.

"Seeing a knock like that was really special. He (Maxwell) has an X-factor, he is a match winner. It was inspiring to see no foot move-

ment there and still hitting sixes and fours. From a game where they were dead and buried," Miller said.

"When we have chased games where we were kind of out of it as well, (we have) done certain things that were particularly special, though. But yeah, it was, I suppose, where the game of cricket is going. You kind of always believe as you go along.

"You just tick over the balls, get through the overs, and kind of see how it unfolds. And you never know what is possible," he said, "So just keep believing throughout."

# Shahidi bats for more ODI games

Sports Bureau  
AHMEDABAD

With four wins, this has been the most successful World Cup campaign for Afghanistan and captain Hashmatullah Shahidi hopes that going forward Afghanistan Cricket Board and the ICC will ensure that the team plays more ODIs.

"There will be 50-over cricket, I'm expecting that. I hope that the ICC also makes a good call on it because 50-over cricket is also important. Right now, there are too many leagues, too many T20 cricket. I think, amid that, 50 overs and Test cricket are more important," Shahidi said on Thursday.



Shahidi... looking ahead with hope. VIJAY SONEJI

Since August 2021, Afghanistan has featured in 31 ODIs, of which it lost 15 and one had no result. Around the same time, India featured in 53 ODIs, while Australia's tally was 36.

"If we have those games, we will definitely

improve more and more. And we are expecting our cricket board and ICC to give us more matches for our improvement," Shahidi said.

Barely a couple of days ago, Glenn Maxwell stole their thunder with an unbeaten 201 and snatched a

victory for Australia, but Shahidi hopes to come back stronger against South Africa. "It was not easy as a team for all of us. But still, we are in the World Cup, and as a team, we discussed it yesterday that we have to now move forward and not think too much about what happened," Shahidi said.

**Will move on**  
"Because, if you think about it, the team's morale will go down. We will learn from it and now it's part of the history, it's gone. We have to move forward and think about tomorrow's game and we will try as a team to come back stronger and win it from there..."

# 'Megastar' Lanning calls time on her international career



## Marvellous Meg

**Titles won as skipper:** T20 World Cups (2014, 2018, 2020, 2023); ODI World Cup (2022); Gold - 2022 Commonwealth Games

**5** Lanning has the most number of ICC trophies as captain. Ricky Ponting has four and M.S. Dhoni three

**146** Number of wins as Australia's skipper across formats, the most in women's internationals

**175** Number of runs Lanning has scored in Women's T20 World Cups, the most by any batter

**53.51** Highest average among batters to have batted

in at least 25 Women's ODI innings

■ Lanning was unbeaten in her last 35 matches as captain of Australia - the longest unbeaten streak in international cricket

■ She is the only Australian woman to score 3000-plus T20I runs

■ In her final year of international cricket, Lanning led Australia to victory in the ODI World Cup, T20 World Cup and Commonwealth Games

Agence France-Presse  
SYDNEY

Australian women's captain Meg Lanning on Thursday retired from international cricket, walking away as one of the most prolific run-scorers and decorated leaders.

The 31-year-old top-order batter led Australia to four Twenty20 World Cup titles, one 50-over World Cup triumph, and a Commonwealth Games gold medal - earning the nickname "Megastar" for her run-scoring exploits.

After 13 years of international cricket and having captained her country on 182 occasions, Lanning

said it was the "right time to move on to something new".

"Team success is why you play the game, I'm proud of what I have been able to achieve and will cherish the moments shared with teammates along the way," Lanning said in a statement.

**'One of the finest'**  
Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley praised her as "one of the finest cricketers Australia has produced."

"Under Meg's leadership, the Australian women's cricket team has built a legacy of global dominance," he said.

# Lanning — all-time batting great and captain fantastic

P.K. Ajith Kumar

One of cricket's most glorious innings came to an end on Thursday. Meg Lanning, who led Australia in 182 matches and was part of seven World Cup wins, has retired from international cricket. She is only 31.

An inspirational captain of an all-conquering Australian team, she is one of the greatest batters the women's game has ever seen. Earlier this year, she won over new fans in India, leading Delhi Capitals to the final of the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League.

She has been retained by the franchise and is expected to return for the new season. She was the leading scorer of the tournament with 345 runs at an average of 49.28 and a strike-rate of 139.11.

That is a fair reflection of Lanning's consistency as a batter. She averaged 53.51 in 103 ODIs, from which she amassed 4602 runs, with 15 hundreds. From her 132 T20Is, she made 3405 runs (average 36.61, strike-rate 116.37).

She made her international debut at 18 and in her second ODI, she scored an unbeaten 104 against England, becoming Australia's youngest player to score a hundred. An accomplished batter, who is admired especially for her cut shot that invariably finds the gap, she has been described by Ian Bishop as one of the handful of players that would compel him to watch.

After Harmanpreet Kaur's epic 171 not out knocked Australia out of the 2017 World Cup, Lanning was part of the leadership group that turned the side into one of the great-



**Glorious:** An inspirational captain of an all-conquering Australian team, Lanning is one of the greatest batters the women's game has ever seen. AFP

est of all time in any sport. Australia went on an incredible 26-game winning streak between 2018 and 2021.

Biju George was the fielding coach of the Indian team against which Australia

began that great run. He then worked with Lanning at Delhi Capitals.

"She is the best captain I have ever worked with, male or female," Biju told *The Hindu*. "And she is a marvellous person, too."

## Saluting a legend

There are a handful of batters in the game that made me stop what I was doing, just to watch them play. Meg Lanning was one.

IAN BISHOP

Congratulations on such a storied career, Meg! Your list of achievements in women's cricket and Australian cricket, in particular, is legendary

MITHALI RAJ

What an incredible record, with so many personal and team milestones. But as an outside observer, her contribution off the field, for the growth of this great game, has also been phenomenal

JOINTY RHODES

I've been privileged to have played against and alongside this legendary cricketer. an absolutely lovely human

SHIKHA PANDEY

Lanning did many things right in her playing days. As a captain, her decision-making was almost flawless

W.V. RAMAN

# WPL players' auction on Dec. 9

ANI  
MUMBAI

The players' auction for the 2024 edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) will be held in Mumbai on December 9, reported *ESPNCricinfo*. An additional purse of ₹1.5 crore will be made available to all

the five teams besides the balance they are all left with from the last auction as well as after the recent player releases. 30 slots, including nine overseas, will be filled at the auction.

Recently, teams had released their retention lists and overall 60 players were retained. Out of these

60 players, 21 were overseas stars. 29 players were released from their squads. In the inaugural season of WPL, each team was given ₹12 crore to build their squads. Only two teams, the champion Mumbai Indians and UP Warriorz were able to make use of this money.

# India u-19 squads, schedule released for Quadrangular

Sports Bureau  
CHENNAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the schedule for the men's Under-19 One-Day quadrangular series featuring teams from England, Bangladesh and two from host India.

The tournament will be held in Vijayawada from November 13 to 27.

**The India squads:**

**A:** Saumy Kumar Pandey (Capt.), Uday Saharan (Vice-capt.), Arshin Kulkarni, Adarsh Singh, Inness Mahajan, Md. Amaan, Digvijay Patil, M. Abhishek, Raj Limbani, Musheer Khan, Priyanshu Moliya, Aravelly Avanih Rao, Aaradhya Shukla, Sanyog Bhagwath, and Naman Tiwari.

**B:** Kiran Chormale (Capt.), Ansh Gosai (Vice-capt.), Rudra Mayur Patel, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Sachin Dhas, Jayant Goyat, V.S. Karthick Manikandan, Varun

Singh Bhuie, Md. Ali, P. Vignesh, Anurag Kawade, K.T. Madhava Prasad, S. Nishanth, Prem, and Dhanush Gowda.

**The fixtures: Nov. 13:** India A vs Bangladesh, India B vs England; **Nov. 15:** India B vs Bangladesh, India A vs England; **Nov. 17:** India A vs India B, England vs Bangladesh; **Nov. 20:** India B vs England, India A vs Bangladesh; **Nov. 22:** India A vs England, India B vs Bangladesh; **Nov. 24:** England vs Bangladesh, India A vs India B; **Nov. 27:** Final.

THE HINDU  
CRICKET WORLD CUP  
TRIVIA CHALLENGE

- Before the commencement of the 2023 ODI World Cup, who has taken the most wickets in the tournament's history?
- As on 31 October 2023, who is the only member of the 1983 ODI World Cup squad of India who is no more?
- Which player has won the most Man of the Match awards in ODI World Cup history as on 31 October 2023?

Scan the QR code to participate in the quiz. Top 3 winners each day will win exciting gift vouchers

Answer to yesterday's quiz:  
1. West Indies  
2. Dennis Amiss  
3. Ricky Ponting and Glenn McGrath

Visit [bit.ly/indiaquiz](http://bit.ly/indiaquiz) to read the Terms & Conditions.

**IN BRIEF**



**Canada beats host Spain, Italy defeats France in BJK Cup**

Canada swept host Spain 3-0 in the Billie Jean King Cup finals on Wednesday, to get off to a strong start in Group C. Earlier, Italy scored an impressive 2-1 win over France in their opening Group D tie, winning both singles rubbers.

**The results:**  
**Group D: Italy bt France 2-1** (Martina Trevisan bt Alize Cornet 2-6, 6-2, 6-2; Jasmine Paolini bt Caroline Garcia 7-6(6), 5-7, 6-4; Elisabetta Cocciaretto & Martina Trevisan lost to Caroline Garcia & Kristina Mladenovic 7-5, 2-6, 6-10.  
**Group C: Canada bt Spain 3-0** (Marina Stakusic bt Rebeka Masarova 6-3, 6-1; Leylah Fernandez bt Sara Sorribes Tormo 7-6(8), 7-6(7); Eugenie Bouchard & Gabriela Dabrowski bt Sorribes & Masarova 6-2, 7-5).

**Rashford's tough season continues after CL red card**

Marcus Rashford's difficult start to the season at Manchester United just got a bit tougher after he was shown a straight red card in the 42nd minute of United's match at FC Copenhagen in the Champions League on Wednesday for stamping on opponent Elias Jelert. Off the field, he was reprimanded by United manager Erik ten Hag last week for his decision to go to a nightclub for a pre-arranged birthday party hours after a 3-0 loss to Manchester City. Ten Hag said the player had apologised.

**LIVE TELECAST**

**Men's Cricket World Cup:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.

**Bundesliga:** Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)

**Serie A:** Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)

**LaLiga:** Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

**NBA:** Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m. (Saturday)

**United slumps to a loss at Copenhagen**

Premier League club lies last in Group A; Union Berlin holds Napoli; the Reals – Madrid and Sociedad – advance along with Bayern and Inter

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

**Associated Press**  
GENEVA

**O**n a royally good evening for stand-out Spanish teams, Manchester United fell in another wild loss in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Real Madrid and Real Sociedad advanced to the round-of-16 with two games to spare after impressive home wins over Portuguese opponents – 3-0 against Braga and 3-1 over Benfica.

Bayern Munich and Inter Milan also emerged victorious and will be in the knockout phase after getting key late goals from their talismanic strikers, Harry Kane and Lautaro Martínez. Kane scored in the 80th and 86th minutes in a 2-1 win over Galatasaray and Inter's 1-0 win at Salzburg was sealed by Martínez's penalty in the 85th.

Man United's 3-4 loss at Copenhagen after twice letting leads slip left coach Erik ten Hag's team last in Group A. The three-time champion seemed in total control with a two-goal lead after 28 minutes earned by forward Rasmus Hojlund.

A red card for United forward Marcus Rashford in the 42th sparked the chaos to follow, which saw Copenhagen level the score in 13 minutes of first-half stoppage time because of two pauses in play.

United led again when Bruno Fernandes scored from the spot in the 69th but could not hang on. Lukas Lerager found the net in the 83rd before 17-year-old substitute Roony Bardghji won it for the home side in the 87th.

Arsenal took a four-point lead in Group B by comfortably beating Sevilla 2-0 while PSV Eindhoven rose from last place to second with its first victory, 1-0 at home to Lens.

Napoli wasted a lead in a 1-1 draw that Union Berlin earned when David Datro Fofana scored in the 52nd.

**The results:**  
**Group A:** Bayern Munich 2 (Kane 80 & 86) bt Galatasaray 1 (Bakambu 90+3); Copenhagen 4 (Elyounoussi 45, Goncalves 45+9-pen, Lerager 83, Bardghji 87) bt Manchester United 3 (Hojlund 3 & 28, Fernandes 69-pen).  
**Group B:** Arsenal 2 (Trossard 29, Saka 64) bt Sevilla 0; Eindhoven 1 (de Jong 12) bt Lens 0.  
**Group C:** Real Madrid 3 (Brahim Diaz 27, Vinicius 58, Rodrygo 61) bt Braga 0; Napoli 1 (Politano 39) drew with Union Berlin 1 (Fofana 52).  
**Group D:** Salzburg 0 lost to Inter Milan 1 (Martinez 85-pen); Sociedad 3 (Merino 6, Oyarzabal 11, Barrenechea 21) bt Benfica 1 (Rafa Silva 49).



**Flash point:** The red card to Rashford, second from right, derailed United, and Copenhagen pounced on the opportunity. AFP

**Sahaja Yamalapalli makes the pre-quarterfinals in Charleston**

**TENNIS**

**Sports Bureau**

Sahaja Yamalapalli beat fellow qualifier Dj Bennett of USA 6-4, 6-0 in the first round of the \$100,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Charleston, USA.

**The results: €630,705 ATP, Metz, France: Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Sadio Dombia & Fabien Reboul (Fra) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Bart Stevens (Ned) 6-2, 6-4.

**€145,000 Challenger, Helsinki: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Sriam Balaji & Andre Begemann (Ger) bt Maximilian Neuchrist & Dennis Novak (Aut) 6-4, 6-3; Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Linus Lagerbohm (Fin) & Mark Lajal (Est) 6-2, 7-6(5).  
**\$80,000 Challenger, Matsuyama, Japan: Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Ji Sung Nam (Kor) & Kaichi Uchida (Jpn) bt Purav Raja & Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-2, 6-4.  
**\$15,000 ITF men, Hua Hin, Thailand: Doubles: Quarterfinals:** David Pichler (Aut) & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Siwanat Auytayakul & Thanapet Chanta (Tha) 4-6, 7-5, [10-3].

**\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Alexandr Binda (Ita) & Chirag Dhanu bt Jurrián Bol & Brian Bozemoj (Ned) 7-6(4) 3-6, [10-8].  
**\$100,000 ITF women, Charleston, USA: First round: Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Dj Bennett (USA) 6-4, 6-0. Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Makenna Jones (USA) & Yulia Starodubtseva (Ukr) bt Sahaja & Anna Zryanova 6-3, 6-0.  
**\$15,000 ITF women, Sharm El Sheikh: Doubles: Quarters:** Paula Cembranos & Jenny Duerst (Sui) bt Humera Baharmus & Elizabeth Danailova (Bul) 6-0, 6-1.

**India beats USA in IC Rod Laver junior tennis**

**Sports Bureau**

The Indian team continued to assert its strength as it beat host USA 5-1 in the second league match of the IC Rod Laver junior challenge at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club in San Diego, California.

While Manas Dhamne, Rushil Khosla and Sohini Mohanty won their singles matches without dropping a set, Asmi Adkar lost to Shivaani Selvan. India won both the doubles matches

for a resounding victory. India was drawn to play Italy in the third league match. Italy had also won its two matches against USA and Argentina.

**The results (league):**  
**India bt USA 5-1** (Manas Dhamne bt Stiles Brockett 6-1, 6-2; Rushil Khosla bt Jonah Hill 6-4, 6-3; Asmi Adkar lost to Shivaani Sel van 4-6, 5-7; Sohini Mohanty bt Reley Rhodes 7-6(1), 6-0; Rushil & Manas bt Jonah & Stiles 6-2, 3-6, [10-2]; Asmi & Sohini bt Reley bt Shivaani 6-4, 4-6, [10-7]).

**PCB accepts chief selector Inzamam's resignation**

**Press Trust of India**  
KARACHI

The rift between the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq intensified with the country's sport's governing body accepting the former skipper's resignation amid a conflict of interest allegation. The PCB said on Thursday that it had accepted Inzamam's resignation.

**OFFICE OF CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT-1 NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PALIKA KENDRA: NEW DELHI**

Sh. Vivek Kumar, S/o Sh. Kamal Singh, Beldar, posted at E-BR Division Pragati Bhawan Service Centre, is absenting himself from his duties, without intimation and prior permission of Competent Authority, since September-2022.

Call Back Notice/Show Cause Notice were issued to Sh. Vivek Kumar, Beldar on 14.12.2022, & 01.06.2023 at his residential address i.e. 859/7, IInd Floor Govind Puri Kalkaji, Delhi-110019 through Oak, but he has not submitted any reply till now. JE/AE (concerned) has intimated that the said premises (residence) is locked, and his neighbour has stated that it is locked from many years.

As such, this is a final opportunity to explain his position for unauthorized absent within 15 days after publication of this notice, failing which, the disciplinary action shall be taken against Sh. Vivek Kumar, Beldar as per Central Civil Service (Conduct) Rules 1964.

**DIRECTOR (P)**

**JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834004  
Letter No. JSRRDA – 764/2023 Dated: -09.11.2023

**CORRIGENDUM**  
PR No- 310677 dated 04.11.2023

Following correction/modification is hereby made in RFP for Setting up a PMU for FDR in JSRRDA publish e-tender no- 126/2022-23 dated 04.11.2023 as given below:-

Sl. No.	Written as	Should be Extended as
1.	Last Date & Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 14/11/2023 upto 17:00 Hours (time).	Last Date & Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 18/11/2023 upto 17:00 Hours (time).

Chief Engineer JSRRDA, Ranchi.  
PR 311097 Rural Work Department(23-24).D

**Government of Punjab Tender Notice for Various Works**  
Tender Notice Reference No. 53 dt. 09.11.2023

The Department of Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board invites online bids for the following:-

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1	Providing Tab Connections to consumers, Extension and Augmentation of Water Supply System at Anloh District Fatehgarh Sahib for Distribution Network. Installation of Tube well and Construction of 0.5 Lakh Gallon OHSR under AMRUT 2.0 Scheme, Part-1, Phase-1	1

Closing Date and Time : up to 04.12.2023 at 3:00 PM  
For detail log on to : eproc.punjab.gov.in  
Note: Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Executive Engineer, Punjab W/S & Sew. Divn No.2, Patiala.  
Na/12/20167/2023/29686 eep2.pwssb@punjab.gov.in

**Tender Notice for various works Government of Punjab**  
Tender Notice Reference No. 23 dt. 07.11.2023

The Department of Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board invites online bids for the following:-

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1	DNIT for Survey, Soil Testing, Design, Supply and Construction, Installation, Commissioning of 2.50 MLD Capacity Sewage Treatment Plant Cum 6 KLD FSTP/RCC NP3 Pipe Sewer and MPS at Handiayla Distt. Barnala	1
2	Survey, Soil Testing, Design, Supply and Construction, Installation, Commissioning of 2.00 MLD Capacity Sewage Treatment Plant Cum 6 KLD FSTP at Amargarh Distt. Malerkotla	1

**Important dates are as under:**  
Closing Date and Time : up to 29-11-2023 at 5:00 PM  
Date and Time of opening Technical Bid : 30-11-2023 at 11:00 AM  
For details log onto : www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

Executive Engineer, P.W/S & Sew. Divn., Sangrur  
ees.pwssb@punjab.gov.in  
Na/12/20143/2023/29652

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Suresh @ Parwan @ Pawan, S/o: Ram Nihal, R/o: Jhuggi No. A-51-52, K-Block, Jahangirpuri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 360/2023, Dated 13.04.2023, U/s 307/34 IPC & 27/54 Arms Act, P.S.: Jahangirpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Suresh @ Parwan @ Pawan cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Suresh @ Parwan @ Pawan has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Suresh @ Parwan @ Pawan accused of FIR No. 360/2023, Dated 13.04.2023, U/s 307/34 IPC & 27/54 Arms Act, P.S.: Jahangirpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.12.2023.

By Order  
Ms. Jyoti Nain  
Metropolitan Magistrate-07,  
North District, Room No 06,  
Rohini Courts, Delhi  
DP/12209/NW/2023-(Court Matter)

**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL**  
Saket Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.) 462020

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**  
NIT No. AIIMS BHOPAL/E-Tender/NIT/22-23/031 Dated: 09.11.2023

AIIMS Bhopal invites e-Tender from registered manufacturers/dealers/distributors/Contractors for below mentioned items:

E-Tender ID No.	Required Items/Services at AIIMS Bhopal	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lakh)
AIIMS/BPL/HOSP/2023-24/209	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 3D-4D Doppler High Resolution Ultrasound (USG) machine for Department of OBGY at AIIMS Bhopal	50.00
AIIMS/BPL/HOSP/2022-23/210	Rate Contract for Procurement of Anti Cancer Drugs at Drugs & Pharmacy Stores AIIMS Bhopal	934.92
09/NIT/EE(E)/ABEU/AIIMS/BPL/2023-24	Annual Repair Maintenance of Internal Electrical Installations in PKG-1 and Housing Area at AIIMS Bhopal	99.76
10/NIT/EE(E)/ABEU/AIIMS/BPL/2023-24	SITC of Solar Tree Near Fountain Area at AIIMS Bhopal	56.25
23/NIT/EE(C)/ABEU/AIIMS/BPL/2023-24	Additional/Modification work of Spaces in the Department of Microbiology at AIIMS Bhopal	6.84
11/NIT/EE(E)/ABEU/AIIMS/BPL/2023-24	SITC of VRF/VRF Air Conditional System at Transit Hostel in Housing area at AIIMS Bhopal	35.51

For further details of the above e-Tenders, the prospective bidders may please visit website: www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in Email: dspo@aiimsbhopal.edu.in & seoffice@aiimsbhopal.edu.in. Tenders may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal http://tenderwizard.com/AIIMSBHOPAL, www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in and CPP Portal www.eprocure.gov.in. Any corrigendum/ amendments related to this NIT shall be published in the same websites only.

I.C. Senior Procurement Cum Store officer  
For & On behalf of Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE (MECH) SOUTH DIVISION JAMMU**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
e-NIT No. 98 OF 2023-24 Dated: 06.11.2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE (Mech) South Division Jammu, invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/ registered in DIC or any other state/centre/UT Government (for similar nature of works) for below mentioned works for augmentation of WSS Bthindi of Mechanical South Division Jammu of Jammu Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (Days)
1	Providing, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of pumping machinery including various electro-mechanical components and allied works for augmentation of WSS Bthindi under PHE (Mech.) South Division, Jammu province of UT of J&K under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).	118/- lacs	3000/-	02% of the estimated cost i.e Rs 236000/-	180 days	90 Days

Position of funds : Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)  
Position of AAA : Accorded  
Position of T.S : Sanctioned  
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE (Mech) South Division Jammu .

**Critical Dates:**

i	Publish Date	07.11.2023 (02:00 PM)
ii	Document Download Start Date	07.11.2023 (02:00 PM)
iii	Clarification Start date	08.11.2023 (12:00 PM)
iv	Clarification End date	10.11.2023 (4:00 PM)
v	Pre-bid meeting date	13.11.2023 (2:00 PM)
vi	Bid submission Start date	15.11.2023 (10:00 AM)
vii	Bid submission End date	05.12.2023 (3:00 PM)
ix	Date of Bid opening	06.12.2023 (3:00 PM)

Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
DIP/J-10845/23 Jal Shakti Department Phe Mech. Div South Jammu

**AIRFORCE STATION ARJANGARH TENDER NOTICE**

1. Air Officer Commanding AF Station Arjangarh hereby invites sealed tenders for Defence Personnel (War Widows/Widows of defence personnel killed while on duty, Disabled soldiers / Ex-Servicemen and Spouses / widows of Ex-servicemen only) for SL. No. 1 to 16 & Civilians can also apply for SL. No. 17 to 19 for the running of the regimental shops as given below for the period of about one year.

2. The tender forms, along with the copy of instructions/terms and conditions, can be obtained from SI Office, AF Station Arjangarh, New Delhi-110047 for 13 Nov 23 to 20 Nov 23 between 1000 hrs to 1300 hrs (except Saturday/Sunday) on cash payment of 100/- (non-refundable), in favour of OIC Service Institute, AF Str Arjangarh, New Delhi-110047. A sum of Rupees as mentioned below is to be deposited as earnest money with OIC Service Institute, AF Station Arjangarh, New Delhi-110047. The tender form duly completed in all respect along with earnest money deposit receipt to be deposited/ placed in the tender box kept at the Main Guard Room, AF Station Arjangarh between 21 Nov 23 to 28 Nov 23. Last date of receipt of application is 28 Nov 23.

**REGIMENTAL SHOPS / VENDORS/SERVICES**

SL. NO.	Name of Shop / Services	Earnest Money (refundable)*	Period for agreement	Rebate*	Remarks
1	RO Water Plant	1000/-	About 01 Year		Minimum & Maximum reserve Price of rebate will be fixed by board of officers
2	Cycle Repair Shop	1000/-	About 01 Year		
3	Electric Repair Shop	1000/-	About 01 Year		
4	Provision Store	1000/-	About 01 Year		
5	General Store	1000/-	About 01 Year		
6	Sweet Shop	1000/-	About 01 Year		
7	Stationary Shop	1000/-	About 01 Year		
8	Barber Shop	1000/-	About 01 Year		
9	Dhobi Shop	1000/-	About 01 Year		
10	Tailor Shop	1000/-	About 01 Year		
11	STD Booth	1000/-	About 01 Year		
12	Green Chick Shop	1000/-	About 01 Year		
13	Meat Shop	1000/-	About 01 Year		
14	Dry Cleaning Shop	1000/-	About 01 Year		
15	Titbit Shop ( Pan Shop)	1000/-	About 01 Year		
16	Kabadi Vendor	1000/-	About 01 Year		Civilians can also apply
17	Milk Vender	1000/-	About 01 Year		
18	Fast Food	1000/-	About 01 Year		
19	Ladies Tailor	1000/-	About 01 Year		

\* Earnest Money will be refunded to all bidders except highest bidder. In case of highest bidder the same will be adjusted against the security deposit. 50% of the earnest money amount will forfeit in case the highest bidder subsequently withdraws the tender.

# Rent and Allied charges as fixed will be required to be paid in exception to the rebate.

3. The sealed tenders will be opened by BOO at 1000 hrs on 29 Nov 23.  
(For further details, contact SI Office, AF Station Arjangarh, New Delhi-110047)

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# Gaurav and Sonam shatter the under-20 steeplechase marks

Minakshi finds her way into the record books in the girls' under-14 javelin gold, the next three in line — Tejaswin Dhal, Chandhini Aahla Sarimai and Dhriti Anand — also better the National mark set earlier this year

## ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau  
COIMBATORE

Gaurav Yadav (Madhya Pradesh), Sonam (Delhi), Kaila Syam Sundhar (Andhra Pradesh) and Minakshi (Haryana) found their way into the record books on the penultimate day of the 38th National junior athletics championship at the Nehru Stadium here on Thursday.

Gaurav and Sonam worked hard for the gold and a new record in the under-20 3000m steeplechase for boys and girls respectively. Minakshi threw the spear to a new distance of 44.05m for the girls' under-14 javelin gold. Interestingly, the next three in line, Tejaswin Dhal (Odisha), Chandhini Aahla Sarimai (Andhra) and Dhriti



**Winning effort:** Aryan Patil stunned a strong field to claim the honours in the under-20 boys' high jump event. M. PERIASAMY

Anand (Uttarkhand), also shattered the National mark of 34.46m set by Tejaswin earlier this year.

**The results (winners): Boys: U-14: Long jump:** Krishna Sharma (Del) 6.35m; **Javelin:** 1. Kishu Singh (Bih) 60.56m (MR, Old: Dhairya Alpenshbhai 57.08m, 2022).

**U-16: Shot put:** Nishchay (Har) 19.51m. **80m hurdles:** Kaila Syam Sundhar Sahi (AP) 10.55 (NR, Old: Maneesh Kumar Rajbhar 10.56, 2023).

**U-18: 110m hurdles:** Sandip

Gond (Mah) 13.79; **10,000m walk:** Amit Kumar (Chatt) 43:36.58; **Hammer:** Narpat Singh (Raj) 71.79m; **1500m:** Priyanshu (Utk) 3:49.26 (MR, Old: Arjun Waskale 3:50.38, 2021); **Decathlon:** Piyush Raj 6234; **Pole vault:** Aman Singh (MP) 4.50m; **Shot put:** Sarthak Singh (UP) 18.47m; **2000m steeplechase:** Hariom Sen (MP) 5:42.52s (NR, Old: N. Gino Singh 5:48.09, 2000).

**U-20: Long jump:** Sharon Jestus (TN) 7.70m; **High jump:** Aryan Patil (Mah) 2.06m; **1500m:** Vikash (Har) 3:49.78; **110m hurdles:**



**Stellar show:** Rathish and Sharon clinched the boys' under-20 110m hurdles and long jump gold respectively. M. PERIASAMY

Rathish Pandidurai (TN) 14.18s; **3000m steeplechase:** Gaurav Yadav (MP) 9:00.66 (MR, Old: Mohit 9:16.46, 2022).

**Girls: U-14: Long jump:** M. Jenista Shanu (TN) 5.30m; **Javelin:** 1. Minakshi (Har) 44.05m (NR, Old: Tejaswin Dhal 34.46m, 2023).

**U-16: Shot put:** Anshu (Har) 15.22m; **80m hurdles:** Swanandi Sawant (Mah) 11.73s.

**U-18: 100m hurdles:** Antreesa Mathew (Ker) 14.39s; **Long jump:** Ramani Kumkum B. (Guj) 5.80m; **High jump:** Pooja (Har) 1.81m (MR, Old: Rubina Yadav 1.81m,

2017); **5000m walk:** Aarti (Har) 24:02.16; **Javelin:** Deepika (Har) 54.13m (MR, Old: Pushpa Jakhar 49.05); **Hammer:** Renuka Yadav (Del) 55.33m; **2000m steeplechase:** Shreeraksha (Kar) 7:23.03s.

**U-20: Javelin:** Nishi Kumari (Bih) 45.00m; **100m hurdles:** Unnathi Bollanda (Kar) 13.98s; **3000m steeplechase:** Sonam (Del) 10:29.50 (NR, Old: G. Maheswari 10:34.10).

**Mixed relay:** Maharashtra 3:31.18s; **Hammer:** Ankita (Har) 53.37m.

# Maharashtra clinches the overall championship

## NATIONAL GAMES

Sports Bureau

Maharashtra, with 228 medals including 80 golds, topped the medal table and took the Raja Bhalindra Singh Trophy for the overall championship in the 37th National Games which ended in Goa on Thursday.

Maharashtra's triumph ended Services' reign at the top since the 2007 Games in Guwahati. Services finished second and Haryana was third.

Karnataka swimmer Srihari Nataraj (eight gold, one silver, one bronze) was adjudged the best male



**Numero Uno:** Srihari receiving the best male athlete trophy from IOA president P.T. Usha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

athlete of the Games.

Gymnasts Sanyukta Prasen Kale and Pranati Nayak of Odisha (four gold, one silver medal each) were named as the best female athletes.

**Final medal tally (top 5, read as State, gold, silver, bronze and total):** 1. Maharashtra (80, 69, 79 = 228), 2. Services (66, 27, 33 = 126), 3. Haryana (62, 55, 75 = 192), 4. Madhya Pradesh (37, 36, 39 = 112), 5. Kerala (36, 24, 27 = 87).

# Sanchez does the 'trick as Gokulam sinks Rajasthan in I-League

P.K. Ajith Kumar  
KOZHIKODE

After conceding a draw in the opening match, former champion Gokulam Kerala's I-League campaign seems to be shaping up nicely. The host registered its second win within four days, as it thrashed Rajasthan United 5-0, riding on a hat-trick from Alex Sanchez.

Gokulam went ahead in the 33rd minute through Komron Tursonov, who gave the finishing touch to the superb pass into the box by Nili Perdomo. Sanchez made it 2-0 in the 61st minute, with just his second touch after coming on as a substitute, as he



**Hero!** Sanchez celebrates one of his three strikes. K. RAGESH

headed home an excellent corner-kick by Edu Bedia.

After V.S. Sreekkuttan struck eight minutes later, Sanchez added to Rajasthan's miseries, even as Gokulam moved to the top of the table, with seven points, in these very early

days of the competition.

**The results:** Gokulam Kerala (Komron Tursonov 33, Alex Sanchez 61, 74 & 88, V.S. Sreekkuttan 69) bt Rajasthan United 0.

Shillong Lajong 1 (Renan Paulino 34) drew with Neroca 1 (Fabian Reid 79).

# Double joy for Parneet and Aditi as India wins three gold

## ASIAN ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

Parneet Kaur upset Asian Games gold medallist V. Jyothi Surekha via shoot-off to win the compound women's individual title at the Asian archery in Bangkok on Thursday.

Parneet, who edged

past Jyothi 145-145 (9-8) in the final, joined hands with Jyothi and Aditi Swami — the trio which had won the World Championships and the Asian Games titles earlier this year — as India pipped Chinese Taipei 234-233 for the women's team crown.

While Jyothi took a silver and a gold, Aditi claimed her second gold.

She combined with Priyansh to help the country defeat Thailand 156-151 in the mixed team title clash.

The experienced Abhishek Verma warded off a strong challenge from Korean Joo Jaehoon 147-146 for the men's individual bronze.

Indian archers had bagged two bronze medals, including one in re-

curve division, on Wednesday.

**The results: Compound: Men: Individual: Bronze medal match:** Abhishek Verma bt Joo Jaehoon (Kor) 147-146; **Women: Individual: Final:** Parneet Kaur bt V. Jyothi Surekha 145-145 (9-8).

**Team: Final:** India bt Chinese Taipei 234-233.

**Mixed team final:** India bt Thailand 156-151.



Parneet.

# Argentina sojourn for Indian women's junior team before Chile World Cup

## HOCKEY

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

Bracing up for the World Cup in Chile, the Indian junior women's hockey team will be training and playing practice matches in neighbouring Argentina to get acclimatised to the conditions, head coach Tuskar Khandker said on Thursday. The tournament is scheduled to be held from November 29 to December 10 in Santiago, and Hockey India has named its squad.

"We will have our training and practice matches in Argentina before heading to Chile, so that will help us in acclimatising to the conditions and setting the tempo for the Junior World Cup," Khandker said.

India is grouped along with Germany, Belgium and Canada in Pool C. It will begin its campaign against Canada on November 29 before taking on the



**Ready to roll:** The junior women's team will use the time in Argentina to acclimatise to the conditions. X@THEHOCKEYINDIA

European sides Germany and Belgium on November 30 and December 2 respectively in its Pool C matches.

The other teams in the fray are the Netherlands, South Africa, Australia and Chile in Pool A while Argentina, Spain, Zimbabwe and Korea are grouped in Pool B. In Pool D, England, the USA, New Zealand and Japan will vie for a place in the quarterfinals.

Speaking about the

team selection, Khandker, said, "We have an incredible talent pool, it wasn't easy to select the final squad.

"But I believe we have chosen the best one for the World Cup and these players have worked very hard in the past couple of months leading up to the event.

"The players are excited, they have performed really well in the recent past and it's a wonderful

opportunity for them to showcase their talent on the prestigious platform."

**The squad: Goalkeepers:** Khushboo and Madhuri Kindo. **Defenders:** Neelam, Preeti (captain), Jyoti Singh and Ropni Kumari. **Midfielders:** Mahima Tete, Manju Chorsiya, Jyoti Chhatrari, Hina Bano, Sujata Kujur and Rutaja Dadaso Pisal (vice-captain). **Forwards:** Sakshi Rana, Mumtaz Khan, Annu, Deepika Soreng, Dipi Monika Toppo and Sunelita Toppo.

## SNAPSHOTS

### Injured Sindhu granted protected ranking

P.V. Sindhu has been given a protected ranking by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) following a knee injury sustained at the French Open in October, locking in her at the World No. 10 spot till she recovers.

The protected rankings can be requested for by players when injuries or some other circumstances make it impossible for them to play at any

competition for at least three months and a maximum of 12 months.

### Tanwar battles hard to bag the over-50 title

Third seed Jagdish Tanwar battled hard to defeat Rajesh Ganapathy 6-7(4), 6-4, [10-7] in the over-50 final of the ITF Masters tennis in Indore.

**The results (finals): Men: Over-30:** Bhavesh Gout bt Pulkit Mishra 6-2, 6-2; **Over-35:** Avneet Gill bt Ketan Dhumal 7-6(5), 6-4; **Over-40:** Aditya Khanna bt Mandar Wakankar 6-1, 7-5;

**Over-45:** Nitten Kirrtane bt Avinash Kunwar 6-1, 6-0; **Over-50:** Jagdish Tanwar bt Rajesh Ganapathy 6-7(4), 6-4, [10-7]; **Over-55:** Ramkumar Prasad bt Pawan Kapoor 4-6, 6-1, [10-7]. **Women: Over-35:** Priyanka Mehta bt Harpreet Bajpai 1-6, 6-0, [10-8]; **Over-40:** Arti Ganesh bt Hitha Dhama 6-0, 6-0; **Over-45:** Mayuka Sakai bt Sonal Vohra 6-0, 6-0.

### Jagmeet Singh to meet Neeraj Yashpaul in final

Third seed Jagmeet Singh pipped second seed Udit Kamboj 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(3) to set up a title clash against

top seed Neeraj Yashpaul in the Rs.2,50,000 AITA men's tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex, Chandigarh, on Thursday. Jagmeet Singh did well to combine with Udit to clinch the doubles title, beating the top seeds Siddharth Basaiti and Ajay Kundu in straight sets.

**The results: Semifinals:** Neeraj Yashpaul bt Parth Aggarwal 6-2, 6-4; Jagmeet Singh bt Udit Kamboj 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(3).

**Doubles: Final:** Udit Kamboj & Jagmeet Singh bt Siddharth Basaiti & Ajay Kundu 7-6(5), 6-0.

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# Kuldeep has reinvented himself, started spinning success stories again

The practitioner of left-arm leg-spin, a difficult craft to master, underwent a fallow phase after a promising start to his career, suffered a knee injury that required surgery, before glowing again with a polished hue; the Chinaman bowler has a tally of 12 wickets in eight games at an average of 22.58 so far in this World Cup



K.R. DEEPAK

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

**S**pin, the art that infuses both meditative and seductive nuances to a whirling sphere, be it red or white, is part of cricket's infinite charm. If the muscular art of fast bowling taps into our inner cave-man rhythms, not that the speed merchants aren't into nuance, there is a certain primitive element innate to the sultans of swing.

But the twirly men offering flight, loop, dip and turn, add a certain value to cricket. This is life in slow motion but with its own share of magic. And among the varied segments of spin, wrist-spin, officially known as leg-spin, is a difficult art to master. Leg-spin's foundation rests on a clean action.

You hardly see a leg-spinner called for chucking and that's because bowling leg-spin is akin to hurling a discus, wherein the elbow cannot be bent. This is unlike off-spin where the fingers are employed more than the wrist and a tendency to bend the elbow can creep in. Truth is, in real life when we all throw a ball, we bend our elbows to generate pace, that is the natural order of things.

Discus throw or leg-spin or bowling at large with its emphasis on not bending the elbow goes against muscle memory and whatever athleticism our genes have imparted to us. Even if the ICC has given a fine-print of degrees of permissible bending not ideally seen by the naked eye, bowling without bending the elbow is mandatory.

Leg-spin takes the bending-the-elbow proposition out of the equation, but equally it is prone to a lack of control. The practitioners of this art tend to go for runs while taking wickets; legends like the late Shane Warne and Anil Kumble could be the exceptions but point is even the finest of leg-spinners have been taken to the cleaners. Vinod Kambli once tucked into Warne, a young Sachin Tendulkar waded into Abdul Qadir.

If leg-spin is difficult, imagine the Chinaman, the left-arm leg-spinner! The penchant for errors quadruples and it is in this most difficult skillset that India has unearthed a diamond, rough-cut in the beginning, but finally glowing now with a polished hue. Kuldeep Yadav, with his Kanpur roots and under-19 exploits, was fast-tracked into the Indian squad. And while R. Ashwin ruled the roost in Tests, Kuldeep and Yuzvendra Chahal, a traditional leg-spinner, forged a tango that led to a culinary name - Kul-Cha!

Chahal lost his way a wee bit in recent times, but Kuldeep has survived. Importantly, he has prospered. He is

India's primary spinner in the shorter versions with Ravindra Jadeja being his accomplice, a combination that is very much the fizz and the tight lid.

Having made his India debut back in 2017, Kuldeep now has finally cemented his place. The initial promise and the manner in which he puzzled all batters, gave way to a fallow phase when he failed to hoodwink his rivals. Used to a 45 degree turn while ambling towards the bowling crease, Kuldeep, for all his flight and turn, had turned a touch slow, allowing batters to read him off the air and the pitch. They could be in position for the turn and stagnancy crept in.

A knee injury that demanded surgery laid him low, but that break retrospectively did wonders to him, both as a player and as a person. While recuperating and plotting his way back, he straightened his run-up a bit more, got his body more involved in the final release and that combined to increase the pace of

his delivery. The temptation would be to ask but aren't spinners supposed to be slow?

Yes, they ought to be slow but not at such a languid rate wherein a batter could read a book, whip up an omelette and then strike a six. A smidgeon of pace is essential to the spin armour, as Kumble made it obvious through his storied career. Kuldeep 2.0 has upped his speed, delivers on the money, leaves no room for batters to second-guess, and that translates into brushing edges, rapping pads and nudging stumps.

The angles that Kuldeep conjures and the accuracy that Jadeja dispenses have meant that India has largely enforced the middle-over strangle on the opposition through this World Cup. Recently, coach Rahul Dravid said that the spin-duo has strangely gone under the radar while encomiums are heaped on the pace trio of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Mohammed Shami.



Ever since he put behind the trauma of injury, the stress over being dropped and the self-doubts that crept in during a dull point, Kuldeep has been a different man. A naughty lad still lingers within him, the kind who will tell a press photographer to get some good pictures of his batting stints in the nets. He always has an impish grin, like a child about to dab some ketchup sauce on your spotless cream shirt.

The naughtiness has crept into his bowling too, leaving batters perplexed. He has the wrong one that turns away besides all the classical deliveries. Even if the odd half-tracker may be peddled, and most leg-spinners are guilty of this due to the rigidity of their bowling action, Kuldeep, the Chinaman, has kept it largely tight. In this World Cup, he has had yields of two for 42, one for 40, two for 35, one for 47, two for 73, two for 24, zero for three and two for seven.

The cumulative tally is 12 at an average of 22.58, fine numbers even if the two for 73 against New Zealand may be deemed an aberration. Even in that game at Dharamshala, he came back well in his second spell. Back then, with Hardik Pandya ruled out due to injury, Rohit Sharma had no luxury of a sixth bowler and there was no respite for Kuldeep, who bravely countered the Black Caps. Spinners also need a big heart because there will be days when they will get hit, Kuldeep surely has one.

Like the earlier Ashwin-Harbhajan Singh fault-lines, a reality of the predecessor-successor trends in life, Kuldeep too was drawn into this when some years back, previous coach Ravi Shastri named him as India's best overseas spinner. The 28-year-old has thankfully steered clear of needless angst or words, and instead has sharpened his craft, a mighty difficult one at that.

He and Jadeja, along with the pace troika, ensured that India has remained unbeaten so far in this World Cup. Kuldeep may not be a frog-in-the-blender like South Africa's former spinner Paul Adams, but he has enough mystique to bamboozle the best in the business.

All bowling boils down to a good rhythm where the limbs and the mind are in tandem and life is imparted to the ball as it leaves the hand. It is akin to the zone that well-set batters refer to. Kuldeep seems to be in that space and India can only thank its sporting gods.

There will be the odd bad day of bruising sixes, but Kuldeep seems mature enough to handle it. And hey what about some runs? "I would love to score 15 to 20 runs for my team," he said. Surely, he doesn't want to be a one-trick pony.

## THE GIST

▼ The practitioners of wrist-spin tend to go for runs while taking wickets; legends like the late Warne and Kumble could be the exceptions

▼ Kuldeep has the wrong one that turns away besides all the classical deliveries

▼ Kuldeep and Jadeja, along with the pace troika, has ensured that India has remained unbeaten in this World Cup

# Considering the impact of diabetes on your liver

November 14 will be observed across the world as Diabetes Day. A senior diabetologist delves into an emerging concern related to his field – the liver. The path ahead is to adopt a more wide, metabolic based care, he says

V. Mohan

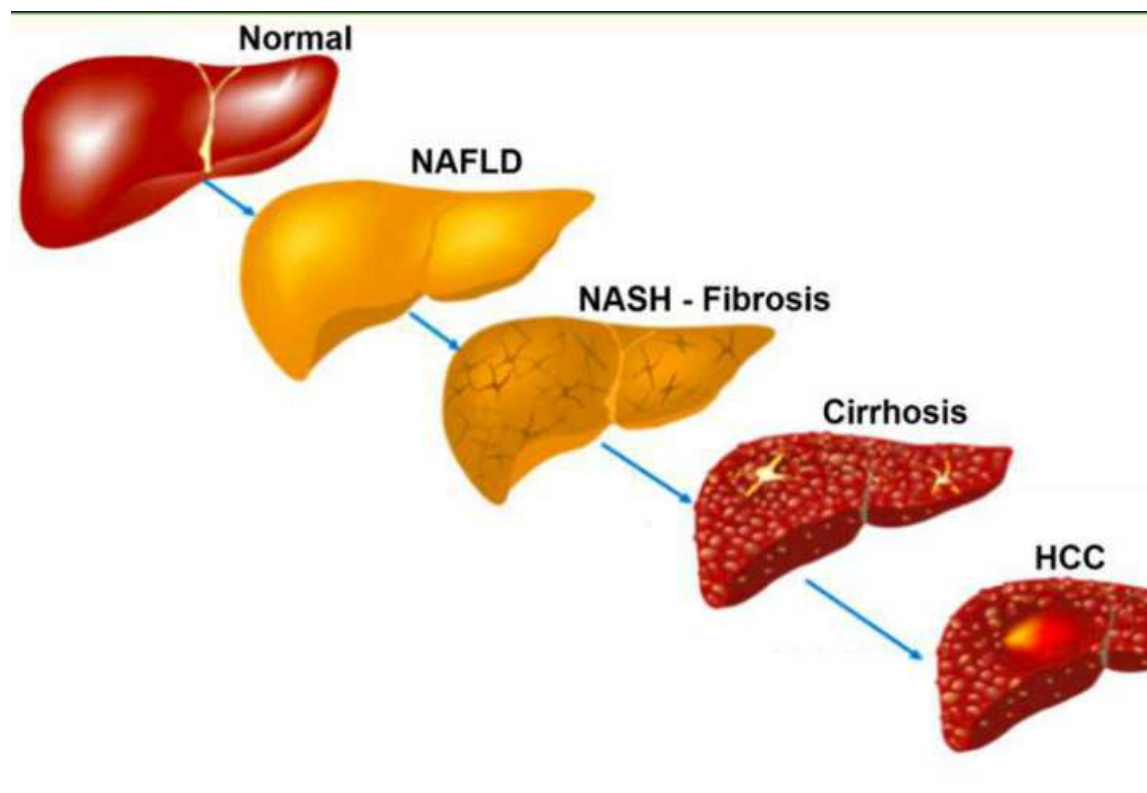
The prevalence of diabetes is growing rapidly all over the world and in India. According to a recent ICMR-INDIAB Study published by us in the *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinology*, the number of people with diabetes in India now stands at 101 million. In addition, there are 136 million people with prediabetes. It is well known that uncontrolled diabetes can lead to complications affecting the eye, kidney, heart, feet and nerves. However, the relationship between diabetes and the liver is not well appreciated and only recently has this link been emphasised.

So, what is the connection between diabetes and the liver?

The liver is a store house or a factory for various products and one of them is glucose. When there is excess glucose in the body, it gets deposited in the liver as glycogen. Moreover, the excess fat in the blood circulation (triglycerides and free fatty acids) also gets deposited in the liver and this is called 'Fatty Liver'.

Epidemiological studies at the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation have shown that over 50% of people with type 2 diabetes have some degree of fatty liver. When there is excess fat in the liver, this leads to a condition called 'Hepatic Insulin Resistance'. What this means is that the body's insulin cannot function properly and that the action of insulin in the liver is considerably reduced. This leads to increased release of glucose from the liver, which is referred to as 'Hepatic Glucose Production'. The early morning increase in glucose levels i.e. increase in the fasting plasma glucose is mainly attributed to this increased hepatic glucose production.

The relationship between fatty liver and type 2 diabetes is bidirectional. Thus, fatty liver can lead to type 2 diabetes and type 2 diabetes can promote fatty liver. Our studies have shown that if both obesity and diabetes are



present, over 80% of such individuals will have fatty liver. While fatty liver by itself is not dangerous, very often it leads to inflammation of the liver, a condition known as Non-alcoholic 'Steatohepatitis' or NASH. Up to this stage it is probably reversible. However, at the next stage, it can progress to cirrhosis of the liver which is irreversible and can be fatal. Some people with cirrhosis of the liver even go on to develop hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). The link between diabetes, fatty liver, cirrhosis and HCC is being increasingly recognised.

Today non-alcoholic fatty liver (NAFLD) is recognised as a complication of diabetes and also as a cause of diabetes. Recently there is a shift in the treatment of diabetes from a glucose centric approach, to a wider metabolic based care. Indeed, 'diabetes care' is slowly evolving into 'metabolic care' with the liver taking centre stage, along with the heart and kidney. Thus, while choosing antidiabetic medications, those beneficial to the liver, heart and kidneys are preferred.



The relationship between fatty liver and type 2 diabetes is bidirectional. Thus, fatty liver can lead to type 2 diabetes and type 2 diabetes can promote fatty liver

Recently the close association of metabolic syndrome (a term used to refer to a combination of diabetes, hypertension and central obesity) and NAFLD has been recognised and internationally, the term NAFLD is being replaced with 'Metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver disease' (MAFLD).

**How can we treat MAFLD?**

The best way is lifestyle modification. A healthy diet consisting of less calories, carbohydrate and fat but more vegetable protein and fibre is a powerful tool to lose weight and treat excess fat in the liver. Adequate exercise (e.g. walking,

jogging, swimming etc.) along with yoga can also help shed extra kilograms. It has been shown in research trials, that by profound calorie restriction (about 800 calories/day), excess fat in the liver can melt away even within a week! This can lead to reversal of diabetes and other metabolic abnormalities within a few days or weeks, even before significant weight loss is achieved.

Today, we also have specific medicines which can help reduce fatty liver and reverse liver changes even at the NASH stage. It is therefore important to identify early changes in the liver to prevent progression to its more advanced stages like cirrhosis or carcinoma. Apart from check ups for eyes, kidneys, heart, feet and nerves, the liver should also be included in the annual work up of all individuals with diabetes. This is my wish on the occasion of World Diabetes Day 2024.

(Dr. Mohan is Chairman, Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre and Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, Chennai. drmohans@diabetes.ind.in)



A high fibre diet has a positive impact on diabetes. GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

## Does a diet high in fibre help manage blood sugar levels

Zubeda Hamid

Reduce sugar is the catch phrase heard frequently to manage diabetes, so much so that as the festive season approaches, sweet shops are bringing out low-sugar delicacies. 'Natural', 'no sugar' and 'diabetic friendly' options abound -- a testament to the staggering numbers India is dealing with.

What happens though, when you add a significant quantity of fibre to your diet when you have diabetes? A survey attempted to find the answer.

'STAR' (Survey for Management of Diabetes with Fibre-rich Nutrition Drink), a pan-India survey, was conducted amongst 3,042 people with Type 2 diabetes, the results were published in the *Indian Journal of Clinical Practice* in August.

The survey categorised people with diabetes into two groups: one group that consumed medical-grade high-fibre supplement for a minimum of three months, and the other group that did not.

It found that people with diabetes who took the supplement, reported significantly lower HbA1C (blood sugar) levels and higher weight loss, along with feelings of satiety, compared to those who did not consume the supplement.

The survey was supported by Hindustan Unilever, a company that sells health food drinks.

Increasing the fibre in your diet to manage diabetes is nothing new: studies across the world have shown the role of fibre in not just controlling blood glucose, but also lowering cholesterol, and maintaining digestive health. Because the body cannot absorb and break down fibre, it helps with a slow, sustained release of energy, preventing a spike in blood sugar levels. It also helps your gut microbiome, and increases your feeling of being 'full'.

The problem is, says Sanjay Kalra, president, South Asian Federation of Endocrine Societies and lead author of the survey, most people with diabetes do not get the required amount of fibre.

The Research Society for Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), in its Clinical Practice Recommendations 2022 for medical nutrition therapy, states that fibre intake should be 25 to 40 grams per day, while carbohydrates should be limited to 50-60% of total calories.

However, in Indian diet, carbohydrates are 70 to 80%, says Dr Kalra. "This is was not an issue earlier, with traditional diets that relied on whole grains. Now fibre consumption has decreased while

**Healthy diets are unaffordable for a large number of people who rely on cheaper, carb-heavy foods, thereby contributing to the diabetes burden**

carbohydrate remains the same. What is concerning, is that a lot of the carbohydrates are from ultra-processed food."

**What constitutes fibre?**

According to an article on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website, fibre is soluble and insoluble. Both have health benefits.

Soluble fibre dissolves in water and slows down digestion. It helps control blood sugar and cholesterol. It is found in fruits like apples, bananas and guavas, and in oats, peas, carrots, black beans, kidney beans and figs.

The other kind, insoluble fibre, does not dissolve, and typically remains whole as it passes through your stomach. It supports insulin sensitivity and helps keep your bowels healthy. It is found in whole wheat flour, nuts, seeds, lentil and vegetables like cauliflower.

**The cost factor**

Fruits, vegetables and nuts are more expensive compared to carbohydrates, points out Nihal Thomas, senior professor, department of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism, Christian Medical College, Vellore.

This, he said, makes healthy diets unaffordable for a large number of people in the country who rely on cheaper, carb-heavy foods, thereby contributing to the diabetes burden -- 10.13 crore people in our country of 140 crore could potentially be diabetic, as per latest estimates.

Prof Thomas called for policy changes to make healthier foods more affordable.

**Incorporating in the diet** 25 to 40 grams of fibre per day may sound daunting, especially when you realise that one medium apple, with its skin, has only about 3 to 4 grams of fibre.

The idea, says the CDC, is to spread your fibre intake among different foods throughout the day. This may perhaps mean incorporating oats and nuts into your breakfast, opting for whole grains, choosing non-starchy vegetables and snacking on seeds. But it also cautions people to make this move slowly: too much fibre too soon, can lead to bloating and constipation. And remember, drink lots of water! (Zubeda.h@thehindu.co.in)

## Psoriasis patients contend with lack of awareness, bad lifestyle choices and poor insurance cover

R. Sujatha

This year's theme for World Psoriasis Day observed was 'Access for all'. Dermatologists treating psoriasis say lack of awareness about the condition and treatment leads to stigmatisation, even pushing people to consider ending their lives.

Psoriasis is an autoimmune disease that manifests as rashes usually on the face, elbows, knees and later spreads across the skin. There are many kinds of psoriasis and among them the most common is psoriasis vulgaris. But there are also severe manifestations, leaving patients bed-ridden or with gnarled fingers. The condition could be inherited, as in the case of V. Harish, 56, who was first diagnosed with arthritic psoriasis 15 years ago. He is among the 30% of patients who have joint involvements.

He underwent physiotherapy to stem further damage to his gnarled fingers. "My father also had psoriatic arthritis. Your lifestyle, food habits matter. I can tell you stress is a solid trigger," he said. Post-retirement he invested heavily in a cooperative bank in Bengaluru which later declared bankruptcy. The stressful situation trig-



Psoriatic arthritis has a crippling effect. GETTY IMAGES

gered a relapse, Mr. Harish recalled.

"The medication is very expensive, but I was covered under group insurance. I had to take injections costing Rs. 35,000 every fortnight. I needed seven to eight doses before I could function reasonably. I am on tablets now but over the years we become resistant to medicines and the condition relapses," said Mr. Harish, among the lucky few whose family stood by him even when he was bed-ridden.

For 32-year-old G. Arun Kumar, who was diagnosed nearly three years ago, it has been a struggle. "People will not talk to me easily. They will avoid sitting with me at the same table during lunch. They think I have skin cancer as there are red patches on my face and hands," he said. His mother died of

COVID-19 in April 2021 and in October that year, he was diagnosed with psoriasis. Medication has controlled the spread. Ever since he began cooking his food at home he has better control over his condition. "For the past three months I have started cooking and it has helped as I don't eat outside. A fever or stress aggravates the disease," he added.

Muralidhar Rajagopalan, senior consultant dermatologist at Apollo Hospitals, Chennai says the non-communicable autoimmune disease occurs due to inflammation as the body attacks the skin through various mediators, for various reasons. "The lifestyle induced disease can be mitigated by exercise and controlling obesity. Alcohol and smoking worsen psoriasis," he said. "Change in lifestyle in our country could be a rea-

son cases are increasing. Increased awareness has resulted in more patients seeking help."

Psoriasis is mediated by signals of inflammation exchanged by cells called interleukins and cytokines. Abdominal fat produces adipokines, interleukin 6 and TNF alpha, all of which adversely affect the outcome of psoriasis. "Losing this fat and maintaining ideal weight is vital. I advise exercise and diet control, low carb diet, avoiding sugar and dairy foods," Dr. Muralidhar said.

Psoriasis is also linked to cardiovascular events, as certain cytokines and TNF alpha affect blood vessels producing atherosclerotic blocks. "Patients are prone to diabetes, abnormal lipids and hypertension adds to it. Many of them are unable to exercise. More aggressive inflammation worsens the risk of all associated morbid events," added Dr. Muralidhar who represents the International Psoriasis Council in India.

In developed countries insurance covers treatment for severe psoriasis whereas in India it is still regarded as a cosmetic disease, the exception being joint involvement. "A proper disease registry, making psoriasis reportable and mentioning associated disabilities will help," he

pointed out.

M. Girish, former head of Skin and STD in Rajaji Nagar ESIC in Bengaluru explained that the epidermis has five layers and it takes 40 to 50 days to complete a cycle for dead cells to be replaced. In psoriatic patients it is reduced to 10 days. Recently transferred to Kerala, he said 10% of the patients he sees have psoriasis. Generally, more men than women have the condition with 15-20% chances of an offspring contracting it, if one parent is affected. "Psoriasis worsens in winter and many medications can trigger or induce psoriasis," he said.

Sonia Feroz, director and consultant dermatologist at Serene Derma in Thiruvananthapuram explained that psoriasis is a disease spectrum whose treatment cost could depend on the stage and type of disease.

"The common manifestation is a simple form, but it is a complex reaction between your innate immunity and adapted immunity. There are some triggers - smoking, alcohol, drugs, vaccination... if you are playing with your immunity, they could induce psoriasis," she cautioned.

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