

IN BRIEF



SC declines to vacate order on T.N. temple priests

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Wednesday did not vacate or modify its September 25 interim order issuing *status quo* in the Archakaship in temples governed by the age-old Agamas in Tamil Nadu. » **Page 6**

11.5 cr. PAN cards deactivated over no Aadhaar link

NEW DELHI
A total of 11.5 crore PAN cards have been deactivated for not being linked with Aadhaar before the stipulated deadline, the CBDT said in a reply to an RTI query. » **Page 14**

Centre mulls ombudsman for air travellers

NEW DELHI
The Centre on Wednesday discussed the possibility of appointing an ombudsman or setting up an authority to address the grievances of air travellers. » **Page 12**

Kerala moves SC against Governor again

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Kerala government on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court for the second time against Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, accusing him of trying to “defeat the rights of the people” of the State by indefinitely sitting on several crucial Bills, especially those addressing post-COVID public health concerns.

The State, represented by advocate C.K. Sasi, said the arbitrary show of lack of urgency by the Governor violated the fundamental right to life of the people of Kerala.

“The conduct of the Governor in keeping Bills pending for long and indefinite periods of time is manifestly arbitrary and also violates Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution. Additionally, it defeats the rights of the people of the State of Kerala under Article 21 (right to life) of the Constitution, by denying them the benefits



Arif Mohammed Khan

of welfare legislation enacted by the State Assembly,” the State said.

The 461-page special leave petition appeals a Kerala High Court judgment delivered on November 30 last year, which refused to fix a time limit for the Governor to deal with Bills presented to him under Article 200 of the Constitution.

CONTINUED ON
» **PAGE 12**

Bright and beautiful



Festive fare: Women painstakingly apply colour to eco-friendly lamps at Kanha Upvan in Lucknow. Around 50,000 lamps have already been supplied for Ayodhya Deepotsav on November 11 and will be part of a display of 25 lakh lamps during Deepavali. SANDEEP SAXENA

G-7 meet appeals for humanitarian pauses in Gaza

Foreign Ministers who met in Tokyo seek the release of hostages and a return to a ‘broader peace process’, offer to draw up long-term solutions

Reuters
TOKYO

G-7 Foreign Ministers on Wednesday called for humanitarian pauses in the Israel-Hamas war to let aid in and help the release of hostages and sought a return to a “broader peace process”, as Israeli forces continue to strike the Gaza Strip.

Winding up a two-day meeting in Tokyo, the Group of Seven wealthy nations said in a joint statement that Israel had the right to defend itself, while underscoring the need to protect civilians and to comply with international humanitarian law.

“The G7 members are committed to ... prepare sustainable long-term solutions for Gaza and a return to a broader peace process in line with the internationally agreed parameters,” the statement said.

“... We support humanitarian pauses and corridors to facilitate urgently needed assistance, civilian movement and the release of hostages.”

The Ministers shared



The meet emphasised on protecting civilians as Palestinians flee to the southern Gaza Strip to escape Israeli strikes. AP

the view that “a two-state solution... remains the only path to a just, lasting, and secure peace”.

It was only the second joint statement from the G-7 since gunmen from the Palestinian militant group Hamas sparked the conflict with an October 7 attack on southern Israel, killing 1,400 people and taking some 240 hostages. The Israeli bombardment of Gaza has since killed more than 10,000 Palestinians, around 40% of them children.

“I believe it’s important that the G7 was able to put out its first unified message

as a statement regarding a humanitarian pause... in terms of the responsibility the G7 has towards the international community,” Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa told reporters.

Asked whether all G-7 members were calling for humanitarian pauses or whether some favoured a full ceasefire, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said there was “real unity” among the bloc.

CONTINUED ON
» **PAGE 12**
MORE REPORTS ON
» **PAGE 15**

Now, Delhi plans November rain to breathe easy

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

Reeling from noxious air, the national capital would now be attempting to induce artificial rain to tackle the rising pollution levels.

Announcing this on Wednesday, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said he met experts from IIT Kanpur to explore the possibility of cloud seeding for rain, and the cloudy weather forecast for November 20-21 could provide an opportune time to execute the plan. Cloud seeding has been attempted earlier in other parts of the country as well, including Maharashtra.



Clearing the air: An anti-smog gun sprays water droplets to curb air pollution in the national capital on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The Delhi government, he said, will receive a detailed proposal from the institute that would be submitted to the Supreme Court for its go-ahead. Mr. Rai also cleared the confusion over the implementation of the ‘odd-even’ or

vehicle-rationing scheme, saying the government would submit two case studies to the court for its perusal and nod for roll-out.

Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, in a post on X, also referred to the meeting with experts from

IIT Kanpur. “... Enquired about the effectiveness of the technology and asked them to submit a concrete proposal,” he said.

Equipment ready

“We have an aircraft and cloud seeding equipment, and our team has been closely monitoring the cloud situation,” said Professor Sachchida Nand Tripathi, member, steering and monitoring committee, National Clean Air Programme, IIT Kanpur.

While proposing the plan to the Supreme Court on Friday, the AAP government intends to request for cooperation from the Centre through the court.

On the odd-even scheme, Mr. Rai said the government would be submitting studies from the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago and the Delhi Technological University regarding the scheme’s effectiveness.

The Supreme Court had on Tuesday called the Delhi government’s efforts as “all optics” and wondered if the odd-even scheme curbed vehicular pollution in the past. The top court has asked the government to look at short-term steps to mitigate the situation on an immediate basis.

MORE REPORTS
» **PAGE 2**

Nitish apologises as remark raises furore

Amarnath Tewary
Sreeparna Chakrabarty
PATNA/NEW DELHI

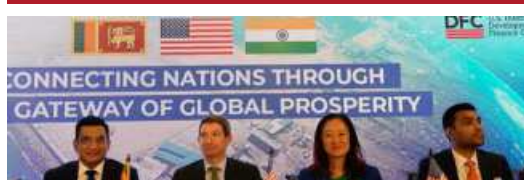
A day after his “derogatory” comment on the role of

women’s education in population control, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar on Wednesday apologised both within and outside the House. The Opposition BJP, ho-

wever, demanded Mr. Kumar’s resignation while protesting in the Assembly.

CONTINUED ON
» **PAGE 12**

TAMILS IN SRI LANKA
An untouched facet of colonial history
The bicentenary of indentured labour
EDITORIAL » **PAGE 8**



ADANI PORT
Project in Sri Lanka to get funding from U.S. govt.
BUSINESS » **PAGE 16**

People of M.P. looking for change, BJP will be voted out: Kamal Nath

Sandeep Phukan
Mehul Malpani
CHHINDWARA

Madhya Pradesh Congress president and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath asserted that the people of the State will vote out the BJP as they are looking for a change.

“I have been in politics for 45 years and can read their sentiments. People of Madhya Pradesh want change and the BJP is going to lose the elections by a

huge margin,” Mr. Nath told *The Hindu*.

The Congress veteran also denied the charge that he was overtly playing the “Hindu card” in trying to woo voters by holding a programme of Dhirendra Shastri, the head priest of Bageshwar Dham, a revered shrine in the State.

Alleging corruption and

scams under BJP, he also questioned why did Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan not implement the Ladli Behna scheme, offering a monthly sum of ₹1,500, earlier.

“The BJP has been in government for 18 years, so wasn’t the *behen* [sister] *ladli* [dear] before that?” he asked.

INTERVIEW ON
» **PAGE 13**



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RISE 02:45 SET 15:18

FRIDAY, NOV. 10
RISE 06:40 SET 17:31
RISE 03:39 SET 15:45

SATURDAY, NOV. 11
RISE 06:40 SET 17:30
RISE 04:32 SET 16:13

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	30	15
Safdarjang	30	15
Palam	29	18

Delhi Palam Today
31°C A dry weather with very severe 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 increase in pollution level. Night also will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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Connaught Place smog tower to restart today



The 24-metre-high tower was inaugurated by CM Arvind Kejriwal in 2021 at a cost of ₹20 crore. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday said that the Delhi government has ordered the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to restart the Connaught Place smog tower at full capacity on Thursday. The development comes a day after the Supreme Court directed that the tower be made operational.

The 24-metre-high tower was inaugurated by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in 2021 at a cost of ₹20

crore.

Mr. Rai had earlier claimed that the tower had been shut down on the order of DPCC chairperson Ashwani Kumar. The Environment Minister wrote to the Chief Minister seeking Mr. Kumar's suspension for "arbitrarily halting" the operation of a large smog tower at Connaught Place.

According to the Delhi government, the giant air purifier, which has 40 large fans, can reduce air pollution by 70%-80% within a 50-metre radius and by 15%-20% up to a radius of 300 metres.

Govt. mulls ban on all taxis from other States when odd-even scheme kicks off

Proposal to be submitted to Supreme Court tomorrow; Transport Department told to prepare detailed report, says Environment Minister Gopal Rai; commuters from NCR cities to be affected

Alisha Dutta NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has proposed a ban on the entry of all taxis into the city from other States when the odd-even vehicle-rationing scheme is implemented in the national capital, according to sources.

The prohibition is part of the proposal the government is likely to submit to the Supreme Court on Friday.

The apex court had on Tuesday asked the Delhi government to consider whether only taxis registered in Delhi should be allowed in the city.

It had made the remarks during a hearing over the Capital's deteriorating air quality.

The Delhi government had announced the implementation of its week-long traffic plan from November 13, a day after Deepavali, when air pollution is likely to shoot up.

Mr. Rai on Wednesday told reporters that the Transport Department has been asked to prepare a comprehensive report on the apex court's observation about app-based taxis.

"We will submit it in the Supreme Court on Friday," he added.

According to officials, the Transport Department is yet to get approval for



The apex court had questioned the efficacy of the odd-even vehicle-rationing scheme during a hearing over deteriorating air quality in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the vehicle-rationing scheme from Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena.

'Plan in the works'
Meanwhile, a senior department official said commuters from NCR cities like Gurugram and Noida would have to depend on metro services once the odd-even scheme is implemented.

"Commuters will not be able to enter Delhi in cabs registered outside the Capital," the official added.

Transport Commissioner Ashish Kundra told *The Hindu* that the department is still in the process of formulating a plan about the

cabs registered in the other States.

When asked if commuters to the IGI Airport from NCR cities like Gurugram and Noida will be allowed to travel in cabs registered in other States, he said details are yet to be finalised.

The odd-even vehicle-rationing scheme was first introduced in 2016 to combat air pollution.

Under it, vehicles with registration numbers ending with even digits are allowed to run on even dates and those with odd numbers are allowed to run on odd dates.

Meanwhile, the air quality of Delhi and its suburbs

slipped to the 'severe' category on Wednesday.

Air quality drops

The city's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 426, worsening from 395 on Tuesday. Neighbouring Ghaziabad (384), Gurugram (385), Noida (405), Greater Noida (478), and Faridabad (425) also reported hazardous air quality.

A reading between zero and 50 on the AQI is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

Winter break declared for all schools from Nov. 9-18

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Education (DoE) on Wednesday instructed all schools in the city to declare the winter break from November 9 to 18 amid the high pollution levels in Delhi-NCR.

In a circular, the DoE said that further orders for the remaining portion of winter break will be issued in due course of time.

On November 6, the DoE had issued a circular asking all schools to move to the online mode of teaching till November 10 to protect the health of students. The schools were, however, allowed to hold classes to prepare students for board examinations and to choose whether to conduct these classes physically or online. Meanwhile, teachers have been asked to come to school.

Anti-pollution measure

Since November 5, Delhi's air quality has been in the 'severe' category and pollution control measures under Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) have been in force.

The circular issued on Wednesday read, "In the wake of implementation of GRAP-4 measures due to severe air quality prevailing in Delhi and seeing that no respite from such adverse weather conditions in the near future is predicted by the IMD, the winter break for the session 2023-24 is ordered to be preponed so that schools can be totally closed and both children and teachers can stay at home."

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- PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
- WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

ENTERPRISE CONNECT A Business Initiative

IMT Ghaziabad is now in QS World Business Master's Ranking 2024



IMT Ghaziabad, an institution synonymous with excellence in business education, has achieved a remarkable feat in the QS World Business Master's Ranking 2024. With an impressive legacy of over 43 years, IMT Ghaziabad is a testament to the relentless dedication and collective endeavors of the institution's distinguished faculty, diligent students, accomplished alumni, and the entire IMT Ghaziabad community. In these new rankings, IMT Ghaziabad has marked its presence in multiple categories, demonstrating its diverse strengths and unwavering commitment to academic excellence. These accomplishments reaffirm its position as an educational institution of global repute. IMT Ghaziabad has made an impressive debut in the QS World Business Master's Ranking, securing a global rank of '151' band in Master's in Management. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students, faculty, and staff of IMT Ghaziabad. The QS World Business Master's in Management ranking is a prestigious ranking system that evaluates the top business schools worldwide based on several parameters such as employability, academic reputation, diversity, and more. IMT Ghaziabad's inclusion in this ranking is a significant milestone for the institution and demonstrates its commitment to providing quality education and producing competent business professionals. Dr. Vishal Talwar, Director IMT Ghaziabad, conveyed his heartfelt gratitude, stating, "We extend our deep appreciation to our dedicated faculty, diligent students, accomplished alumni, and the entire IMT Ghaziabad community for their unwavering support and relentless hard work. This achievement stands as a collective testament to our commitment to nurturing academic excellence and fostering future business leaders."

IMT Ghaziabad has been ranked among the top academic institutions in India in the QS World Business Master's Rankings 2024, one ranking places IMT Ghaziabad alongside other renowned B-schools such as the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Indore, IIM Kozhikode, IIM Udaipur, IIM Rohtak, MDI Gurgaon, International Management Institute Delhi, IMT Ghaziabad has been playing a significant role in the global education sector by cultivating the next generation of business leaders. The institution's impressive performance in QS World Business Master's Rankings 2024 solidifies its position as one of the leading management education institutions.



Mr. Koppu Sadashiv Murthy appointed Chairman and Managing Director, BHEL

of the Corporate Operations Management group at BHEL, and also simultaneously held additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited (BPCL). An Electrical Engineering graduate from Bhopal University with an MBA in Finance, Mr. Murthy joined BHEL in 1989 at its Jhansi manufacturing unit - a transformer & locomotive manufacturing hub. During his 34 years of wide-ranging and hands-on experience in BHEL's Corporate Office and in various manufacturing units such as Hyderabad, Bhopal, Jhansi, and Varanasi, Mr. Murthy has developed a comprehensive set of competencies in strategic, operational, project and commercial management. Mr. Murthy's career is marked by a strong track record of consistently delivering revenue and profitability coupled with expert resource optimisation. As Head of Corporate Operations Management at Delhi, Mr. Murthy played a vital role in turning the company profitable in FY22-23 & FY21-22 after two years of losses, fostering a project-centric culture. While heading BHEL's Varanasi manufacturing unit, he successfully led all aspects of the unit's portfolio and despite the challenges posed by the partial closure/lockdown of the factory during Covid, achieved remarkable results in FY20-21, with a Profit Before Tax of over 25% of revenue, a historically low inventory level and a cash surplus. As CMD, BPCL, his exceptional skills in building robust stakeholder relationships drove mutually beneficial outcomes of monetisation of assets to the tune of Rs.80 Crore, and resolution of long-pending payment and contractual issues with customers, contractors and suppliers. Mr. Murthy envisions a future where BHEL excels in delivering high-quality equipment, ensures on-time EPC execution, and plays a pivotal role in contributing to India's growth. His capacity as a proven team leader and his ability to channelise diverse perspectives towards common goals will propel the company to greater heights in the coming years.

POWERGRID Organizes Vigilance Awareness Week



Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSU of Ministry of Power, Government of India, is organizing various activities across its establishments in the country during Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) 2023. CMD, Directors and CVO of POWERGRID led a walkathon to spread awareness as part of VAW 23 celebrations on 30th October 2023 in which employees of Corporate Centre Gurugram participated. An integrity pledge was administered by Shri K. Sreekanth, CMD, POWERGRID, to employees and senior officials. On this occasion, messages by Hon'ble President of India, Hon'ble Vice President of India and Central Vigilance Commissioner were read. The VAW is being organized from 30th October 2023 to 5th November 2023 to create awareness among public and employees of POWERGRID.

Punjab & Sind Bank conducted Walkathon during Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW)
In an inspiring demonstration of commitment to Vigilance and ethics, Punjab and Sind Bank conducted Walkathon on 1st Nov 2023 as part of Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) with its theme "Say no to corruption, commit to the nation". More than 250 staff members including the Top management participated in the Event. Dr. Ram Jass Yadav, Executive Director along with Shri Ravi Mehra, ED and Shri Anil Kumar Agarwal, CVO flagged off the Walkathon from Corporate office, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi. The objective of Walkathon is to create a Public awareness about zero tolerance against corruption, as "corruption free society leads to a healthier and happier community". All participants walked with a united spirit to spread the message against corruption. This event is a testament to the collective effort of Punjab & Sind Bank in building a more vigilant and corruption free

REC DECLARES ITS FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR Q2 & H1 FY24

REC limited, a 'Maharatna' company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, Government of India, and registered with RBI as Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), Public Financial Institution (PFI) and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC), has today reported its unaudited financial results (Standalone) for the 2nd Quarter and Half Year ended 30th September 2023. Owing to the improving asset quality, increase in lending rates and effective management of Finance Cost, REC is able to record its highest ever quarterly profit of ₹ 3,773 crore. As a result, the annualised Earnings Per Share for the quarter ended 30th September 2023 accelerated to ₹ 51.14 per share as against ₹ 39.32 per share as at 30th September 2022. Aided by growth in profits, the Net Worth has grown to ₹ 63,117 crore as on 30th September 2023, an increase of 18% YoY. The loan book has maintained its growth trajectory and has increased by 20% to ₹ 4.74 lakh crore as against ₹ 3.94 lakh crore as at 30th September 2022. Signifying improving asset quality, the Net Credit-impaired Assets have reduced to 0.96% with Provision Coverage Ratio of 69.37% on NPA assets, as at 30th September 2023. Indicating the ample opportunity to support the future growth, the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of the Company stands at a comfortable 28.53% as on 30th September 2023. Continuing with the tradition to reward its shareholders, the Board of Directors of the Company has declared the second interim dividend of ₹ 50 per equity share (on face value of ₹ 10/- each) and 13th November 2023 has been fixed as Record Date for payment of Second Interim Dividend. The Total Interim Dividend for the FY 23-24 is ₹ 65.50 per equity share (on face value of ₹ 10/- each). REC Limited has also diversified into infrastructure and Logistics sector in a major way, ever since it became a Maharatna company in September 2022. Recently, for implementation of various infrastructure projects, REC has signed MOU with Punjab National Bank for ₹ 55,000 crore, signed MOU with Bank of India for ₹ 30,000 crore and also signed MOU with SBI for ₹ 50,000 crore for setting up power generation projects based on conventional and renewable sources of energy. REC Limited, a Maharatna company, has emerged as a frontrunner in catalyzing India's energy transition in alignment with the nation's COP26 commitments and recent G20 pledges. With a resolute vision and unwavering commitment, REC is on a trajectory to achieve a green finance loan book of ₹ 3 Lakh crore by the fiscal year 2030. On the sidelines of the G20 Summit, REC held one-on-one discussions with RE Developers leading to successful signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) amounting to a total of around ₹ 2.86 Lakh crore. REC's dedication to fostering green finance initiatives and its pivotal role in India's energy transition reinforce its commitment to creating a sustainable and eco-friendly future. As India and the world strive towards a cleaner and greener energy landscape, REC stands as a beacon of growth and overall development of economy of the country.

Delhi Transco organizes 'Walkathon to spread Vigilance Awareness

Government of NCT of Delhi entities Delhi Transco Limited, Indraprastha Power Generation Company Ltd and Pragati Power Company Ltd observed Vigilance Awareness Week from 30th October to 5th November 2023. The theme of the Vigilance Awareness Week was "Say no to corruption, Commit to the Nation". During this awareness campaign a number of programmes such as essay writing competition, slogan writing competition, training sessions on vigilance and disciplinary proceedings etc were also conducted. In addition to the above programmes; a Walkathon was also conducted on 3rd November 2023 to spread Vigilance Awareness among the officials of these companies as well as the public at large. The employees of Delhi Transco Limited, Indraprastha Power Generation Company Limited and Pragati Power Company Limited participated. Ms Kiran Saini, Executive Director (Technical) DTL flagged off the walkathon from Delhi Secretariat. The other dignitaries present on this occasion includes Shri R N Pani - General Manager (HR) and Shri Brendra Prasad - General Manager (Vigilance).

Haryana 'managing' its farm fire data: AAP; don't politicise the issue, says Manohar Lal

The Hindu Bureau GURUGRAM

Haryana AAP vice-president Anurag Dhandha on Wednesday questioned the authenticity of the State government's data on stubble burning. Mr. Dhandha alleged that the actual number of farm fires is much higher than the 1,500 reported by the government

for this season. He charged the government with "managing" the data instead of addressing the menace.

Addressing a press conference in Chandigarh, Mr. Dhandha said last year, farmers were given subsidies to help them dispose of stubble, but no such provision was made in the State budget this year. Meanwhile, Chief Minis-

ter Manohar Lal told reporters at an event in Pinjore on Wednesday that pollution in Delhi-NCR is not a political issue, "However, some leaders are doing politics on it."

"We are providing machines to farmers, along with subsidies, to help them manage stubble," Mr. Lal said. He added that there has been a "signifi-

cant reduction" in farm fires in Haryana, even as the incidents of stubble burning have been "higher in Punjab".

According to Punjab Remote Sensing Centre data, more than 2,000 farm fires were reported in Punjab on Wednesday, a day after the Supreme Court said crop residue burning must be stopped "forthwith".

Extended Onam festivities not allowed at JNU convention centre: students

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Students at Jawaharlal Nehru University have accused the administration of denying them permission to celebrate extended Onam cultural festivities and Onasadhya at the campus convention centre, saying Onam is a "religious festival".

The event was scheduled for Thursday.

"We condemn this anti-South Indian, anti-Kerala discrimination against our community and implore the student community to participate in and uphold our cultural endeavour," the JNU Onam committee said in a statement.

The students found support from V. Sivadasan, Kerala MP, who said, "All democratic forces should rise in protest against this outrageously discriminatory act prompted by sectarian politics which challenges India's unity in diversity and pluralism."

Drugs meant for rehab clinic sold to addicts; five arrested

Samridhi Tewari NEW DELHI

An inter-State drug peddling cartel has been busted by agencies from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, leading to the arrest of five persons so far as well as the seizure of a large stash of opioid and other medicines, Delhi Police said on Wednesday.

According to an officer, the accused primarily sold buprenorphine - an opioid priced at ₹7 by the government and administered at rehabilitation centres to overcome addiction - illegally for as high as ₹200 to addicts and homeless people in areas such as Hanuman Mandir, Yamuna Bazar, and Nigam Both Ghat. The accused - Asif, Amir, Pradeep, Kherunisha, and Rashid - were arrested after the police were tipped off about the racket, he added.

Explaining the modus operandi, the officer said Asif and Amir supplied the drugs and other paraphernalia to Pradeep, who was in charge of a rehab centre 'Elegant Clinic' in north-



Police personnel with the recovered drugs. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

west Delhi's Jahangirpuri. Kherunisha and Rashid sold the drugs from the clinic, whose operations were handled by an NGO under contract with the Delhi government.

Based on the inputs of the accused, 22 strips of buprenorphine 2 mg, 28 syringes, 74 needles, 850 injections/vials of antihistamine Avil 10 ml, and seven bags containing 2,800 injections of other drugs have been recovered so far.

The seizures were made during raids at a medical shop in Delhi's Bhagirath Palace and another in Ghaziabad. Efforts are on to catch the other accused, including Akhilesh, a supplier who had procured

several syringes.

The action was undertaken jointly by the Anti-Narcotics Task Force of Delhi Police Crime Branch, North Delhi district police, Delhi's Department of Drugs Control, and Uttar Pradesh's drugs regulator as part of 'Operation Clean-sweep'. The initiative aims to crack down on drug peddlers in and around the Yamuna floodplains.

When contacted, a Delhi government spokesperson said, "If there is any case of drug abuse, the police should inform the government. We will enquire into the matter and take necessary action against the private agency running [the clinic]."

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- Economics by VIBHAS JHA SIR from 3rd Oct
- Geography by ALOK RANJAN SIR from 3rd Nov
- History by HEMANT JHA SIR from 28th Nov
- PSIR by PIYUSH CHAUBEY SIR from 17th Oct
- Sociology by RAJ RAI SIR from 2nd Nov
- Anthropology by SUDHIR KUMAR SIR from 2nd Nov
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IN BRIEF



ED issues fresh summons to TMC's Abhishek Banerjee

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday issued fresh summons to Trinamool Congress (TMC) general secretary Abhishek Banerjee to appear before the agency in connection with the school job scam on November 9. The Trinamool leadership said that Mr. Banerjee will appear before the investigating agency on Thursday in Kolkata. The Trinamool leader has been summoned by the agency in connection with cases both by the ED and CBI, multiple times. The ED had earlier summoned the Diamond Harbour MP to appear before it on October 9, after he skipped the October 3 summons.

SP, BSP should join hands to defeat BJP in 2024: Maurya

Mahan Dal president Keshav Dev Maurya, who heads the party that is said to have support among some sections of Other Backward Classes (OBC) in U.P., on Wednesday said the BJP in the State could be defeated if an alliance is forged between the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) like in the previous parliamentary poll. Mahan Dal is said to have backing from OBC communities such as Mauryas and the Kushwahs. Mr. Maurya also called for a broader coalition of like-minded backward class forces in the State for the 2024 Lok Sabha election to take on the ruling party at the Centre.

Rahul ups the ante on paddy procurement in poll-bound Chhattisgarh

Congress' pledge to hike paddy prices to ₹3,200 per quintal is just the beginning, he says; asks why BJP leaders send their children to English schools, but do not want tribals to do the same

Shubhomov Sikdar
RAIPUR

The ruling Congress party's promise to pay ₹3,200 for every quintal of paddy to farmers in poll-bound Chhattisgarh is just the "beginning", former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday, assuring voters that the amount would be hiked further.

Addressing a poll rally in Ambikapur, the constituency of Deputy Chief Minister T.S. Singh Deo in the tribal belt of Sarguja, Mr. Gandhi also alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party did not want tribals to "dream big" and was thus turning them away from English medium school education.

"We have announced that you will get ₹3,200 per quintal [of paddy], you can write it down. Five years [ago], I had said ₹2,500, and now I am saying that the beginning will be with ₹3,200... the beginning,



Making his point: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressing an election rally in Chhattisgarh's Jashpur on Wednesday. ANI

That means it will start from ₹3,200 and will keep on increasing. Whatever the farmer needs, we will do whatever we can," he said.

Paddy procurement prices and the allied promise to waive farm loans are critical issues in the elections, more so in the second phase on November 17 when the fertile areas of the State's central plains go to the polls.

In his speech, Mr. Gandhi claimed that whatever promises he made were

fulfilled, and accused the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of lying.

"The Prime Minister came here and told all of you that he will put in ₹15 lakh. It did not reach anyone's bank account. He had said that black money would be recovered through demonetisation. It was said that the farmers would benefit from the Farmers' Bill[s], but they themselves rejected the Bill. Farmers said the Prime Minister is lying, we do not want the Bill. You all

know who tells the truth and who lies," he said.

Vanvasi vs adivasi

Mr. Gandhi also slammed the BJP for using the term *vanvasi* (forest-dwellers) to refer to the tribal population, instead of *adivasi* (original inhabitants). Citing the incident where a BJP worker urinated on a tribal man in Sidhi in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress leader asserted that it reflected "the BJP's mindset".

Promising that a caste survey would be conducted from day one if the Congress came to power in Chhattisgarh, and promising a nationwide survey if the Opposition INDIA bloc won next year's Lok Sabha poll, Mr. Gandhi questioned the Prime Minister's claim that there was only one caste, the poor.

"So why do you call yourself an OBC? If there is only one caste, then who are the ones who are rich?" he asked.

'Rahul convinced of Cong.'s defeat in Assembly polls'

Press Trust of India
BHOPAL

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said Rahul Gandhi is convinced that the Congress was going to lose in the ongoing Assembly elections.

The Congress "played with our faith" in the past but he felt happy that Mr. Gandhi recently visited the Kedarnath temple, the BJP leader said at a campaign rally at Ajaigarh constituency in Madhya Pradesh's Panna district ahead of the November 17 polls.

"Congress used to play with our faith. I felt satisfaction yesterday seeing a picture of Rahulji visiting Kedarnath. Rahulji is already convinced that Congress is losing badly in the semi-finals of these Assembly polls. That is why he left the field and ran away," Mr. Adityanath said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed Kedarnath, he said.

"There was a tragedy in Uttarakhand during the time of the Congress government, and Kedarnath was badly destroyed. People [displaced by the



Congress played with our faith, says U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath

floods) kept wandering for many days. Modiji was the Chief Minister of Gujarat...he said he wanted to help there but the Congress governments in the State and Centre did not give permission," Mr. Adityanath alleged.

As soon as Mr. Modi got the opportunity, he started building a grand new Kedarnath with the help of the Uttarakhand government, he added.

"Rahulji is praying at the same grand Kedarnath temple during this crisis," Mr. Adityanath said.

He also asked the gathering if the grand development of Kedarnath or construction of the Ram temple would be possible under a Congress government. "This can never happen because Congress itself is a problem while the BJP believes in finding solutions," he said.

Panneerselvam camp exploring options after HC restrains him from associating with AIADMK

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

With the Madras High Court restraining AIADMK's former coordinator O. Panneerselvam from associating himself with the party in any form, his camp is examining different options to face the situation.

For the time being, the camp has approached the Court with an appeal, which will be heard on Friday. Senior leaders emphasise that the legal battle in one forum or the other is not yet over.

The camp's propaganda secretary Va. Pugazhendhi, in a letter sent to the Election Commission of India (EC) a few days ago, referred to the EC's Secretary Jaydeb Lahiri's communication to Edappadi K. Palaniswami in April, and requested the panel to prevent Mr. Palaniswami



O. Panneerselvam.

from giving the impression that he was the general secretary of the party, as the communication, according to Mr. Pugazhendhi, did not mention the nomenclature of "general secretary."

Political options

As for political options, the predominant view in the camp is to sail with the BJP, the AMMK led by T.T.V. Dhinakaran, and many other like-minded parties. Even if the High Court's order gets reinforced in the future, the camp may like to

wait till the poll schedule is out for the Lok Sabha election, after which it may approach the EC for the allotment of a symbol.

One reason behind such a course of action is that since there are four MLAs on his side, the camp would like to avoid any disqualification proceedings if it chooses to float a party of its own immediately. Mr. Panneerselvam, till now in Singapore on a private visit, has called a meeting of senior functionaries on Thursday to discuss the implications of the court order.

Meanwhile, Mr. Palaniswami called a meeting of the party's district secretaries and point persons at the head office in Chennai on November 21 to take stock of the progress of the formation of booth committees as part of preparations for the Lok Sabha poll.

JD(S), BJP will work like a family to win all 28 LS seats: HDK

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy is not bothered about how many seats his party will win in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections because his target is to ensure that the JD(S)-BJP alliance wins all 28 seats in Karnataka.

Addressing a media conference in Hassan along with his party colleagues, Mr. Kumaraswamy said the Congress government in Karnataka is rattled after he met senior leaders of the BJP a couple of times. "We have only talked about joining the NDA. Already, the Congress party is jittery. Imagine what would be their state once we finalise our understanding with the BJP in Karnataka," he said.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said that talks about the alliance with the BJP are still



H.D. Kumaraswamy

in the preliminary stage. The details would be finalised after the Assembly elections in five States. "We will talk about the alliance with State leaders of the BJP. Talking with only Delhi leaders will not help. We have to take them into confidence, and leaders of both parties have to work as a family. There is no hurry. Many of the questions being raised by the media about the alliance will be answered in December," he said.

Palakkad veteran trumps man from Gibraltar to enter Guinness as world's longest-serving lawyer

Abdul Latheef Naha
PALAKKAD

Seventy-three years and 60 days of practice as a lawyer is a Guinness World Record. Palakkad's veteran civil lawyer P.B. Menon has brought that world record to India by knocking out Gibraltar government lawyer Louis Triay's Guinness record of 70 years and 311 days. Louis died in February this year at 94.

Mr. Menon is 97 and still attends the courts with the vivacious zest of a beginner. "He is a phenomenon, a legal institution from which today's practitioners have many lessons to learn," said Deputy Director of Prosecution P. Premnath.

The world's longest serving lawyer had entered the India Book of Records a few months ago. At 97, his memory remains intact. Rather he loves falling back



P.B. Menon

on nostalgic moments at the beginning days of his career in the early 1950s.

After graduating from Government Victoria College, Palakkad, in 1947 Mr. Menon studied law from Madras Law College (now Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Chennai). He shifted his practice to Palakkad after two years at Madras High Court.

It was a veteran judge at a sub-court in Kochi who

advised Mr. Menon to focus on civil law when he won a criminal case as a junior lawyer. "That was a turning point in my career and life. I begin my days by remembering that senior judge," said Mr. Menon, sharing his early experiences.

Rose Land, Mr. Menon's house at Puthur in Palakkad town, remains open to everyone. He is approachable and affable to lawyers of all ages.

There is no such thing as minor or insignificant case for him. "He approaches all cases with utmost seriousness. Ensuring justice for his client is his motto," said his daughter Subhadra Muralaedarhan.

In a chat with the media here, Mr. Menon said there is no point in arguing too much in courts, adding, "My plaint, cross-examination and arguments are always short."

In Karnataka, 'vocal for local' doesn't translate into uptake of State's languages

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"The use of Kannada should not remain merely a slogan," said Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, as he led the State-wide celebrations of the 68th Kannada Rajyotsava and 50 years of renaming Mysore State as Karnataka in a colourful event at the Kanteerava Stadium on November 1. He added that Kannada should be used as an official language in administrative language and government programmes, and even non-Kannadigas living in the State ought to learn the language.

The 'vocal for local' push from the top to elevate the status of Kannada is, however, running into some grassroot drag. The mandatory teaching of the

language in schools has been hamstrung by legal hurdles as well as resistance from non-State board schools.

Despite two successive Acts to ensure the same, private schools affiliated with Central boards (CBSE, CISCE) and following the NCERT curriculum have not been teaching Kannada as the first or second language.

Legal push

The new Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, which was passed by both Houses in the State during the previous BJP government's tenure, builds on the Kannada Language Learning Act, 2015, which stipulates: "All students studying in classes I to X in all schools in the State will



From legal hurdles to resistance from parents and schools, there are obstacles galore for Kannada to be taught as a compulsory language in all schools. FILE PHOTO

learn Kannada as first or second language in a phased manner." The new Act adds a provision for teaching the Kannada language in higher, technical and professional education, and makes way for reservation in higher, technical and professional education for Kannada-medium students.

However, the government had also made a pro-

vision to teach Kannada as a second or third language in the rules of the Karnataka Learning Language Act, 2015, and the Karnataka Educational Institutions (Issue of No Objection Cer-

tificate and Control) Rules, 2022. It is this provisional rule that many private schools have used to teach Kannada as a third language, instead of a first or second language.

It isn't just schools that seem disgruntled with the stipulations of these Acts - 20 parents of students enrolled in centrally affiliated schools moved the Karnataka High Court in August 2023 against the State government's decision to make Kannada a compulsory language.

NEP hope

However, there seems to be a ray of hope. In a move to promote multilingual education in accordance with the Centre's National Education Policy (NEP), the CBSE has allowed schools to offer education

in a regional language from pre-primary to Class 12. Meanwhile, in 2015, the Karnataka government amended the Right to Education Act, 2009, when a Bill was passed in both Houses of the State Legislature to make either the mother tongue of the student or Kannada the compulsory medium of instruction in all primary schools. However, despite the Bill being forwarded to the President in 2017 with the approval of the Governor, the Union Ministry of Education, which is supposed to send this Bill to the President of India with a recommendation, has not taken any action so far.

Other languages

In an effort to promote non-Kannada languages spoken in various regions

in the State, several languages like Konkani, Tulu and Kodava have also entered schools and colleges in recent years. Konkani and Tulu are being taught at both school and college levels, while Kodava has emerged as a subject of study at higher education. Beary is yet to be introduced at the primary, secondary or tertiary level; the Beary Adhyayana Peetha of Mangalore University has finished preparing the syllabus of a certificate course in the language and hopes to introduce it soon.

However, though these languages are spoken by a large number of people, not many students opt for their study due to lack of job opportunities with their undergraduate or postgraduate degree.



संकल्प
नये उत्तराखण्ड का

राज्य
स्थापना दिवस
9 नवम्बर की

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ग्लोबल इन्वेस्टर समिट 2023 के लिये अब तक 1.24 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक के एमओयू।



एस.जी.एस.टी. संग्रह में 33 प्रतिशत वृद्धि, राज्य की प्रति व्यक्ति आय में 12 प्रतिशत से अधिक वृद्धि।



राजकीय विद्यालयों के साथ राजकीय सहायता प्राप्त (अशासकीय) विद्यालयों में कक्षा 1 से 12 तक के छात्र-छात्राओं को निशुल्क पाठ्य पुस्तकें।

- देश का सबसे कठोर नकल विरोधी कानून।
- लखपति दीदी योजना के तहत 1.25 लाख महिलाओं को लखपति बनाने का लक्ष्य।
- पलायन रोकने तथा रिवर्स पलायन को बढ़ावा देने हेतु "मुख्यमंत्री सीमान्त क्षेत्र विकास योजना"।
- मुख्यमंत्री महालक्ष्मी योजना व मुख्यमंत्री आंचल अमृत योजना।
- मिशन दालचीनी, मिशन तिमरु, एरोमा पार्क व एरोमा वेली।

- राज्य में शहीद जैनिकों के परिवारों के एक सदस्य को रोजगार तथा विशिष्ट सेवा मेडल अवार्ड राशि में बढ़ोत्तरी।
- राज्य की महिलाओं को सरकारी नौकरी में 30 प्रतिशत क्षैतिज आरक्षण।
- दीनदयाल उपाध्याय सहकारिता किसान कल्याण योजना के अन्तर्गत किसानों को 3 लाख और स्वयं सहायता समूहों को ₹ 5 लाख तक की धनराशि का ब्याज रहित ऋण।
- स्टेट मिलेट मिशन में स्थानीय कृषकों से झंगोरा, मंडुवा, मोयाबीन एवं चोलाई का उचित मूल्य पर क्रय।

- हॉटिकल्चर को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 50 हजार पॉलीहाउस का बजट प्रावधान।
- राज्य के युवाओं के लिए "विदेश रोजगार प्रकोष्ठ का गठन"।
- समान नागरिक संहिता के लिये प्रभावी पहल।
- अटल आयुष्मान योजना में 5 लाख रुपये तक का निशुल्क इलाज।
- राज्य में निर्धन परिवारों को वर्ष में 3 मिलेन्डर निःशुल्क टीफिल की सुविधा।

सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा जनहित में जारी www.uttarainformation.gov.in [uttarakhandDIPR](https://www.facebook.com/uttarakhandDIPR) [DIPR_UK](https://www.x.com/DIPR_UK) [uttarakhand DIPR](https://www.youtube.com/uttarakhandDIPR)

INBRIEF



Mahout gored to death by elephant at Guruvayur camp

An elephant gored its mahout to death at the elephant camp of the Guruvayur Devaswom on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as A.R. Ratheesh. The incident occurred on Wednesday when Ratheesh was giving water to elephant Chandrasekharan. Though the mahout was rushed to hospital, he could not be saved. The elephant, who has only one tusk, is a known troublemaker, according to fellow mahouts.

Dollar smuggling case: six accused to pay ₹4.9 crore fine

The Customs has imposed a penalty of ₹4.9 crore on the six accused in the dollar smuggling case involving a former diplomat of the UAE Consulate in Thiruvananthapuram. Khaled Mohamed Ali Shoukry, former finance head of the UAE Consulate; M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan; Swapna Suresh, accused in the gold smuggling case; P.S. Sarith, former staff of the UAE Consulate; Sandeep Nair, fourth accused in the gold smuggling case; and Santhosh Eapen, a builder, are the accused in the case.

Wild elephant electrocuted in Chittoor district of A.P.

A wild elephant was electrocuted after it reportedly came in contact with a power transformer in an agriculture field at Gantavari Palli village of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. A herd of wild elephants entered the thickets of Sadum mandal a few days ago. On Wednesday, an elephant, which got separated from the herd and entered the fields, came in contact with a transformer and was electrocuted.

Naidu's bail plea in sand mining case adjourned

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh High Court on Wednesday adjourned former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's anticipatory bail petition in the sand mining case to November 22 on being told by the CID that it will not seek the former Chief Minister's arrest till the medical bail in the skill development scam case expires on November 28.

Mr. Naidu and some of his former TDP Ministers and MLAs are accused of committing irregularities in the implementation of the free sand policy that allegedly caused loss to the State exchequer.

Sudden showers



Motorists caught in a downpour in Vijayawada on Wednesday. As per India Meteorological Department, rain, accompanied with thunderstorms, is expected across Andhra Pradesh in the next few days. K.V.S. GIRI

Kerala forms Organic Farming Mission to boost agriculture

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has created an Organic Farming Mission to encourage the adoption of sustainable organic and climate-smart farming practices in the State. The mission aims at expanding organic farming to 5,000 hectares in the next five years through an annual target of 1,000 ha.

Agriculture Minister P. Prasad announced the formation of the mission here on Wednesday. The government had formally issued orders related to the mission on October 26.

In farms run by the Agriculture Department, at least 10% of the area will be



Kerala Agriculture Minister announces the formation of Organic Farming Mission in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. FILE PHOTO

set aside for organic farming. Another mandate of the mission is to make sure that selected beneficiaries/farms of organic farming schemes pursue the system at least for five years.

The mission will take steps to expand the system for certification, branding, and marketing of organic

SC refuses to vacate order on temple priests in Tamil Nadu

Court had passed interim order on September 25 on the basis of a series of petitions; it was alleged that the State was attempting to appoint 'non-believers' as Archakas in Agamic temples

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday did not vacate or modify its September 25 interim order issuing *status quo* in the Archakaship in temples governed by the age-old Agamas in Tamil Nadu.

The *status quo* order was passed on the basis of a series of petitions alleging that the State government was attempting to appoint "non-believers" as Archakas (priests), contrary to the Agamas (post-Vedic scripture of ritual knowledge).

"Let our *status quo* order continue. Heavens will



Let the *status quo* order of Supreme court continue. Heavens will not fall.

JUSTICE M.M. SUNDRESH
SC Judge

not fall," Justice M.M. Sundresh, on a Bench headed by Justice A.S. Bopanna said, listing the case for January 25, 2024.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for the State government, urged the court to lift the stay order. Mr. Dave said the *status quo* order would freeze the filling of 2,405 vacancies for Archakaship in the Agamic temples. Further, it would impact

the required training contemplated for persons who had completed courses from the Archaka training school. "This will cause great hardship in performing poojas in Agamic temples," he stressed.

The government had filed an urgent application for the vacation of the interim order on the petitions filed by several parties, including All India Adi Saiva Sivacharyargal Seva Asso-

Murugha math seer gets bail in one case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, seer of Murugarajendra Bruhan Math, Chitradurga, in one of the two criminal cases registered against him last year for alleged sexual assaults on two minor girls.

The High Court said though medical report of the two girls (which stated



their hymens were intact) has only corroborative value, it has to be considered in the light of statements given by them.

Police widen dragnet for escaped 'Maoists'

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

The Thunderbolt squad and the Special Operations Group have arrested two suspected activists - Chandru and Unnimaya - of the proscribed Communist Party of India (Maoist) following a gun battle at Periya in Wayanad on Tuesday night.

The forces have widened the dragnet in their search for two women who

escaped after the encounter and also for others operating in the tri-junction of the three States of Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

Additional Director General of Police M.R. Ajith Kumar said on Wednesday that the elite forces zeroed in on four suspected CPI(Maoist) activists, including three women, at Periya on Tuesday night as part of an ongoing routine exercise.

Noida police question YouTuber Elvish Yadav in snake venom case

Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

The Noida police on Wednesday said they have questioned YouTuber Elvish Yadav in connection with his alleged involvement in supplying snake venom at rave parties.

The winner of *Bigg Boss OTT Season 2*, Mr. Yadav appeared before the police for questioning on Tuesday night.

A police officer said the interrogation lasted for around an hour and a half, and he was questioned at length regarding his involvement in the case. "We asked him why he posed with snakes and how those snakes were procured. We interrogated him regarding rave parties as well," the officer said.

Mr. Yadav is among the six persons booked in the case. The police said they have sought from the court the custody of the other five accused for questioning.

The case was registered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act on November 4 following a sting operation, which allegedly unearthed the accused's involvement in supplying snake venom at rave parties.

The sting operation was conducted by officials of the Forest Department and an animal welfare officer of the People for Animals, an NGO run by BJP MP Maneka Gandhi.

According to the police, Gaurav Gupta, the NGO's animal welfare officer, had told them that he had contacted the YouTuber for

We asked him why he posed with snakes and how those snakes were procured: police

purchasing snake venom. Mr. Yadav had allegedly put him in touch with the other five persons.

'Venom glands missing'

The Veterinary Department has found that venom glands were missing in all nine snakes. Veterinary officer Dr. Nikhil Varshney on Wednesday said, "In eight of the snakes, teeth were also missing. The inquiry report has been submitted to the Forest Department for further action," he said.

Divisional Forest Officer Pramod Kumar Srivastava confirmed that his department has received the inquiry report. He said the snakes have been released in the Surajpur Wetland area.

Siddharth Kumar Singh, director at the Snake Awareness Association, told *The Hindu* that if venom is extracted from a snake, it doesn't die. "Venom is a mix of enzymes and proteins. Once extracted, snakes create it after 10-15 days," he said.

Regarding the use of snake venom as a narcotic, Mr. Singh said, according to experts, it is converted into a powder, mixed with a liquid opioid and then injected in the tongue. It is taken in small quantity, not more than one mg at one time, which causes one to hallucinate.

Karnataka orders water supply board to utilise 24 tmcft of Cauvery water for Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has issued an order to utilise 24 tmcft of Cauvery water annually for catering to the drinking water needs of Bengaluru City and its surrounding areas.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, held a meeting with the Karnataka's legal team in the national capital and said the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) should utilise 24 tmcft of Cauvery water for drinking purposes of Bengaluru.

Speaking to pressper-

sons, Mr. Shivakumar said in 2018, the Supreme Court had stipulated that 24 tmcft of water can be used for drinking water purposes in Bengaluru. "But till now no one has taken any action in this matter," he said. Currently, the BWSSB is utilising 18 tmcft of water.

Mr. Shivakumar said planning should be made keeping in mind the growth of the City in the next 20 years.

"Water should be made available to surrounding areas including Anekal, Harohalli, Bengaluru North. We are also providing water to Kempegowda International Airport. To-

day Bengaluru North is growing at a rapid speed and there is a need to provide water," he said.

When asked if Tamil Nadu would raise objections to the use of 24 tmcft water for Bengaluru, he said, "Drinking water is our first priority and we are following the order given by the Supreme Court. Let them raise any objection. Why should we give up our rights? We are now following the order given earlier (in 2018). We have given life to the Supreme Court's order. We will reserve this amount of water in the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) or any part of the Cauvery basin."

Out of the woods: 85-year-old woman survives two nights in forest amid rain

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

An 85-year-old woman, who went missing from Sadagal village in Karnataka on November 5, was found in the forest about six kilometre from her residence on Tuesday evening. Sharadamma, the octogenarian, survived without food or shelter for two nights and three days in the forest, which is home to many wild animals, braving heavy rain.

After she was traced by the local people, as she got into the ambulance, the first thing she told her family members was that she was fine and there was nothing to worry. She was taken home after a medical



Sharadamma, after being rescued. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

check-up at the government hospital in Nagara. Ms. Sharadamma has been staying at Sadagal with her husband, Chenappa Gowda, and the family of her son Jayasheela. She went missing around 3

p.m. on November 5 after she left home to check if stray cattle had ventured into the family farm. As she did not return by evening, family members started searching for her. The search continued the next day as well, but there was no sign of her. Their pet dog, which had gone with Sharadamma, returned the next day, making the family members more worried about her safety.

Later on Tuesday, police and forest officials joined the villagers in the search. Shivamogga Superintendent of Police G.K. Mithun Kumar sent a dog squad to assist the search operation. Nagar Sub-inspector Ramesh and Range Forest Officer (RFO) Jeevan took the

lead in the operation. Eventually, Ms. Sharadamma was found about six kilometre away from her home.

Her nephew, H.K. Mahantesh, told *The Hindu* that she had gone to check if stray cattle had entered the farm. "In her attempt to chase the cattle away, she followed them for some distance, and lost her way. On the first day, she was accompanied by the dog. It is a miracle how she survived," he said.

When the search team reached her, she was found bitten by leeches.

"When she was finally found, the villagers were all happy. Many visited the hospital to greet her," Mr. Mahantesh added.

Kalamassery blasts: vlogger booked for comments

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala Police have filed a First Information Report under Section 153 (wantonly giving provocation with an intent to cause riot) of the Indian Penal Code against a woman vlogger, Lasitha Palackal, and another person, Sreeraj R., for their controversial social media posts. Both are from Ernakulam.

The duo reportedly tried to connect People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Abdul Nasir Maudany with the multiple blasts at a convention centre at Kalamassery in Kochi on October 29.

Cong. defends denial of ticket to MLA accused of assaulting Dalit engineer

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR



K.C. Venugopal hit out at BJP for giving its reject a ticket. FILE PHOTO

The Congress on Wednesday defended its decision to deny the party ticket to Bari MLA Girraj Malinga, who is facing charges of assaulting a Dalit engineer of Energy Department more than a year ago. After the ruling party in Rajasthan dropped him, Mr. Malinga joined the BJP on November 5 and was fielded as its candidate for the Assembly poll from Bari late evening on the same day.

Congress general secretary in-charge of organisation K.C. Venugopal said the party had taken a "firm decision" to refuse a ticket to someone accused of a serious crime against a Dalit. "However, immediately after we denied the ticket, the BJP welcomed Mr. Malinga with open arms," he said.

"Such a jubilant welcome shows that they [the BJP] have no regard for the rights or safety of Dalits. In fact, it confirms their oppressive and anti-Dalit attitude," Mr. Venugopal said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

Mr. Malinga, a three-time MLA, was booked for the alleged assault of the engineer, Harshadhipati Valmiki, after he went to a Rajput-dominated village in his constituency in Dholpur district to enquire about non-payment of electricity bills by a large number of people.

Mr. Malinga allegedly stormed into the department's office with his associates on March 28, 2022, and assaulted Mr. Valmiki with casteist slurs.

The victim sustained multiple fracture injuries, including a broken femur, in the attack. He is still undergoing treatment.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PROCUREMENT, JAMMU
POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED,
JAMMU, RAIL HEAD, NARVAL, JAMMU, J&K PIN -180012
PHONE NO. 0191-2473402 TELEFAX- 0191-2472350 e-mail: epcjmu@gmail.com

No: SE/PRJ/TS/1879 Dated:06-11-2023
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e- NIT NO. SE/PRJ/38/2023-24 Dated: 06-11-2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, Procurement, JPDC, Jammu invites online e-bids from original Govt. registered manufacturers for supply of material as under for the requirement of JPDC:

NIT No.	SE/PRJ/38/2023-24 dated 06-11-2023
Description of Material & Quantity (In Kms.)	Purchase of 120 sqmmLT (1100V) XLPE Insulated Aerial Bunched Cable with Bare Messenger Wire. LT AB Cable 120 sqmm-400Kms

Detailed NIT may be downloaded from the website <http://jtenders.gov.in> upto 29th Nov. 2023 till 12:00 Hrs. The tender shall be accepted through online mode only. In case, the tender process does not get completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in the newspapers. The details regarding corrigendum may be seen on the above mentioned website.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
Procurement, JPDC, Jammu

DIP/J-3827-P/23

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DIRECTORATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
5, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.

Roc.No. 8551 /A&A/RIGHTS/2023 TENDER NOTICE Dated: 08.11.2023

Bids are invited from potential Bidders for Supply of Assessment and Therapy Equipment's for One Stop Centers through e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department website - www.scd.tn.gov.in as well as on the tender website- jtenders.gov.in.

Bids are to be uploaded through e-procurement portal at <http://jtenders.gov.in>

Project Director - TN RIGHTS / Director for welfare of the Differently Aabled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

Project Director - RIGHTS / Director for Welfare of the Differently Aabled
DIPR/ 5970 /TENDER/2023

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT JAMMU
B.C. ROAD, BUS STAND, JAMMU
TELE: 0191-2544356, 0191-2547586 E-Mail: phecejmu@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. PHE/JJM/114 of 2023-24 Dated: 09.10.2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, JAMMU invites e-tenders on item rate basis from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures/ Consortiums of all classes, required to be registered with Jal Shakti (PHE) Department of UT of J&K apart from registration with JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other State / UT Government for "Construction of 250 Dia. Production Wells by any suitable method (Reverse/Direct/Dual Rotary) using Mud-Rotary Drilling Rig for 09 Water Supply Schemes (10 nos. Tube wells) of District Jammu of JAMMU Province under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)". The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jtenders.gov.in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid on item rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Particulars of the work	Tender fee in INR	EMD	Estimated Cost	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (Days)
1	Construction of 250 mm Dia. Production Tube Wells by any suitable method (Reverse / Direct / Dual rotary) using Mud-Rotary Drilling Rig for 09 Water Supply Schemes (10 nos. Tube wells) of District Jammu of JAMMU Province under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)*	1000/- for each tender ID (Total 06 Nos tender ids floated for this E-NIT	Rs. 0.50 Lac for each tender ID (total 06 Nos tender ids floated for this E-NIT)	As per Appendix "E"	180 days	As per Bid document.

Position of funds: Available Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
The tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu.
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM) Jammu

Critical Dates:

i	Publish Date	06.11.2023
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	06.11.2023
iii	Date of Pre-bid meeting	08.11.2023 (12:00 Noon)
iv	Bid submission start date	08.11.2023 (4.00 PM onwards)
v	Bid submission end date	14.11.2023 (6.00 PM)
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	15.11.2023(3:00PM)

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jtenders.gov.in. In the terms and conditions of the bid, the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer,
Jal Shakti, (PHE) Department Jammu.

DIP/J-10784/23

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP/AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	UHBVN	NIT NO 359/P&D/2023-24 BID NO B-713	LRP WORKS UNDER RDSS PROJECT FOR CIRCLE/DISTRICT PANIPAT ON FULL TURKEY BASIS CLOSING DATE: 22.11.2023 OPENING DATE: 23.11.2023	www.uhbvn.org.in	01722570431 cepdc@uhbvn.org.in
2	UHBVN	NIT NO 359/P&D/2023-24 BID NO B-712	LRP WORKS UNDER RDSS PROJECT FOR CIRCLE/DISTRICT PANIPAT ON FULL TURKEY BASIS CLOSING DATE: 22.11.2023 OPENING DATE: 23.11.2023	www.uhbvn.org.in	01722570431 cepdc@uhbvn.org.in
3	UHBVN	NIT NO 359/P&D/2023-24 BID NO B-711	LRP WORKS UNDER RDSS PROJECT FOR CIRCLE/DISTRICT PANIPAT ON FULL TURKEY BASIS CLOSING DATE: 22.11.2023 OPENING DATE: 23.11.2023	www.uhbvn.org.in	9356053248 cepdc@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.tenders.hry.nic.in

SAMVAD - 13/2024/60/22535/I/1997

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER :: PWD :: BUILDING :: ASSAM::
CHANDMARI :: GUWAHATI-3

No:CE/BLD/ELECT/84/2011/Pt-I/21 **PRESS NOTICE**

The Chief Engineer, PWD (Bldg.), Assam on behalf of Governor of Assam invites Bids for the work mentioned below from registered PWD Electrical Contractor / Firm under Class-I (A) category having experience in similar nature of works. Details may be seen in the portal assamtenders.gov.in

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Value in (Rs.)	EMD (2% for General and 1% for SC/ST/OBC)	Cost of Tender Documents	EMD	Time of Completion
1.	Additional work for the Construction of New (Ten storied + Two Basement of parking) office building for establishment under the commissioner of Taxes, Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6.	Rs. 11,91,31,431.00	Rs. 23,82,630.00	Rs. 11,91,315.00	Rs. 23,82,630.00	EMD to be deposited through online method 6 (Six) Months

INCLUDING GST.

The Bidder must be registered with the E-Tendering (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam. (website: <http://assamtenders.gov.in>)
The Bid Price may vary at the time of detail tendering, for which no claim will be admissible.
All terms and conditions will be as per Bidding Documents.
The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Documents.

Chief Engineer, P.W.D(Bldg.)
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Janasanyog /C/11907/23/9-Nov-23

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Chief Executive Officer SRINAGAR SMART CITY LTD
(A J&K Government Undertaking)
Email-tender.ssc@gmail.com, Tel.No:0194-2455370, (CIN:U70200JK2017SGC010107)

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM TENDER
E-NIT.NO:30-SSCL of 11/2023-24 DT- 07/11/2023

1. For and on behalf of Lt. Governor Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Executive Officer Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) invites e-Tenders basis from Class CEE/DEE Contractors, registered with J&K State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments/SSI units for the work as detailed in table below.

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Organization	Estimated Cost	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money (in lacs)	Head of Account	Class of Contract	Time Allowed for completion
1	Providing and installation of Wooden Racks for Charging of Electronic Ticketing Issuing Machine (ETIM)	Srinagar Smart City Ltd	Rs. 6.73 Lacs.	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 13,460/-	SSCL	Class CEE/ DEE Contractors, registered with J&K State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State / Central Governments/SSI units	25 Days

The Bid document consisting of Information to Bidders (ITB), Information and Documents to be furnished along with the Bid, General & Special Conditions of Contract, and set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents will be uploaded on the website: www.jtenders.gov.in from 07/11/2023. The Bidders can take part in the bidding process as per below tabulated schedule:

S.No	Particular	Schedule
1	Date of issue of Bid Document	Date: 07/11/2023
2	Availability of Bid Document on e-procurement portal	Date: 07/11/2023 & Time: 16:00 Hrs
3	Deadline for Submission of bids	Date: 14/11/2023 & Time: 14:00 Hrs
4	Last Date for receipt of physical instruments of Cost of Bid Document and Security Deposit.	Date: 14/11/2023
5	Opening of Technical Bids	Date: 14/11/2023 & Time: 16:00 Hrs
6	Date of opening of Financial Bid	To be informed separately

- Bids shall be received "on line" on or before 14/11/2023. The bidder must possess Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and proper used ID.
 - If any date specified herein is a holiday, then the next working day will be considered for the activity and the time will remain the same.
 - The Schedule indicated above is tentative and the Employer may change any or the entire schedule with prior intimation to all bidders.
 - Interested and eligible bidders may submit their complete proposal as prescribed in the Bid Document along with the receipt of requisite Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and non-refundable Cost of Bid Document.
 - The Cost of Bid Document is to be paid through DD/NEFT/RTGS in favour of Chief Executive Officer Srinagar Smart City Limited with Bank Account details as under:
Name of Bank: ICICI Bank Ltd.
Branch: Karan Nagar, Srinagar. Bank Account Number: 252705001239,
IFSC Code: ICIC0002527
MICR Code: 190229002
 - The Earnest Money Deposit (Bid Security) may be paid through CDR/FDR/DD in favour of Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited, with Bank Account details as stated above.
 - The bidder is required to quote in the prescribed format provided on the e-procurement portal and the selection will be done on least cost basis.
 - Right to revise or amend this notice and / or the Bid Document, fully or partially, prior to the last date notified for submission of offers or on any subsequent date is reserved by the Employer.
 - The Employer will not be responsible for any delay in submission of bid due to any reason.
 - The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, cancel the bidding process, at any time prior to the award of contract, without assigning any reason therefor and thereby assumes no responsibility of incurring any liability to the affected applicants.
 - Any information regarding the IFB and / or Bid Document can be had from the office of undersigned during office hours.
 - All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer of Enlistment Registration Card.
 - If verification is not done then it is mandatory to upload affidavit from First Class Executive Magistrate regarding the Genuinehood of the Contractor Card. The Bidders are subject to be disqualified if they have made misleading or false representation in the forms, statements, affidavits duly attested by Magistrate and attachments submitted in proof of the qualification requirement: and/or Record of poor performance such as abandoning the works, not properly completing the contract, inordinate delays in completion, litigation history, or financial failures etc.
- No: SSCL/CEO/23-24/6616-19
Dated: 07/11/2023
- Sd ..
General Manager
Srinagar Smart City Limited.
- DIPK-NB-4093/23 Nov 7 2023

Govt. of Jharkhand
Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165,
E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

Short Tender Notice (Very Urgent)
Tender Reference No.: 33/JREDA/IITF/23-24
Dated: 07.11.2023

1	Name of the work	Hiring of Agency for Conceptualization, Design, Development, Fabrication & Internal Decoration of JREDA Stall on the occasion of India International Trade Fair-2023 from 14th-27th November, 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi including Publication & Distribution of awareness/advertisement materials and all other related works of Renewable Energy.
2	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	6,00,000/- (Six Lakhs) including all taxes.
3	Last date & time for receipt of offline bids.	10.11.2023(Friday) upto 03:00PM
4	Bid Opening, Bid evaluation & Price bid Opening Date & Time	10.11.2023(Friday) upto 03:30PM
5	Bid Fee (in Rs.)	Rs. 1,475/- (One Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-five) only (Non-refundable)
6	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)	Rs.12,000/- (Twelve Thousand) only (Refundable)
7	Availability of tender document.	Tender document can be purchased from JREDA Office in all working days up to 10.11.2023 till 12.00 PM.
8	Method to apply	Interested bidders will have to apply tender document in sealed envelope which will contain two separate sealed envelope:- 1. First Envelope: Techno-Commercial Part. 2. Second Envelope: Price Part
9	Name and address of office inviting tender.	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency(JREDA) 3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002 (Jharkhand)
10	Helpline no. of e-procurement.	0651-2491163/67/61/7004806449

Sd/-
Project Director, JREDA, Ranchi
PR.NO.310957 Energy(23-24):D

Dr. Y.S.R. HORTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
Admn. Office: Venkataramannagudem, Tadepalligudem-534 101, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh.

Notification for Admission into M.Sc.(Hort.) and Ph.D.(Hort.) Programmes - 2023-24
Advt. No. 1(PGS)/Acad./2023, Dated: 09-11-2023

Applications are invited for admission into disciplines of M.Sc.(Horticulture) from candidates of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (as per applicability) and Other States (outside state quota) and Ph.D.(Horticulture) programme for the candidates of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (as per applicability) who qualified and secured rank in subject group of ICAR-AIEEA (PG)-2023 & ICAR-AICE-JRF/SRF (Ph.D.)-2023. For application forms and other details, please visit website: <https://drysrhu.ap.gov.in>

DIPR 2465PP/CL, Dt: 08-11-2023 Sd/- REGISTRAR

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 9820350726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878

Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU businessline.
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR You@world THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

Corrigendum Notice
OFFICE OF THE DG & IG OF POLICE, DHURWA, RANCHI-834004

With reference to advertisement under PR No. 309521/(Police) 2023-2024 regarding For Supply, Installation and Maintenance of hardware/Software equipment's under "Cybercrime Coordination Centre" for 3 years to Jharkhand Police for helping against Cyber Crime Tender No-14/2023-24 by Police Headquarters, following modification have been made:-

- The changes made in the bid is attached as ANNEXURE-A (jhpolic.gov.in). Bidders are requested to go through the changes carefully before submitting their bid. No further requests shall be entertained.

1	Last date and time for purchase of Tender documents	16/11/2023 Till 4.00 pm .
2	Last Date & Time for submission of Bids	22/11/2023 Till 4.00 pm
3	Date & Time of opening of bids	23/11/2023 @ 4:00 pm

2. Other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
I.G. of Police (Provision), Jharkhand Ranchi.
PR 310953 Police(23-24)D

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTING ENGINEER, PWD
GUWAHATI BUILDING CIRCLE-II, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3

PRESS NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, P.W.D, Guwahati Building Circle-II, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids for the Following works having experience of similar nature of work from APWD registered contractors. Details of the bids may be seen at e-procurement portal website: www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in for participating in the bidding process.

Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs.)	Category of APWD (B) registered contractor
Construction of Marketing Complex Building of NERAMAC at Six-Mile, Guwahati, Assam	1,25,24,272/-	Class-I (A/B/C)

- Note:-
- Any modification of tender may be in the portal www.assamtenders.gov.in
 - The prospective bidder must visit the work site before submission of tender. The bidders have to submit evidence of site visit in the form of a certificate duly signed certified by the concerned Engineer-in-charge of NERAMAC with geo-tagged photographs.

Superintending Engineer, P.W.D
Guwahati Building Circle-II
Janasanyog /C/11893/ 23/9-Nov-23

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
10th LEVEL C-WING, DELHI SECRETARIAT
I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI - 110002
Website: www.udd.delhi.gov.in
Contact No. 011-23392213

Sub: Appointment to the posts of Member (Water Supply) and Member (Drainage) in Delhi Jal Board purely on nomination basis.

The Delhi Jal Board (hereafter referred as 'Board') came into existence, under the aegis of Urban Development Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, through a statutory legislation on 02.04.1998. The Board is responsible for treatment and distribution of water supply, regulation and management of exploitation of groundwater in consultation with CGWA, collection, treatment and disposal of sewage etc. within the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

2. The Government proposes to fill up the post of Member (Water Supply) and Member (Drainage) in Board on nomination basis.

3. Applications are invited to fill-up the post of Member (Water Supply) and Member (Drainage) in Level-14 of Pay Matrix of Rs.1,44,200- 2,18,200 under 7th Central Pay Commission (Rs. 37,400-67,000 with a grade pay of Rs.10,000/- (Pre-revised) by nomination initially for a period of one year from the eligible officers of Central Government / State Government / Union Territory / Public Sector Undertakings/ Autonomous Organizations.

4. As per Section 3(2)(VII) and (VIII) of the Delhi Water Board Act, 1998, the eligibility conditions for the Posts are as under:-

- "A Member (Water Supply) to be nominated by Government who shall be an engineer, drawing pay not less than that of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India, having specialized knowledge and experience in the matters relating to water supply".
- "A Member (Drainage) to be nominated by the Government who shall be an Engineer, drawing pay scale not less than that of a Joint Secretary to the, Government of India, having specialized knowledge and experience in the matters related to drainage".

5. Serving officers who possess the eligibility conditions prescribed above may apply through proper channel upto 20/11/2023 on offline mode to the Deputy Secretary (Water), Urban Development Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 10th Level, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi - 110002 in the prescribed proforma. The applications may be submitted with vigilance clearance, NOC, integrity certificate and attested copies of ACRS for the last five years. Separate applications should be submitted by the candidates for the post of Member (Water Supply) and Member (Drainage).

6. The application format and other information are available on the website: www.udd.delhi.gov.in. Application received after the last date will not be entertained.

(Amitabh Kundoo)
Deputy Secretary (Water)
DIP/Shabdardh/Classified/0218/23-24

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LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, CHENNAI -3
F.A No. 664 of 2023
M/s. Krishna Power Products, Rep by its owner P.Ganesh ... Appellant
-Vs-
1. Mr. D.Abrahamraj,
S/o. Daniel Nadar,
And 2 others ... Respondent
To: M/s. The Tudor India Pvt Ltd., Corporate Registered Office, Suman Towers, 1st Floor, Sector-II, Gandhi nagar, Gujarat 382 011.
Sir/Madam,
Take notice that the Hon'ble State Consumer Redressal Commission, Chennai by order dated 02.11.2023 was pleased to take paper publication to you in F.A. No. 664 of 2023, returnable by 01.12.2023. Please take notice that the above matter will be taken up for hearing on 01.12.2023 and you are hereby required to be present on the said date at 10.30 a.m. before the Hon'ble State Consumer Redressal Commission, Chennai either in person or through a counsel, failing which the matter will be decided in your absence.
R.BHAGAWAT KRISHNA Counsel for Appellant



Reviewing freedom

Steps to end malicious reviews should not lead to curbs on film criticism

An ongoing case before the Kerala High Court on restricting negative reviews of films in the first few days of their release constitutes an interesting as well as challenging free speech issue. The court has taken on the task of distinguishing genuine film criticism from attempts to destroy a movie's prospects of success through malicious comments, or by threatening to post negative reviews with a view to extorting money. It appears that the court is aware of the implications of any move to restrict or curb disparaging reviews for free speech and freedom of expression, but it remains to be seen how it will be able to balance the commercial interests of film-makers and the freedom of reviewers. Film director Mubeen Rauf had approached the court for a direction to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry and the State Information Technology Department, among others, to ensure that social media influencers and film reviewing bloggers do not publish any reviews of his film *Aromalinte Adyathe Pranayam* in social media for at least seven days from the date of its release. Remarks and observations made so far in interlocutory orders suggest that the court's focus is mainly on those who either post anonymously or vloggers with unknown credentials who trash films within hours of their release with apparently malicious intent, and do not threaten the freedom of film reviewers with acknowledged expertise and experience.

In an order on October 25, Justice Devan Ramachandran directed that "a close watch on the online platforms shall be maintained, to ensure that anonymous *mala fide* content is not allowed to circulate; and necessary action under the provisions of the "IT Act" [Information Technology Act] shall be taken and implemented scrupulously without delay". Interestingly, the order also notes that apparently due to the very pendency of these proceedings, the film made by the petitioner had a good run at the box office as it was spared "review bombing", the term that has gained currency for the phenomenon of deliberate spoiling of a film's prospects. The Union government is expected to file its response soon, but a word of caution will be in order. The court's observation in its latest order that the freedom of those involved in making a film should not be sacrificed at the altar of the "unbridled freedom of expression" of those acting under the impression that they are not governed by any parameters or regulations should not lead to a verdict either curbing the freedom to critically analyse a film or an attempt to restrict the art of criticism. After all, making and reviewing a film are both two aspects of the same right to free speech.

Poll timing

The extension of free rice should not have been announced at election rally

The Union government's move to extend the free foodgrains scheme for the next five years is welcome as it will continue to provide food security to large sections of vulnerable people. Based on National Food Security Act (NFSA) entitlements, the scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), benefits about 80.4 crore people, under the categories of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (poorest of the poor) and priority households. They will continue to receive five kg of rice or wheat or coarse grains a person every month. The provision of free foodgrains was introduced at the all-India level during the COVID-19 pandemic, though in vogue in States such as Tamil Nadu. At the time, the entitlements of NFSA beneficiaries were doubled and the nomenclature of PMGKAY was affixed. Between April 2020 and December 2022, 1,015 lakh tonnes were distributed at a subsidy of ₹3.45 lakh crore. At the end of 2022, the Centre announced free grains under the normal entitlements to States and Union Territories for a year while discontinuing the enhanced entitlement.

On the flip side, the way in which the latest move is sought to be implemented raises questions. At an election rally last week in Durg, Chhattisgarh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the announcement, which should be viewed as a violation of the model code of conduct as Mr. Modi used his official position to talk about the extension of the scheme (due to lapse at the end of next month). There was no urgency on his part to have made the announcement then, and in an election rally, especially when there was sufficient time to do so even after the declaration of results, scheduled for December 3. The purpose seems to have been to impress voters, and reap political dividends. There is a view linking the PMGKAY's previous avatar to the Bharatiya Janata Party's victory in the 2022 Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh. Even the Congress, which criticised the announcement as an "indication of the continuing economic distress and growing inequalities," did not find anything amiss. The scheme is meant for the entire country and not just the five States facing elections — they account for roughly 17% of the total beneficiaries. On the fiscal front, the extension may not cause serious problems as the food subsidy bill is about 7.5% of the revenue receipts of the Union government. On an average, the economic cost of rice and wheat grew by 5.7% annually over the last seven years. Also, the extension will cost about ₹15,000 crore more each year, which is manageable. However, governments, Centre and States, should ensure the elimination of leakages in the Public Distribution System so that the benefits of the extension go to the deserving.

An under-discussed facet of colonial history

This year marks the bicentenary of the arrival of Tamil indentured labourers in Sri Lanka (in November 1823), a milestone recently commemorated in Colombo at an event called "Naam 200", where I delivered an address on this woefully under-discussed facet of our colonial history. I have often said that history belongs in the past, but understanding it is the duty of the present. There are still millions of Indians and Sri Lankans alive who remember — and lament — the depredations of the British Empire in our countries. The United Kingdom may have lapsed into imperial amnesia, but the former colonies cannot: so we ought to remember, time and again, the forces that made and nearly unmade us.

The British imperial project began as licensed looting in service of the crudest form of capitalism. Britain avariciously drained its colonies, depriving them of their resources, economic strength and political freedom, until they were reduced to a state of poverty and desolation. In India they decimated our textile industries, rendering millions unemployed, and hurled thousands of Indian farmers into indigence by purloining their lands for opium cultivation. Their policies created legions of poor, landless and hungry people in need of work to survive.

A new form of bondage

Ironically, as the British went about pillaging India, a wave of liberal humanism wafted through Europe. Slavery, at long last, came to be considered reprehensible, and the British duly banned it in their colonies, only to replace it with another kind of bonded servitude, euphemistically christened "indentured labour". The economies of most British domains had thus far run on slavery; and the labour crisis that followed Abolition led to a soaring demand for workers from India to work on plantations and infrastructure projects in the Caribbean, Fiji, Réunion, Natal, Malaysia, Singapore and, of course, Sri Lanka. Press-ganged indentured labour was the answer.

The destitute Indians dispatched to these distant lands could scarcely imagine the fates awaiting them, misled as they were about the work they would undertake, the wages they would receive, the quarters where they would dwell, and — shockingly — even the countries they were sailing to. Having survived a perilous sea voyage, most labourers reached their destination mired in debt, for they had to pay for their own exorbitant fare — under a fiendish rule not changed till 1922.

As soon as they reached those unfamiliar lands, they were confined to massive plantations and construction sites. Many Tamils arriving in Sri Lanka perished on the arduous trek from the



Shashi Tharoor

the third term Lok Sabha Member of Parliament (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram, is the award-winning author of 25 books, including 'An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India', and most recently, 'The Less You Preach, The More You Learn: Aphorisms for Our Age'

The bicentenary of the arrival of Tamil indentured labourers in Sri Lanka also points to the unfulfilled task of nation-building in the island-nation

coast to the Central highlands. Those who made it were compelled to reside in agonising squalor, with no access to sanitation, running water, medical facilities or schools for their children. It was not without reason that the British historian Hugh Tinker called indentured labour "a new kind of slavery."

Sri Lankan tea and the Indian Tamil

Sri Lanka today is a redoubtable producer and exporter of tea, but its first plantations were not of tea but of coffee. In the 1870s, the rapid spread of a fungal disease led to a blight that caused the disappearance of coffee from Sri Lankan plantations, paving the way for the more fecund and profitable crop, whose estates increased manifold. While coffee requires only three workers for every 10 hectares of cultivation, tea requires at least eight, and as such, demands far more intensive, and perennial field labour. This augmented requirement of workers, compounded with the shortfall caused by the abolition of slavery, sparked a massive organised transfer of Indian Tamils to Sri Lanka.

Of course, the migration of the first Tamils to the island nation far preceded the arrival of the Plantation Tamils in Ceylon in the 19th century. However, what distinguished the Plantation Tamils from Tamil migrants of antiquity was the fact that the British denied them even the most basic rights and services. They were subjected to discrimination soon after setting foot in Sri Lanka. Like earlier communities of South Indian origin, Plantation Tamils forged a distinct Sri Lankan identity, but colonial practices and policies deemed them "foreigners", thus rendering them stateless and blocking well-trodden paths to assimilation. By placing Plantation Tamils under the categories of "aliens and resident strangers" and subsequently calling them "Indian Tamils", the colonial state made it arduous for them to assimilate into Sri Lankan society. Independence was no better: the Citizenship Act of 1948 rendered them stateless. Few were paid a fair wage or ever knew the privacy of their own room. Women tea-pluckers toiled all day in the plantations without any toilet facilities. Displacement and disenfranchisement were their lot.

Exacerbating their travails, moreover, was the deleterious system of sub-contractors called *kanganies*, labour recruiters and overseers who played a dominant role in the recruitment, management — and exploitation — of Indian labourers on plantations. Once recruited, the worker unwittingly forfeited his autonomy to the *kangani*, who accompanied him on the voyage to the plantations, and acted as the intermediary between him and estate managers once he began working on the estates.

Unlike indentured workers who were technically entitled to demand passage home

after the end of the indenture period, the Plantation Tamils had no deliverance from the horrors of the *kangani* system — even after their service period elapsed. Their contracts with the *kanganies* were vague, allowing for their greater abuse at the hands of the recruiter, who — being someone they knew — would often persuade them to borrow money, plunging them in debt they could never afford to pay off. Nor could the Plantation Tamils buy land and build houses, for colonial laws restricted landholding to those "domiciled" in Ceylon, which the British planters and officers construed as excluding them.

An identity and a journey of integration

The Plantation Tamils found the local conditions in Sri Lanka conducive to the creation of an identity anchored in Tamil linguistic and literary traditions, and Tamil values and ideals. They identified themselves more with who they were linguistically and regionally than with a pan-Indian nationality or religion. Over a span of several generations, though, they strove towards greater integration with the mainstream of Sri Lankan society, encountering several man-made obstacles such as the Citizenship Act of 1948, which rendered them stateless in the process.

With commendable fortitude, the Plantation Tamils grappled with the challenges besetting them, carving a place for themselves in Sri Lankan society. Thanks to the efforts of democratic parties such as the Ceylon Workers' Congress, they are now all citizens with the democratic right to vote, and the government speaks of dividing the plantations so as to make workers the owners of the land they work on — a project still in the planning stage but with immense potential. In reaffirming their identity as the descendants of those who were dispatched to Sri Lanka from India, they have reclaimed their heritage as the Plantation Tamils who are also equal and prominent citizens of Sri Lanka. Theirs has been a valorous, subaltern struggle for equality and self-determination, and merely thinking of it fills me with admiration.

It is important that post-colonial countries take effective steps to de-colonise themselves from the practices, laws and attitudes of our imperial masters. Too often, post-colonial nations adopt the same tools introduced by the colonisers to continue the practices of systematic oppression. Sometimes there is little difference between the two systems, only the skin colour and names of the rulers change. As Sri Lanka looks forward to economic and social revival and the integration of all its communities, decolonisation must be at the heart of it. Forging a post-colonial, inclusive identity for all its people remains the unfulfilled task of nation-building in Sri Lanka.

The writer acknowledges the assistance of Bawa Sajyan Bajaj in the preparation of this article

Taiwan, a Malacca blockade and India's options

With China frequently intimidating Taiwan over the past year through deployment of its air force and navy in the surrounding areas, there is the oft-posed question whether India would take action in the Strait of Malacca or the Andaman Sea in the event of a conflict between the United States and China over Taiwan. Any speculative action in the Strait of Malacca or the Andaman Sea would involve either a naval blockade against commercial shipping or China's key trade and energy sea lines of communication or military action against Chinese naval vessels. The fact is that commercial shipping as well as naval vessels of any country have a right to freedom of navigation on the high seas. A naval blockade against commercial shipping is not feasible.

India's options, the constraints

There are multiple constraints in regard to India's options in the Strait of Malacca. First, "distant blockades" away from a belligerent nation's geography can be challenged under international law. Second, the trade that passes through the Strait of Malacca is not just China's economic and energy lifeline. An overwhelming volume of the trade of Japan, South Korea and even India itself passes through the same Strait. Third, the channel of the Strait of Malacca is long, nearly 500 miles, and involves the sovereignty of other states such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore who would all be affected adversely by a naval blockade. The affected countries are unlikely to support a naval blockade. Fourth, commercial shipping is extremely complex to identify in terms of the sovereignty of the vessel, flag, registration, insurance and ownership of cargo. And these are often multinational in nature and can also be changed as convenient through transshipment at any port in Southeast Asia. Fifth, apart from the fact that it is difficult to interdict China's trade and energy supplies, the



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There are limitations to what India can do in the event of a U.S.-China conflict over Taiwan

additional reality is that even if the Strait of Malacca were "choked", shipping can take a detour either through the Sunda or the Lombok Straits to reach China. In any case, very large crude carriers carrying crude or natural gas to China do not use the Strait of Malacca which is shallower. They use the Sunda Strait. Sixth, China also has a huge onshore and floating Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) which can help it tide over disruptions, especially with growing overland energy supplies from Russia and Central Asia.

A naval blockade or unilateral action against an adversary's naval vessels would tantamount to a declaration of war; at the very minimum, it could lead to a conflict, not necessarily limited to the maritime sphere. Regional countries which are adversely affected by disruption in the Strait of Malacca, including friendly countries, are unlikely to endorse any unilateral action. China would use its permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council and regional influence to good effect to thwart any such effort.

Lessons from the past

It is also relevant to note that in both the First and the Second World wars, a naval blockade and sanctions led to conflagrations. During the First World War, the British blockade of Germany which lasted from 1914-19 saw Germany retaliating against British shipping on the high seas with its submarines (U-boats) with deadly effect. Subsequent developments, including the Battle of Jutland in 1916 and the sinking of U.S. merchant vessels by German U-boats eventually drew the U.S. into the First World War. During the Second World War, the U.S. had embargoed Japan's energy supplies which ran through the maritime commons, which probably played a key role in Japan's decision to launch the attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941.

The ongoing tensions between Iran and the

U.S. in the Strait of Hormuz are emblematic of the proposition that interdiction of even commercial shipping can easily lead to a military flare-up. Whenever Iran has attempted to disrupt the passage of internationally flagged oil tankers, it has immediately escalated the situation with the U.S. responding by sending its naval and air assets in the region to confront the Iranian vessels.

Conflict scenarios

The larger question in the context of the Strait of Malacca that remains to be answered is whether any of India's strategic partners, especially the U.S., would support any interdiction of Chinese vessels in a bilateral conflict between India and China, unless the U.S. itself were involved in a kinetic conflict with China. Even in such a scenario, there is perhaps no guarantee of support by other stakeholders in the region, especially the South-East Asian nations.

To the extent that a full-blown U.S.-China conflict over Taiwan sends ripples across the Indian Ocean, India's primary role may be limited to a proactive defence of its territorial interests and the security of its sea lines of communication and those of its strategic partners in the eastern and western India Ocean.

In any such eventuality, India's primary focus would remain on its continental borders with China.

India has traditionally faced China's military threats on its borders essentially on its own. The new U.S.-India partnership in the economic, high-tech and military areas is expected to strengthen in the years ahead. The U.S. increasingly regards India as regional ballast for stability in the region. A robust India with a strong economy, nuclear deterrence capability and a credible military can contribute to multi-polarity in the Indo-Pacific.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spare the court

Why must the Supreme Court be dragged into matters such as pollution (stubble burning) and the bursting of crackers? In both cases, the cause and the effect are palpable and visible to citizens. Yet, we seem to be lacking in 'C sense' (common sense/citizen sense). By no stretch of logic are these issues "disputes" that need

intervention by any court of law.

Avinash Godbole,
Dewas, Madhya Pradesh

IITs, pressure points

It is a matter of concern that the crown jewels of India's higher education system could be staring at a crisis. An overexpansion is destroying the quality of a prestigious name. The Editorial page article

(November 4) itself says the new IITs have struggled to meet the high standards of the legacy institutes. A surprising thing is that all the IITs have their own rules; there are no common rules because they change according to the interests of the director. Students pursuing a PhD face issues in terms of submission on time. There needs to be a good look at why 1,852 PhD

seats are still empty.
Sreeleka S.,
Cherthala, Alappuzha, Kerala

The concerns raised *vis-à-vis* the expansion of IITs overseas cannot be viewed as mere apprehensions. It must be ensured that all the IITs have the same levels of excellence.
Jiji Panicker K.,
Anjilimoodu, Chengannur, Kerala

Australia's win

Glenn Maxwell showed immense character to win the game for Australia ('Sport' page, November 8). It was an innings that could have been cut short because of cramps, but the tenacity he showed to hang in there and take the team home would rank it as one of the best. Players like Maxwell are the reason why we can say that

the game of cricket is in safe hands. Afghanistan can still hold their heads high.
Subash Balakrishnan,
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada



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Move towards e-FIR, but with caution

The Law Commission of India, in Report No. 282, recommended that "in cases where the accused is not known, registration of an e-FIR should be allowed for all cognisable offences". If the accused is known, as a preliminary step, registration of an e-FIR may be allowed for cognisable offences wherein the punishment provided under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and other laws is up to three years.

The verification of the complainant, the Commission said, could be done by verifying the mobile number through an OTP and mandating the uploading of valid ID proof such as Aadhaar. It also said that the name of the suspect on the centralised national portal is to be secured until the e-FIR is signed by the complainant. Further, in case the registered information is not signed by the informant deliberately within the prescribed time, the information shall be deleted within two weeks.

An e-FIR
The Commission has not demystified the concept of an 'e-FIR'. The procedure laid down in the Report says that the police station will check the contents of information received from the portal to verify whether a cognisable offence is made out as recommended. Only then will the received information be entered in the prescribed format within three days. In other cases (punishable with more than three years of imprisonment), the conventional method prescribed under the IPC needs to be followed. In the next step, the police officer is required to get the signature of the complainant within three days to register an e-FIR. Otherwise, the e-FIR shall not be registered, reasons shall be communicated, and the said information shall be automatically deleted after two weeks from the portal. The procedure is given only for cases where the accused is known.

Though the Commission mentioned that eight States are



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lodging an e-FIR, it did not discuss any of the models adopted by those States, particularly the method of obtaining signatures.

It is thus clear that the concept of 'e-FIR' is nothing but obtaining information/complaint through electronic means using a common national portal and then getting the information/complaint signed by the complainant physically within three days to convert the complaint into an actual FIR. It is obvious that the 'e-FIR' is not an automatically registered FIR using electronic means, including electronic signature of the complainant. The online facility will have only limited efficacy. Also, any investigation done prior to the actual registration of the FIR shall not be an investigation undertaken in the true spirit of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Still, there are at least two benefits of obtaining complaints electronically. First, the police will have to take cognisance of the complaint as the system will automatically generate receipt. This will ensure almost free registration of crime. Second, they will not be able to change the contents of the complaint.

Human intervention is crucial
While most of the eight States are registering FIRs using the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems or State portals, mostly in property offences where the accused is unknown, the Law Commission has recommended e-FIR for all cognisable offences where the accused is not known, without discussing other related aspects. For example, the accused may initially be unknown in a case of kidnapping where not only immediate medical examination of the victim may be important, but also timely visit to the scene of crime. In fact, interaction with a police officer is valuable in solving blind crimes. An experienced police officer may extract a lot of information from the complainant or victim, which may help in finding the culprit.

Though the option to approach a police station for reporting any

cognisable offence shall always be open, the legally permissible period of three days may give a false impression to a common man that it will not affect his case in that period. The complainant may not understand the nuances of a crime. Therefore, only cases where human interaction can be postponed for a limited period without having an adverse impact on the case may be permitted to be registered electronically.

E-authentication technique
The Commission has also not discussed using the 'e-authentication technique or digital signature' as defined in the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, for signing complaints. Under the Act, any information 'rendered or made available in an electronic form; and accessible so as to be usable for a subsequent reference' is legally acceptable. Similarly, any electronic record can be authenticated by 'such electronic signature or electronic authentication technique which is considered reliable...'. Thus, one can imply that in case a paper-based signed complaint is to be replaced by an equivalent document in electronic form, one must affix electronic signature or use e-authentication technique notified by the government in the Second Schedule to the IT Act.

In 2015, 'e-authentication technique using Aadhaar e-KYC services' was notified in the Second Schedule as a legally recognised technique. This is widely used by the income tax department to facilitate filing of returns electronically. The law also recognises 'digital signature' which uses an asymmetric cryptosystem and hash function. Without affixing digital signature or using e-authentication technique, an electronic record transmitted to the police would legally be considered not more than an unsigned complaint. Therefore, it would be better if the use of e-authentication technique is mandated for the verification of complainant, and an e-FIR is registered immediately.

It would be better if the use of e-authentication technique is mandated for the verification of complainant, and an e-FIR is registered immediately

Evasion, silence, defence

The Trinamool's response to leaders accused of corruption has been confused

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh
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Despite a string of electoral successes in West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress has been haunted by allegations of corruption. From the Saradha chit fund scam, which came to the fore in 2013, to the Narada sting videos in 2016, several party leaders have been arrested by central agencies. Since 2021 alone, when the school recruitment scam became known, four MLAs of the party and several district leaders have been arrested. The party's response has varied from one case to another.

On July 23, 2022, moments before his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Partha Chatterjee, who was then secretary general of the Trinamool and a cabinet minister in the State government, called Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The call, made at a time when the ED was recovering cash and gold from the premises of Mr. Chatterjee's associate, went unanswered. Five days after Mr. Chatterjee was arrested in the teacher recruitment scam, the Trinamool stripped him of all posts in the government and the party.

More than a year later, the party leadership is facing a similar situation. The ED had arrested another minister of the State government, Jyotipriya Mallick, in an alleged ration distribution scam. This time, the Trinamool seems confused about whether to defend Mr. Mallick, who is accused of siphoning foodgrains meant for the public distribution system through fake companies and a network of agents, or leave him in the lurch. Mr. Mallick was Minister of Food and Supplies from



West Bengal

2011 to 2021, and was shunted to the Forest Department after the Trinamool came to power in 2021. Responding to allegations against Mr. Mallick, Ms. Banerjee said that he would "defend himself legally" and blamed the previous Left Front government for "one crore fake ration cards in the State." Some Trinamool leaders have said that Mr. Mallick should not have got the Chief Minister as well as party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee embroiled in the issue. While being taken for a medical checkup, Mr. Mallick told the media that senior leaders in the Trinamool "know it all."

Even in the case of party MP Mahua Moitra, who finds herself in an alleged cash-for-query controversy, the Trinamool has remained ambiguous in its response. While Ms. Banerjee and Mr. Banerjee have stayed silent, spokespersons of the party have touched different notes. Some have said that the party has nothing to say on the issue while others have accused members of the Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha of behaving like "Duryodhan".

The party has also jumped to the defence of some senior leaders. For instance, years ago, it supported former Birbhum district president Anubrata Mondal, who was accused of murder. More

recently, it has criticised in one voice central investigation agencies for summoning Mr. Banerjee.

In response to allegations of corruption, the Trinamool leadership has always asked the people to keep faith in the party chairperson, Ms. Banerjee. She has, on more than one occasion, urged the people to forget about candidates fielded in Assembly or Lok Sabha polls and vote for her on all the seats. Indeed, the Trinamool draws its strength from her popularity and charisma. Over the past 12 years, through its welfare schemes, the party has developed a patron-client relationship with the people, and allegations of corruption have had little impact on its electoral prospects.

Much like its stand on scam-tainted leaders, the Trinamool's ideology has also remained vague. On the one hand, it attempts to present itself as a secular party and on the other, the party mixes religion with politics by giving cash incentives to Durga Pujas as well as honorarium to imams and muezzins. It has fielded actors with little or no political experience and has not shied from giving tickets to leaders from the Left and Congress in the belief that the party symbol and its organisational machinery will ensure electoral success.

However, this may not always work. Regarding corruption, while the party's usual response of 'political vendetta' may have some truth in it, this stand has become a cliché and may not appeal to the electorate ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. When allegations of corruption are made against Cabinet Ministers, the State government, the Chief Minister, and the party leadership cannot present a vague response and absolve themselves of all responsibility.

Alarming rise of scientific misconduct recorded in India

Retractions from India have increased 2.5-times between 2020 and 2022 over the number recorded between 2017 and 2019

DATA POINT

Achal Agrawal

On the surface, Indian research has never been better. India recently became the third largest producer of scientific articles in the world (Chart 1(a)), a notable achievement for the world's fifth largest economy. But behind the barrage of research papers lies a telling statistic that should be a considerable cause for concern to Indian academia: the number of retractions (Chart 1(b)). Published papers are retracted when they are found to have mistakes, and retractions remove them from the scientific literature. In many instances, papers are also retracted when they are found to contain data or claims produced as a result of misconduct. Historically, a very small fraction of scientific misconduct has been caught.

As such, retractions are the tip of the misconduct iceberg. The Retraction Watch database lists 109 reasons for which papers have been retracted. For simplicity, the reasons can be grouped into three categories: grave reasons (constituting serious breach of academic and scientific integrity), including criminal proceedings, hoax papers, and plagiarism; misconduct (wherein the author knowingly indulged in misconduct), including civil proceedings, conflict of interest, and manipulation of results using computer-generated content; and errors (errors in the article, which can also indicate hasty publication), including concerns/error in data, images, results, etc., requiring correction.

The data show that the number of retractions in India rose dramatically in 2020-2022, mainly for misconduct. As such, India seems to be following in China's footsteps, but could benefit from following in Japan's instead.

To understand the effects of a higher research output on the

number of retractions, consider the ratio of the former to the latter. As a proxy for quality (Chart 1(c)), it indicates an alarming drop in the country - almost halving.

As for the domains of retractions (Chart 2), engineering accounts for almost 48% of all cases, up from 36% in 2017-2019, while the humanities grew by 567%.

Science itself appears to be relatively untouched by this phenomenon. It is difficult to ascertain the major reasons for the rise given the number of factors at play, although the opinion of the research community itself could give us some insights. For example, Chart 3 shows the results of a small survey conducted by India Research Watchdog with 364 respondents. A little more than half believe that university ranking parameters are behind the rise. Another 35% attributed it to unethical researchers, while 10% pointed to the minimal action taken when an allegation is reported or when an offender is 'caught'. There are other factors as well, including making it compulsory for PhD students to publish papers (a change instituted in 2017), as a result forcing those unable to do so to resort to low-quality publications, and the proliferation of predatory journals.

While more investigation is required, the sudden rise is not, as some have claimed, an artefact of the COVID-19 period for two reasons: such an effect was not observed in any other country and the number of papers published/uploaded during the pandemic was only marginally higher, whereas the number of retractions grew by a factor of 2.5.

The data should be an urgent call to action to scrutinise research malpractice in Indian academia. It affects research and teaching. If we don't take a closer look now, we will waste our great potential on producing bogus research.

Achal Agrawal is founder, India Research Watchdog

Cause for concern

The data for retractions were sourced from the Retraction Watch Database and the publication data were sourced from Scimago

Chart 1 (a): The chart shows the number of publications over time for five countries. India recently became the third largest producer of scientific articles in the world

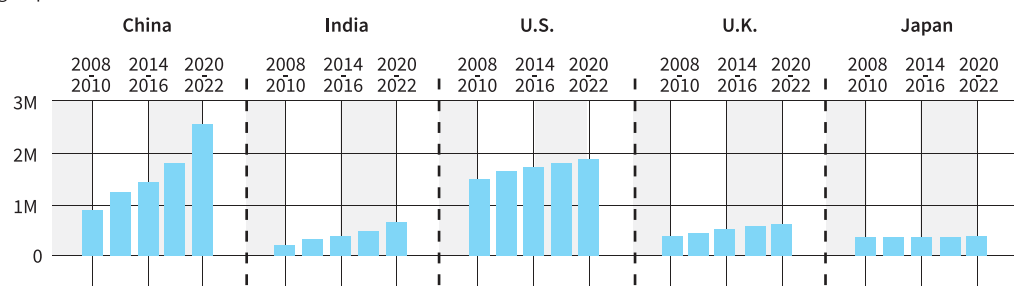


Chart 1 (b): The chart shows the number of retractions over time for the five countries. Graphs are in multiple scales: China (X20), India (X5) and the U.S. (X5)

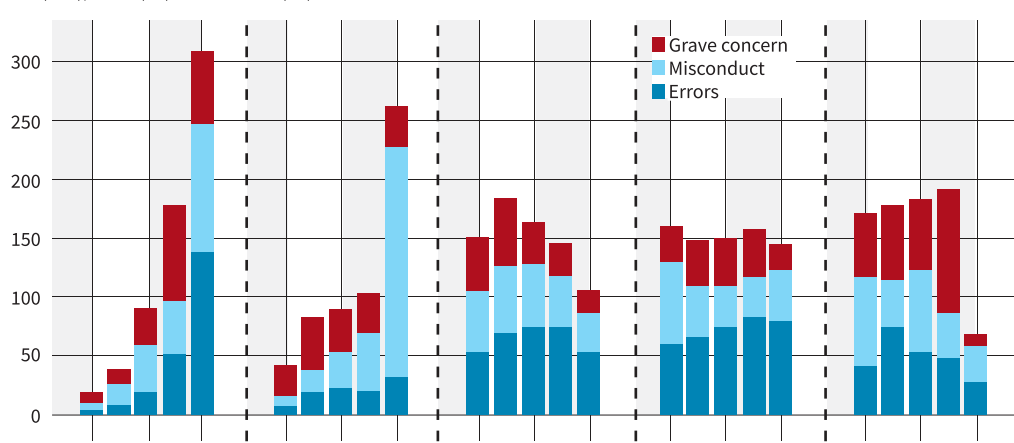
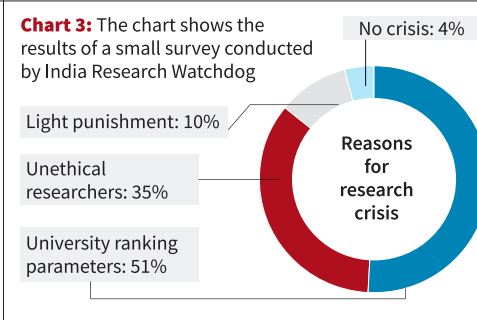
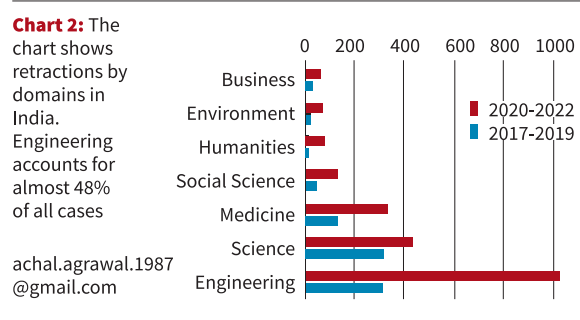
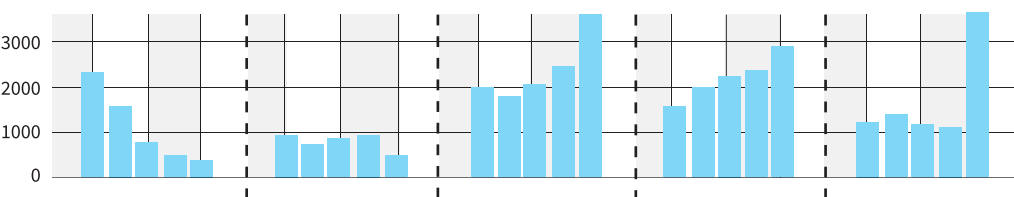


Chart 1 (c): The chart shows the quality of publications as measured by ratio of publications to retractions



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 9, 1973

Oil adulteration: Tamil Nadu govt. raises legal point

New Delhi, Nov. 8: A Division Bench of the Supreme Court, has granted a special leave to the State of Tamil Nadu (petitioner) to appeal against a judgment and orders of Madras High Court holding that a sale of adulterated gingelly oil by a retail trader did not amount to an offence under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act because there was a notice board put up in the shop that the oil was not fit for human consumption. Mr. Justice Khanna, Mr. Justice Mathew and Mr. Justice Aguiriswamy were on the Bench. The State's special leave petition raised an important question under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (Central Act), whether or not the sale of an adulterated food article would amount to an offence under the Act if there was a notice board put up in the shop that the article in question was not fit for human consumption. The respondent-accused was convicted by a Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Thanjavur, on a charge of sale of adulterated gingelly oil to the Food Inspector of Thanjavur Municipality. The trial court sentenced him to a fine of Rs. 200 in default, to imprisonment for one month and also to suffer imprisonment till the raising of the court. The Sessions-Judge, Thanjavur, acquitted the respondent-accused and set aside the conviction and sentence imposed on him by the Trial Court. Thereupon the Madras High Court on appeal from the State confirmed the orders of the Sessions Judge in the view that the accused was entitled to the benefit of doubt "because of the existence of the notice board in the shop stating that the oil was not fit for human consumption and was meant for external use." Hence the present special leave petition by the State in the Supreme Court.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 9, 1923

Silver Market

London, Nov. 7: Montagu's silver report says market has shown a steady tone in consequence of bear covering and some enquiry from China not always at a price high enough to lead to business. Supplies from America have been fairly free but other supplies are rather reluctant in view of the speculative position of affairs consequent upon corner in Bombay at this season of year when preparations for Chinese new year loom on the horizon.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The rise in terror attacks in neighbouring Pakistan

60 In percentage. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that suicide bombings rose by 500% after the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan. He said that 2,267 Pakistani citizens were killed in the past two years. PTI

Cost of terminal in Colombo that the U.S. plans to build

553 in \$ million. The U.S. announced a project to build a deep-water shipping container terminal in Sri Lanka's Colombo as it competes with China in development financing. Adani owns 51% of the consortium building the terminal. AP

People globally diagnosed with TB in 2022: WHO

7.50 in million. This is the highest number of tuberculosis cases recorded in a year since the World Health Organization began global TB monitoring in 1995, according to WHO's 2023 Global Tuberculosis Report. PTI

Tax devolution authorised by the Union government

72,961 in ₹ crore. The Centre has authorised releasing tax devolution to States on November 7 instead of November 10. 41% of taxes is devolved in 14 instalments among States in a year. PTI

Farm fires reported in Punjab, AQI quality suffers

20,978 fires. Punjab reported many stubble-burning incidents, while parts of Haryana saw air quality indices in the 'severe' and 'very poor' categories. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Importance of 'loss and damage' funds

When was the decision to establish a loss and damage fund taken and in which Conference of Parties did member states take concrete steps to bring this fund to fruition? What is the role of the Transitional Committee? Have the meetings by this committee been successful?

EXPLAINER

Indu K. Murthy

The story so far:

As the climate crisis intensifies, two terms are in sharp focus – adaptation and 'loss and damage' (L&D). Adaptation is the proactive response to climate change, the art of survival by which communities and countries make deliberate choices to prepare for and cope with climate-related challenges. In contrast, L&D represents the irreversible consequences of climate change: impacts that can't be avoided or mitigated through adaptation efforts. They encompass the real losses that extend beyond monetary value and cut to the core of human rights and well-being. L&D includes economic losses, human casualties, and the degradation of ecosystems and cultural heritage.

What is the Loss and Damage fund?

The call for affluent nations to acknowledge their accountability for historic pollution is more than 30 years old. Historic pollution has elevated the world's average surface temperature by more than 1 degree Celsius and is currently inflicting damage worldwide, but especially in the poorest nations.

At the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Warsaw, Poland, in 2013, representatives of member countries formally agreed to establish the L&D fund. It was being created to provide financial and technical assistance to economically developing nations that were incurring L&D due to climate change.

At COP 25, the Santiago Network for L&D was set up, but countries didn't commit any funds. Subsequently, at COP 26, the Glasgow Dialogue on finance for L&D was established to continue discussions over the next three years on the fund. Finally, at COP 27 in November 2022, after intense negotiations, representatives of the UNFCCC's member states agreed to set up the L&D fund and a Transitional Committee (TC) to figure out how the new funding mechanisms under the fund would operate. The TC was also to prepare recommendations that countries would consider, deliberate on, and potentially adopt by COP 28.

But so far, four meetings of the TC have concluded with no clear recommendations. And herein lies an important problem.

What has caused the impasse at the TC meetings?

The fourth meeting of the TC, or TC4, concluded on October 20, 2023, with no clear consensus on operationalising the L&D fund. The principal bones of contention had to do with hosting the fund at the World Bank, the foundational principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), climate reparations, and the eligibility of all developing nations for the funds. The differences on these counts deepened the rift between developed and developing nations at the TC4 meeting.

An impromptu fifth meeting of the TC, that is TC5, in Abu Dhabi concluded a few days back, and a set of recommendations have been drafted and forwarded to COP 28. TC5 was not on the original agenda – a sign of how contested the L&D fund continues to be.

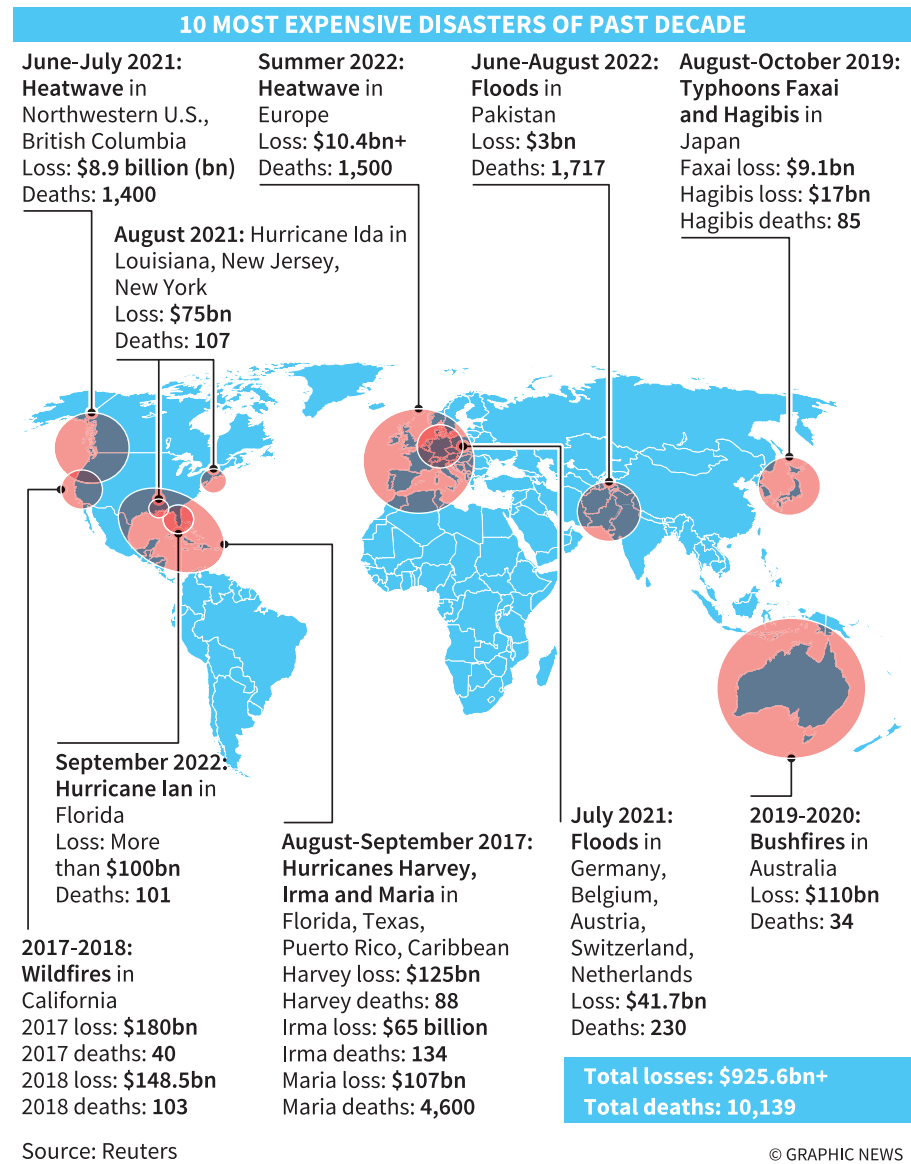
At the TC5 meeting, developing nations conceded to the fund being hosted by the World Bank Financial Intermediary Fund for an interim period of four years,



Rising costs: The aftermath of a flood in Singtam, Sikkim on October 4. ANI

The price of climate change

The unwillingness of wealthy nations to fulfil fund commitments undermines faith in global climate negotiations



serviced by a new dedicated and independent secretariat. While the World Bank is yet to confirm that it is willing, it is important to note that it charges an exorbitant overhead fee. Moreover, the developed nations, particularly the U.S., have remained non-committal about being primary donors to the fund and have rejected references to the CBDR, equity, and liability in the draft. The result is that their support is voluntary. This has watered down the spirit and intent of the L&D fund.

Further, there is currently no indication of the size of the fund because such a statement was quashed under pressure from the U.K. and Australia. The current draft simply urges and invites

developed nations to provide money.

What are the implications of this outcome?

The TC5 outcome highlights a profound lack of trust between affluent and emerging economies regarding their historical responsibilities, creating a substantial divide between wealthy and impoverished nations, particularly concerning climate reparations.

The unwillingness of wealthy nations to fulfil intended commitments undermines faith in global climate negotiations and hampers the cooperative spirit necessary to address climate change. It represents a missed chance to take concrete steps to combat the

Climate-change-induced instability can have security implications as well, as conflicts and tensions emerge in vulnerable nations and threaten to spill across borders

escalating consequences of climate change on vulnerable communities and signifies a breakdown in diplomatic efforts, leading to doubts about nations' ability to collaborate effectively.

The discontent among developing nations stems from the perception that their concerns and needs are not adequately addressed by the international community, making the path to climate action – and indeed other global issues – even more complicated.

Beyond the immediate diplomatic and trust-related repercussions, the watering down of the L&D fund has wide-reaching implications. It threatens climate justice and exacerbates the suffering of vulnerable communities in developing nations. These communities have contributed minimally to global emissions but today bear the brunt of climate change. The watering down can also increase the number of humanitarian crises, including via food shortage, people displacement, and conflict, and force communities to cope independently with a worsening climate and its consequences.

The absence of support has economic consequences for both developing and developed nations; financial crises and economic downturns in one region can have extensive repercussions due to the interconnectedness of the global economy. Without adequate L&D funds, there will also be limited capacity to address environmental degradation and the loss of vital ecosystems, which will further worsen environmental crises, causing irreversible harm to the earth.

Finally, climate-change-induced instability can have security implications as well, as conflicts and tensions emerge in vulnerable nations and threaten to spill across borders.

How will L&D funds ensure climate justice?

As we strive to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change, we must remember that adaptation and L&D are not mutually exclusive concepts.

They exist on a continuum of climate resilience, and both have a place in our collective efforts to combat climate change.

A successful response to climate change requires us to balance the proactive measures of adaptation with the moral and financial responsibility of addressing the losses and damages that are – regrettably – an inescapable part of a climate-altered world.

The L&D fund was conceived as a critical component of global climate action, recognising that some of the consequences of climate change are irreversible and beyond the capacity of vulnerable nations to handle. So to achieve climate justice, rich countries must meet their obligations to reduce emissions and deliver finance in line with what is fair, and thus uphold the principles of equity, justice, and solidarity in the face of a changing climate.

Otherwise, global climate action will get derailed, putting more pressure on the already beleaguered COP 28 talks later this month.

Indu K. Murthy is a Principal Research Scientist heading the Climate, Environment and Sustainability Sector at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), a research-based think tank.

THE GIST

Loss and Damage represents the irreversible consequences of climate change: impacts that can't be avoided or mitigated through adaptation efforts.

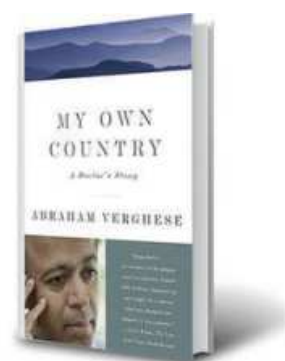
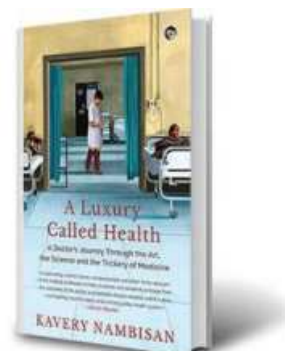
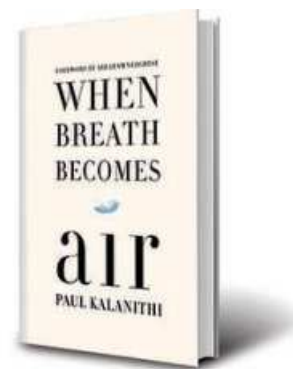
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The L&D fund was conceived as a critical component of global climate action, recognising that some of the consequences of climate change are irreversible and beyond the capacity of vulnerable nations to handle.

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Saving lives: Doctors were at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19. FILE PHOTO



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

“Sir, Mr V.S. Paul Devasahayam, West Ponnagaram, Madurai, wants to know which of the following is correct: (a) such a one (b) such an one.”

“It is such a one. Even though the word ‘one’ begins with a vowel letter, the word is pronounced like the word ‘won’. So the first sound is ‘w’. It is the same with words like ‘once’ and ‘oneness’. However, ‘only’ rhymes with ‘lonely’. That is, the first sound is a vowel. So we say ‘such a one’, but ‘an only child’.”

“Sir, Mr. V. Guru Dutt, First Stage, Kuvempunagar, Mysore, wants to know the meaning of ‘curate’s egg’”

“A curate’s egg’ is something partly good and partly bad. A curate is an assistant to a parish priest. The term ‘curate’s egg’ dates from a cartoon published in Punch in 1895. A bishop served a curate 6 bad eggs and asked him whether he liked it. As the bishop was his boss, the curate was afraid of saying that it was a bad egg. He said diplomatically that parts of it were excellent. ‘Good in parts, like the curate’s egg’ is proverbial and is used of anything that is a mixture of good and bad features.

All the same, it is a curate’s egg of a book. While the whole may be somewhat stale and addled, it would be unfair not to acknowledge the merits of some of its parts.”

“Sir. Ms. J. S. Kaur, Karolbagh, New Delhi, wants to know the meaning of ‘bottom line’.”

“‘Bottom line’ means ‘the end result, final outcome, the net profit or loss of any transaction’. This expression relates to the bottom line at which profit or loss is shown in account books. It is used figuratively to mean ‘the essential factor in a situation, the point or crux of the argument’.”

“Sir, Ms. V. Laxmi Sharma, Ongole, wants to know the meaning of ‘incult’.”

“‘Incult’ means ‘rude’, ‘lacking in refinement’, ‘unpolished’. This is a formal word used with persons and manners.

He is incult, but clever. He is and has always been incult. All the polish he has is on his shoes!

This word is rarely used.”

“Sir, Miss K. K. Usha, Madras-24, wants to know whether ‘she is indifferent’ means ‘she is different from others’.”

“No. It doesn’t mean that. Indifferent means ‘having no partiality for or against, having no interest in or sympathy for’.

She was indifferent to his success. This hurt him deeply.

He is indifferent to public criticism of his performance.

‘Indifferent’ also means ‘neither good or bad, not especially good’.

We have all kinds of people, good, bad and indifferent.

He is an indifferent teacher.

‘Very indifferent’ means definitely bad.

Her singing was very indifferent.”

Published in The Hindu on December 12, 1989.

Life and death and how doctors deal with real intimations of mortality everyday

Medical autobiographies provide a glimpse of how the fraternity handles death which hangs overhead like a Damocles sword. Health memoirs also help in establishing a close working relationship between doctors and patients and their families

Ramya Kannan

From the classics till modern works of fiction and non-fiction, the central exploration of literature has been around questions of life and/or mortality. Human perception of life has struggled with accommodating death, and intimations of mortality have fuelled great works, right from the Greek classics. The meaning of life and death has often been what has spurred authors to dip deep and reach high. Great works have laced philosophy with a language skill that surpasses most others’, rendering them unforgettable. For doctors, death need not be philosophical or phantasmic, for them, intimations of mortality are real, and the cessation of life, palpable. In their professional life, the possibility of death always hangs overhead like a Damocles sword.

At the heart of it, perhaps this is what makes a medical biography gripping – a doctor’s intimate dalliance with death, nearly daily.

Unexpected antagonist

In Paul Kalanithi’s poetic autobiography published posthumously, *When Breath Becomes Air*, death is the unexpected antagonist, appearing in the form of lung cancer that finally fells him. The bright American neurosurgeon finds his unnatural debility in his 30s worrisome, but stodgily plods on, ignoring his symptoms, or putting up with them, so

poised as he was on the brink of promise, and a grand new world. Written in such evocative prose, as he battles cancer, *When Breath Becomes Air* is a gentlemanly approach to a rugged disease.

American surgeon, writer, and public health researcher Atul Gawande is a prolific writer, and his books are quite popular on the charts too. *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* is an honest, but at the same time, personalised look into end of life care. Gawande goes in for the real, and does not sugar coat the inescapable reality of ageing, and the squalor that could result from that – pain and death, all immutable.

Cell science

For Siddhartha Mukerjee’s first book, *Emperor of all Maladies*, he chose to tell the biography of cancer. With his style, best described as breathtaking, he easily sets a relatable context that even non-scientists are familiar with. As he dives headlong into cell science, he also reaches into his coat pockets to grab a dash of wonder, awe, and the everyday. Cancer is the central character to which the ancients and moderns, have to pay obeisance, in this much-feted book.

It is the empathy and personalised attention that doctors exhibit that elevates them, we learn from best-selling author Abraham Verghese’s *My Own Country*. While his latest work of fiction *The Covenant of Water* is a stunning inter-generational novel hinged on

matters medical, his first ever book is deeply sad, lonely and yet hopeful. An infectious diseases expert struggling with HIV, as yet undiagnosed, and as yet without treatment, this autobiographical note highlights the value of empathy, of staying with patients even when their own perplexed and fearful families have withdrawn from caregiving. In this book, there are the unmistakable signs of what will go on to make Verghese the beloved author he is.

Inspiring stories

Several giants in the Indian health care space have also seemingly effortlessly put pen to paper to generate tales that have kept readers glued to the books, and inspired them. Legendary Indian nephrologist M.K. Mani hails the Hindu god of death, in his autobiography *Yamaraja’s Brother* (available in digital format too). His strong, well-known views on the practice of medicine, ethics and doctor-patient relationship come through unequivocally.

Kafeel Khan’s intimate encounter with death, in the *Gorakhpur Hospital Tragedy* is an earthy, pulsating account of a tragedy in which many children died, one where the aftermath of revenge and the blame game were as shocking as the deaths itself.

Pranay Gupte’s biography of Apollo Hospitals’ founder Prathap C. Reddy, *Healer* is a tome that outlines in a detailed manner, the revolution in private health care in India that his protagonist essayed.

At a time when doctors were heading out of the country to carry on a lucrative practice, this is the inspiring story of a doctor who came back to serve his country and contribute immensely. Incidentally, that journey too began when Dr. Reddy lost a patient he could not help.

Lessons from life

Eminent diabetologist V. Mohan’s book *Making Excellence a Habit* is in the realm of a self-help book that will actually help the reader. By his own confession, he would have been a litterateur if he had his way, and that arms this book which pours in energy, passion, faith and a lived life as lessons. That, along with what has become the hallmark of a good doctor, empathy for his patients, elevates this easy read to one you might want to display on your book shelf.

It’s the personalisation that ultimately saves the day for any medical book. While keeping the formula to the medical text book, autobiographies score on establishing a close working relationship with patients and their families in a particular Indian setting.

Kavery Nambisan’s *A Luxury Called Health* is a sweeping look at how health care was built up from scratch in India, offering a unique view of rural health centres serving in the most remote areas of the country. It is a book about patients, leaders, philanthropists, nuns, nurses, swamis and surgical assistants. It is, equally, a visceral record of being with her husband Vijay as he fights cancer.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on personalities, places, and events connected with November 9

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

Which Asian country, whose current monarch is Norodom Sihamoni, got its Independence from France on this date 70 years ago?

QUESTION 2

Name the author, philosopher, and politician, familiar to Indians as the writer of ‘Sare Jahan se Achha’, born on November 9, 1877, in Sialkot.

QUESTION 3

The chemical element with the atomic number 110, discovered on November 9 at the GSI Helmholtz Centre for Heavy Ion Research, takes its name from the city where the institute is located. Name the city and the element.

QUESTION 4

On this date, who did Garry Kasparov beat to become the youngest World Chess Champion?

QUESTION 5

The cruiser that bombarded Madras on September 22, 1914, during World War I, was disabled on November 9 later that year by HMAS Sydney which grounded it off the Cocos Islands. Name the German vessel.

QUESTION 6

Which free and open-source web browser, originally created in 2002 under the code name ‘Phoenix’, had its initial release on November 9, 18 years ago?

QUESTION 7

Name the French President, the target of an assassination attempt in Frederick Forsyth’s *Day of the Jackal*, who passed away on November 9, 1970.



Visual question: This is the seal of which Indian State that officially became the 27th State of the Republic of India on November 9, 2000?

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

1. After a wicket falls, a new batter gets these many minutes to take guard for the next ball, and if they don’t they are dismissed like this. **Ans: Two minutes; Timed out**

2. If any batter leaves the field of play (except for injury, incapacity and with umpire’s consent) and fails to resume their innings, they are out. These two players have been given out in this manner. **Ans: Marvan Atapattu, Mahela Jayawardene**

3. This is a mode of dismissal in which the non-striker is dismissed in case he attempts to take off for a run before the bowler’s front foot has landed for delivery. It is named after this cricketer. **Ans: Mankading, Vinoo Mankad**

4. If the batter “hits” the ball twice, they are out. This has happened in this match. **Ans: Romania versus Malta in 2023**

5. The four variations of ducks used in cricket. **Ans: Golden duck, diamond duck, royal duck, titanium duck**

Visual: Identify this cricket player. **Ans: Inzamam-ul-Haq; he was dismissed for obstructing the field**

Early Birds: Satish Reddy Kanaganti| Varghese Joseph

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

Word of the day

Stodgy:

heavy and starchy and hard to digest; out of fashion; old fashioned; excessively conventional and unimaginative and hence dull

Synonyms: stick-in-the-mud, foggyish, mossy, stuffy

Usage: I attended a very stodgy dinner party.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/stodgypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /stɒ.ˈdʒi/

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

From Page One

G-7 meet appeals for humanitarian pauses

The communique also reiterated G-7 support for Ukraine in its war with Russia, highlighted the need for engagement with China and condemned North Korea's missile tests and arms transfers to Russia.

The G-7 comprises Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.S., with the EU also taking part in the summit.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel would consider "tactical little pauses" but, alongside its close ally the U.S. and other Western countries, has rejected calls for a ceasefire that it says would allow Hamas to regroup.

The G-7 had appeared to struggle to agree on a firm, united approach to the war, raising questions over its relevance as a force to tackle major crises.

The only other G-7 statement came after a meeting of its Finance Ministers on October 12 and amounted to a few, brief sentences. Other group members have issued joint statements.

Long-term plan

On Tuesday, the Ministers also discussed what happens after the Gaza conflict recedes and how to revitalise peace efforts in the West Asia, Japan said in a statement.

Israel has been vague about its long-term plans for Gaza. In some of the first direct comments on the subject, Mr. Netanyahu said this week that Israel would seek to have security responsibility for Gaza "for an indefinite period".

But Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen told the *Wall Street Journal* that Israel wanted the territory to be under an international coalition, including the U.S., EU and Muslim-majority countries, or administered by Gaza political leaders.

Mr. Blinken told reporters following the G-7 meetings that Gaza could not be under Hamas or Israeli control.

"We don't see a reoccupation and what I've heard from Israeli leaders is that they have no intent to reoccupy Gaza," he said.

Diplomats in Washington, the United Nations, the West Asia and beyond have also started weighing the options. Discussions include the deployment of a multinational force to post-conflict Gaza, an interim Palestinian-led administration that would exclude Hamas politicians, a stopgap security and governance role for neighbouring Arab states and temporary U.N. supervision of the territory, Reuters reported this month.

Kerala moves SC against Governor once again

The State government submitted that the first proviso to Article 200, which governs the conduct of the Governor, mandates immediate consideration and action when a Bill is presented to him for assent. The Governor can either declare his assent to the Bill, return it with a message to the House or refer it to the President. However, the Article requires the Governor to act "as soon as possible", that is within a reasonable time.

The State said eight key Bills were currently pending with the Governor. Some of these Bills have been held back for over two years.

Senior advocate K.K. Venugopal, appearing in the case for the State, recently had informed the Supreme Court that the Governor continued to be unfazed even after it had moved the top court against him.

"The Governor appears to be of the view that granting assent or otherwise dealing with Bills is a matter entrusted to him in his absolute discretion, to decide whenever he pleases. This is a complete subversion of the Constitution," the petition said.

Besides Kerala, other non-BJP-ruled States have also approached the Supreme Court against their Governors for "unreasonably" delaying the passing of crucial Bills into law.

Nitish apologises as his comment raises furore

After the National Commission for Women took cognisance of the comment, a complaint was also filed against him in Muzaffarpur. "If my words have hurt anyone, I take them back. I apologise for whatever I said. I'm not only ashamed but condemn myself for making such comments," Mr. Kumar said amid the din created by BJP legislators.

"My words were not intended to hurt anybody. I've always maintained that education is necessary for population control and I've always stood for women's empowerment and their development," he further clarified.

On Tuesday, while participating in a debate on the caste survey report after it was tabled in the Assembly, Mr. Kumar said, "The fertility rate in the State has come down from 4.3% to 2.9% due to the education of women. An educated woman is able to ensure that sex does not necessarily end in pregnancy, which helps keep the population in check."

Despite his apology on Wednesday, BJP MLAs continued their protest, trooping into the well of the House armed with placards demanding Mr. Kumar's resignation, and calling his statement "vulgar", "shameful", and "sexist".

The Speaker of the House, Awadh Bihari Choudhary, had to adjourn the session twice on Wednesday.

The BJP legislators continued to protest outside the Assembly as well.

Brazil will give continuity to India's Presidency of G-20, says Ambassador

As India's G-20 Presidency comes to close, Prime Minister Modi to host Voice of Global South Summit and G-20 Summit virtually on November 17 and 22; Brazil will host G-20 in 2024, and the COP30 Climate Change Summit in 2025, and hopes to work closely with partners like India, Indonesia

Subhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

As India prepares to end its G-20 presidency this month with two separate virtual summits to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Brazil hopes to give "continuity" to New Delhi's priorities, its Ambassador said.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has sent out invitations for the two summits – the Second Voice of Global South Summit to be held on November 17, and the G-20 Virtual Summit to be held on November 22.

The MEA is still awaiting confirmations from many of the leaders of the two sets of countries. Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who will take over the G-20 presidency, has confirmed his attendance at both, and hopes to take forward the focus on the Global South and develop-

ing world, said Brazilian Ambassador Kenneth Felix Haczynski da Nobrega.

Multilateral system

"We see the Brazilian presidency as giving continuity to the Indian presidency, in ensuring that the interests and challenges of the Global South will be an important part of the G-20 agenda," Mr. Haczynski da Nobrega, who presented his credentials shortly before the G-20 summit in Delhi, told *The Hindu*.

While Mr. Modi did the formal handover of the G-20 "gavel" to Brazilian President Mr. Lula at the end of the summit on September 10, India's G-20 presidency will only end this month.

"The Brazilian G-20 presidency will seek its own special emphasis on fighting hunger and poverty, bringing the idea of sustainable development centre stage to the climate change debate, and will



The Brazilian G-20

presidency will seek its own special emphasis on fighting hunger and poverty, bringing the idea of sustainable development centre stage ... will continue to push for the reform of the multilateral system

KENNETH FELIX HACZYNSKI DA NOBREGA
Brazilian Ambassador

continue to push for the reform of the multilateral system," Mr. Haczynski da Nobrega added.

Similar goals

While Brazil may have a different emphasis on some issues, the Ambassador said, its goals and targets were similar to India's as members of the developing world, and partners in groupings like BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa), IBSA (India-

Brazil-South Africa), and the G-4 grouping (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan) that support each other for UN Security Council membership.

Brazil is presently the host of IBSA, will host G-20 in 2024, and the COP30 Climate Change Summit in 2025, and hopes to work closely with partners like India, South Africa and Indonesia, all developing countries that are part of the "extended troika" or

group that is hosting successive summits of the G-20.

During the G-20 Summit in Delhi in September, India was able to forge a breakthrough joint statement from the group, deeply divided over the Ukraine war, after a joint proposal by India-Indonesia-Brazil-South Africa was offered to other members as an ultimatum a day before the Summit.

Global solidarity

The proposal, that dropped critical references to Russia, but retained language against the war in Ukraine was seen as a rare moment of global solidarity during the Indian presidency.

Ahead of the Virtual G-20 summit on November 22, officials have made it clear that while the new issue of the Israel-Gaza conflict is likely to overshadow some of the proceedings, India does not plan any

joint statement or major outcomes from the summit. Instead, the Prime Minister's Office which is overseeing planning for the two summits wants them to focus on implementation and delivery of the agreements and declarations made during the Voice of Global South Summit in January 2023 and G-20 Summit in September.

Fostering cooperation

"[Officials] highlighted the government's commitment to ensuring the successful implementation of the Leaders' Declaration and its dedication to fostering global cooperation in development and welfare," the Press Information Bureau announced in a readout of a meeting taken by the Prime Minister's Principal Secretary, P.K. Mishra, where he was briefed by Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra about preparations for the two summits.

PM, Shah, other BJP leaders greet Advani as he turns 96

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a host of senior leaders on Wednesday greeted BJP stalwart L. K. Advani on his birthday and said he is a beacon of integrity and dedication and his visionary leadership has furthered national progress and unity.

Mr. Advani, former Deputy Prime Minister and former BJP president, turned 96 on Wednesday.

"His visionary leadership has furthered national progress and unity. I wish him good health and a long life," Mr. Modi wrote on X.

Praying for his long life, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Mr. Advani nourished the BJP with his tireless hard work and organisational skills.

"I earnestly pray for his good health and well-being," M. Venkaiah Naidu said in a post on X. Union



Continuing legacy: Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets L.K. Advani on his birthday in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

Minister Nitin Gadkari also greeted Mr. Advani.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also prayed for Advani's good health, and said he has been a major pillar of Indian politics and has also provided great strength to the BJP.

Greeting the veteran politician, BJP president J. P. Nadda said his work dedicated to the nation and organisation is an inspiration to all the BJP workers. Union Ministers S. Jaishankar and Nirmala Sitharaman also greeted Mr. Advani.

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hit out at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for his remarks linking educated women to his State's fertility rate.

Speaking in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Modi also slammed the leaders of the Opposition INDIA bloc for not speaking out against Mr. Kumar's statements.

'Misogynistic, vulgar'

"Those who watch TV would have noticed an event. A very senior leader of the INDI Alliance, who is carrying the flag of the coalition and is playing various games to dethrone the current Central government, said such vulgar things in a language which nobody can imagine, in the Assembly where mothers and sisters were present,"



Nitish Kumar

Mr. Modi said, speaking at a rally in Guna.

"He has no shame," Mr. Modi added.

Mr. Modi was referring to Mr. Kumar's remarks on birth control in the Bihar Assembly on Tuesday. "The husband's acts lead to more births. But with education, a woman knows how to restrain him. This is the reason the numbers [of births] are coming down. Earlier it [the fertility rate] was 4.3, but it has now reached 2.9. And soon

we will reach 2," Mr. Kumar had said.

The remarks drew sharp criticism from the BJP, which has termed them as "misogynistic, vulgar, sexist and patriarchal", leading Mr. Kumar to apologise on Wednesday.

'Insult to women'

"Not one leader of the INDI Alliance is ready to speak a word against such an insult to mothers and sisters," Mr. Modi said.

"Those who keep such a view towards women, can they do any good to you? Can they protect your honour, can they respect you?" the Prime Minister asked the women in the crowd. "How low will you stoop? You are getting the nation insulted in the world," he added.

The Prime Minister has been on an election tour of Madhya Pradesh, which goes to the polls in less than ten days.

Congress hits out at Modi over remote control jibe at Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday over his "remote control" jibe at party president Mallikarjun Kharge, asserting that it was an attack on all those who come from "oppressed backgrounds" but aim to succeed in life.

Mr. Modi, at a rally in Damoh, Madhya Pradesh, said that Mr. Kharge was "controlled by remote". "The Congress' habit of remote [control] is not going away. Earlier, the PM used to be controlled by remote. Now, the Congress president is being operated by remote," he said.

Mr. Modi was apparently reacting to Mr. Kharge's comments at an election rally in Madhya Pradesh, where the latter had referred to various government agencies, including the Enforcement Directorate, the Central Bureau of

Investigation, and the Income Tax Department, along with the PM and Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, as the "panch pandavas" (five Pandavas) of the BJP.

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said Mr. Modi's remark was not a "loose political statement", but a concerted attack on all those who come from oppressed backgrounds and are aiming to succeed in public life. "In reality, PM Modi cannot digest that unlike his party's fake claims of social justice, it is only the Congress that is capable of democratically throwing up such towering leaders," Mr. Venugopal posted on X.

The party also attacked the BJP government at the Centre on the seventh anniversary of demonetisation. Mr. Kharge said demonetisation was the "biggest assault on India's economy and livelihood".

Govt. mulls ombudsman for air travellers

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

With domestic air travellers exceeding pre-pandemic levels month after month and recording new highs, a spate of complaints from passengers has forced the government to discuss setting up of an ombudsman or an authority to address grievances.

The Department of Consumer Affairs on Wednesday held a meeting with online travel aggregators,

officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation after it received nearly 10,000 complaints made through the National Consumer's Helpline over the past seven or eight months over issues such as delays in refunds from airlines, denied boarding, and unavailability of free seats at the time of booking a ticket and web check-in.

"The establishment of an ombudsman for time-bound resolution of con-

An ombudsman for the aviation sector is among the major reforms needed to improve air travel

sumer grievances was also deliberated. The Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Department of Consumer Affairs can jointly work on the modalities involved in establishing the same," the Ministry of Consumer Affairs said in a press state-

ment. Officials also discussed ways to integrate the National Consumer Helpline of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and the AirSewa portal of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Former officials also say that an ombudsman for the aviation sector is among the major reforms needed to improve air travel and that such a proposal was mooted as early as 2013. India is the third biggest domestic aviation market in the world.

Collegium works with camaraderie: CJI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Wednesday said the Supreme Court Collegium's discussions among the five senior-most judges of the Supreme Court take place in an atmosphere of camaraderie and transparency.

In an informal chat with reporters at a high tea or-

ganised by the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Chandrachud revealed that the collegium may start off informally with judges discussing names but turn increasingly detailed and structured as talks proceed.

The Chief Justice said the latest collegium resolution to recommend Delhi High Court Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma,

Rajasthan Chief Justice Augustine George Masih, and Gauhati Chief Justice Sandeep Mehta to take the Supreme Court to its full sanctioned judicial strength of 34 judges was finalised quickly.

Methodical manner
He said the collegium pored over material, including judgments authored by the candidates,

provided by a team of distinguished scholars, interns, and law researchers.

"We all look at the same judgments," the Chief Justice said. The collegium's discussions, the Chief Justice indicated, proceeded in a methodical manner in which each of the five judges were given the same background material on candidates to go through.

ASSEMBLY POLLS 2023

MIZORAM » MADHYA PRADESH » RAJASTHAN » CHHATTISGARH » TELANGANA

'BJP handing over PSUs to industrialists'

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday said that in the past, the government led by her party at the Centre set up public sector undertakings that provided jobs to youth, but the BJP's policy is to hand these over to industrialists.

She also said the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's idea behind setting up

institutions like the Indian Institute of Management and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) was to take the country forward.

Ms. Vadra addressed election rallies at Sanwer and Dewas ahead of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections.

Targeting the BJP-led Centre over the condition of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Ms. Vadra said, "The government has no property or money of its own. Its public assets and money are being looted."



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra addressing an election rally in Dewas in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. CONGRESS@X

Cong. complains to EC over BJP's 'misuse of ED'

The Congress on Wednesday approached the Election Commission to complain about the "prejudicial actions" of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Chhattisgarh.

A delegation of leaders, led by Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi, asked the EC to ensure that the Central agencies conduct their probes with "strict impartiality".

They also demanded the withdrawal of an ED press release that claimed that Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel took ₹508 crore from the promoters of the Mahadev betting app.

In a memorandum, the party expressed concern over the "worrying trend" of the ED being used as a "political tool" by the BJP against Opposition leaders. It demanded action against ED officials for "misusing" their powers and violating the guidelines of the poll body.



The Congress did not fulfil the demand for OROP implementation... and played politics with national security when in power

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

Probe ordered after Shah's rath touches cable

The Rajasthan government ordered an inquiry after Union Home Minister Amit Shah had a narrow escape when his rath came in contact with an electric wire in Nagaur on Tuesday. No one was injured.

"The Home Department initiated an inquiry to be conducted by the Ajmer divisional commissioner," sources said.



Thousands of people are joining the BJP family every day... This shows BJP is coming to power [in Rajasthan] and the Congress ship is sinking

GAJENDRA SHEKHAWAT
Union Minister



Congress candidate Ramsiya Bharti campaigning in Malhara. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A saffron versus saffron contest in M.P.'s Malhara seat

Ishita Mishra
MALHARA

It's a seeming saffron versus saffron contest in the Malhara Assembly constituency of Madhya Pradesh as the Congress has chosen Sadhvi Ramsiya Bharti — a 36-year-old *kathawachak* who recites mythological texts — as its candidate from a seat widely known as the bastion of veteran BJP leader and former Chief Minister Uma Bharti.

While Ms. Uma Bharti is not contesting or even campaigning in this election due to a leg injury, her influence in the area can be gauged from the fact that the BJP candidate and MLA, Pradyuman Singh Lodhi, is not just using her pictures in his posters, but actually making them larger than the pictures of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan or even Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Ms. Ramsiya Bharti, who dons a saffron robe and puts vermilion on her forehead, has several other similarities with Ms. Uma Bharti. Both of them belong to the Lodhi community and are widely popular religious leaders of this small rural area in Chhatrapur district.

Pointing to another similarity between the two women, Congress leader Narendra Yadav says that Ms. Ramsiya Bharti was close to Jyotiraditya Scindia, who switched loyalties from the Congress to the BJP a few years ago. Ms. Uma Bharti too was close to Mr. Scindia's grandmother, Vijayaraje Scindia.

Ms. Ramsiya Bharti, whose followers claim that she has recited *Bhagwat Katha* and *Ram Katha* across India and even abroad, is campaigning with folded hands to seek votes from the people. She starts and ends her rallies with a slogan of "Jai Shree Ram", and uses the "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" slogan as well, both of which are more commonly heard at BJP campaigns.

"I am not here to win and go. I am yours. The only thing you have to do is vote for Congress and bring Kamal Nath's government to power," she says at a rally in Buxwaha.

Ms. Ramsiya Bharti has been criticising the BJP for giving ticket to goons and corrupt leaders, and has also attacked the party's claims of protecting cows and women, and helping farmers. She maintains that the BJP's nationalism is fake and its proclaimed love for Hindus is only confined to election season.

She is popular among women, who attend her *katha* (sermon) in larger numbers than men. In her *katha*, Ms. Ramsiya Bharti speaks about the lack of development in the area. She adds that she is not a turncoat who will change her party after winning. She is targeting Mr. Lodhi, who won on Congress ticket in 2018. He switched parties just before the byelections in 2020.

The BJP candidate rejects the claim of Ms. Uma Bharti's waning influence, saying that her popularity is such that she does not even have to visit the area to campaign for him. "People will hear her even if she speaks from wherever she is," Mr. Lodhi says.

He says that not every *sadhvi* can be Uma Bharti, adding that the BJP is the only party that works for development.

'Corruption is the biggest issue in Madhya Pradesh, every person has been a victim'

Congress chief ministerial candidate asks why the BJP is 'hiding' Shivraj Singh Chouhan from election campaign; says his party has done the financial calculations for the announcements it made and will execute them with discipline if it forms the govt.; he rejects reports about infighting in the party

INTERVIEW

Kamal Nath

Sandeep Phukan
Mehul Malpani

Breaking away from tradition, the Congress in Madhya Pradesh has declared State Congress chief Kamal Nath as its chief ministerial candidate. Between campaigning, Mr. Nath speaks on corruption, poll promises and factionalism in the party. Excerpts:

The Congress has targeted the Shivraj Singh government as a "50% commission" government. Is corruption the main poll issue for your party?

Every person in Madhya Pradesh is either a victim of corruption or a witness to it. Corruption is the biggest issue in Madhya Pradesh and right before this election, the contractors themselves came forward to complain that 50% commission is being taken in the Shivraj government.

In the 18 years of Shivraj Singh government, there have been very so many scams... Vyapam scam, Demat scam, Dumper scam, police recruitment scam, patwari recruitment scam, nursing scam, Mahakal Lok (corridor) scam. So, the 50% commission is a big issue in this election.

But the biggest issue is to

build a prosperous Madhya Pradesh. My way of working is different. I don't make promises that I can't keep. We have made the financial calculations for the announcements we have made and we will execute them with discipline.

I have said Shivrajji believes in television, while I have a vision.

You announced many guarantees like LPG cylinder for ₹500, monthly assistance for women, and so on. But many believe that with the BJP matching your promises, the Congress may have lost the momentum.

The BJP has been in government for 18 years, so wasn't the *behen* (sister) *ladli* (dear) before that? Why did it take 18 years for the sister to become *ladli*, that too when the Congress promised the Nari Samman Yojana under which ₹1,500 per month will be given to women and gas cylinders were announced for ₹500. We have made it clear that as soon as the Congress government is formed, on January 1, 2024, women will get ₹1,500 in their accounts and gas cylinders will start being available for ₹500.

You are the only face from the Congress while Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the main campaigner here. The BJP has also fielded many MPs to give a national flavour to the



A.M. FARUQUI

elections. Is that a disadvantage or an advantage?

This is a State election and not Mr. Modi's election. And I want to ask when Shivraj Singh Chouhan has been the Chief Minister for 18 years, why is the BJP ashamed to bring him to the fore? Hiding his face means that the people have completely rejected his governance for the past 18 years. And by fielding Central leaders, the BJP has admitted to losing the elections even before it started and they are now looking for scapegoats.

Some have expressed concerns about the Congress showcasing "Hindu" traditions in politics. Be it cancelling an INDIA bloc rally after DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's remark on *Sanatana Dharma* or inviting Bageshwar Dham priest Dhirendra Shashtri, who talks of a Hindu Rashtra, for a

programme at Chhindwara, you are seen as overtly playing the "Hindu card".

These charges have no basis at all. The INDIA bloc meeting was cancelled as campaigning in Madhya Pradesh was going on in full swing. I had made it clear but the media chose to focus on some old issues. As far as Bageshwar Dham Baba is concerned, if he announces a programme for Chhindwara, I can't stop anyone. I happened to be here and attended it. It was a *sarv dharma arti* for all religions. He never spoke about Hindutva here, only talked about Kamal Nath and Chhindwara. What is the Hindutva here? Please go and see the Hanumanji temple [with a 101-foot-tall Lord Hanuman statue] here. And I built it 14 years ago. There were no questions raised then. Why is the BJP worried if I go to a temple or offer prayers? I don't need a certificate from the BJP to be a Hindu.

I have said this earlier too that I am a Hindu but not a fool. India runs according to the Constitution and will continue to do so.

Your comments on the Rajiv Gandhi government opening the lock of the Ram temple at Ayodhya has become controversial.

Look, the opening of the lock is a fact and nobody can change it. No government could do anything until the Supreme Court gave its verdict. The court gave its verdict during a BJP government and the temple is being built. But that does not give the BJP its title deed. The temple belongs to every citizen of India.

Are you looking at the 2023 Assembly poll to avenge the collapse of your government in March 2020 because of defections?

You travel around Madhya Pradesh and just observe the mood among the people. I have been in politics for 45 years and can read their sentiments. People of Madhya Pradesh want change and the BJP is going to lose the elections by a huge margin.

Some say the collapse was the result of factionalism in the Congress and, even now, people talk of differences between you and Digvijaya Singh.

Again, these are absolutely baseless charges. Those who have doubts in their minds should come to Madhya Pradesh and see how the Congress is fighting the elections in an united manner.

The Central leadership of the Congress has made caste census and OBC (other backward classes) outreach its main focus. How do you see this unfolding in the Madhya Pradesh election?

We have made it clear that when we form the government in Madhya Pradesh, we will carry out caste survey. As far as reservation for OBCs is concerned, we had given 27% but the Shivraj Singh government conspired to end it. The Congress government will once again offer 27% reservation to OBCs. We look at the issue not as a political one but one of social justice.

As the former Commerce Minister, you were seen as business-friendly and keen to get investments. Does it worry you that the top leadership of the party is targeting large business groups now?

Development of Madhya Pradesh is our top-most priority. You need trust to get investments and every necessary measure will be undertaken to attract investments into Madhya Pradesh.

Amid paper leak issue, Rajasthan Cong. chief put to test on home turf

Mohammed Iqbal
SIKAR

Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra is in a vulnerable position on his home turf of Lachh-mangarh following the searches conducted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on his premises in Jaipur and Sikar as part of a money-laundering probe in the exam paper leak case. The three-time MLA is facing tough questions from the electorate as well as his rival candidates.

"I will not allow the future of our youth to be destroyed by the man who claims to be working for your welfare as your representative," said BJP candidate Subhash Maharia at a rally in Khuri Bari village.

A three-time BJP MP from Sikar, Mr. Maharia joined the Congress in 2016. He left it in May this year to rejoin the BJP. He has used the ED searches at Mr. Dotasra's houses as well as the summons to his two sons, one of whom is associated with the coach-



Govind Singh Dotasra

exam, Mr. Maharia told *The Hindu* that it would prove to be the nemesis for the Congress. "Mr. Dotasra has been misleading the people with his false claims. We will not compromise on the dignity and self-respect of voters at this seat. No development has taken place here in the past five years," he said.

Dismisses charges
However, Mr. Dotasra claimed at a rally in Lachh-mangarh after he filed his nomination papers last week that he had carried out development work worth ₹1,800 crore in the constituency and built roads of such length that Mr. Maharia could travel on them for six months without finishing his journey. "I rule the heart of the people in this land of farmers and soldiers," he said, dismissing the BJP's charges. He said the ED had resorted to action because he had been speaking against the BJP and the RSS.

As no BJP candidate was elected in any of the eight

Assembly constituencies in Sikar district in 2018, this Assembly election is going to be a battle of survival for Mr. Maharia. Both Mr. Dotasra and Mr. Maharia belong to the dominant Jat community of the Shekhawati region.

Sohan Pal, a farmer at Khuri Bari, said corruption was an issue that deserved attention. Even the traditional Congress supporters would have reservations unless Mr. Dotasra convinced them, he said. Jatin Dhaka, a student from Jasarasar village, said the probability in the exam system was the most important issue for the candidates.

In Sikar district, the issues of water scarcity, poor quality of roads, inadequate power supply to agricultural farms, and organised crimes in the towns dominate public discourse. The contest on several seats has become triangular with the candidates of the CPI(M), the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party, and the Jannayak Janata Party entering the fray.

Raje's confidant to contest election as Independent

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Days after the BJP denied him a ticket, Yunus Khan, a close confidant of former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, has sprung a surprise by deciding to contest the Rajasthan Assembly election from Deedwana, his traditional seat, as an Independent candidate.

He filed his nomination papers on Monday after parting ways with the BJP.

Mr. Khan, the BJP's lone Muslim candidate in 2018, had unsuccessfully contested against Congress leader Sachin Pilot from Tonk. He was seen as being sidelined within the BJP despite having clout among Muslims, Jats, and Rajputs in Deedwana, which now forms part of the newly created Deedwana-Kuchaman district.

The BJP has not fielded a Muslim candidate on any of the 200 Assembly seats in the State this time.

During the two previous

Yunus Khan, a former Minister, parted ways with the BJP after being denied ticket

tenures of Ms. Raje as the Chief Minister, Mr. Khan held important ministerial portfolios.

Mr. Khan said the BJP had taken some decisions "in a hurry". "A lot of things have changed in the BJP. The party is not following the principles laid down by the leaders such as Deendayal Upadhyaya and Atal Bihari Vajpayee anymore," he said.

"I contested the [Assembly] poll from Deedwana four times and abided by the party's instructions to fight against Sachin Pilot in Tonk. After my defeat, I was ignored by the party... I was not even invited to or informed about the party's programmes. I have left the BJP with a heavy heart," Mr. Khan said.

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Please scan the QR code or visit <https://newsthe.live/elections>

IN BRIEF



ED records Bansal's statement in National Herald case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has recorded the statement of senior Congress leader Pawan Kumar Bansal in connection with the *National Herald* case. Mr. Bansal visited the ED office on Tuesday and Wednesday. The agency is probing the allegation that Young Indian Private Limited had paid only ₹50 lakh to take over the rights to recover a ₹90.25-crore loan that the Associated Journals Limited (AJL) owed to the Congress. The *National Herald* newspaper is published by AJL. The Congress has denied the charge in the past by pointing out that Young Indian is a not-for-profit company.

NIA arrests 44 for alleged link with human trafficking

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested 44 people for their alleged involvement in human trafficking, following searches across 10 States and Union Territories in close coordination with the Border Security Force and the local police. While 21 accused were arrested in Tripura, 10 people were held in Karnataka, five in Assam, three in West Bengal, two in Tamil Nadu and one each in Puducherry, Telangana and Haryana. "The operation aimed at dismantling human trafficking support networks involved in the infiltration and settlement of illegal migrants across the Indo-Bangladesh border into India," the agency said.

30% of ration under PDS diverted to open market in Bengal: ED

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

About 30% of the rations under the Public Distribution System (PDS) intended for Priority Households (PHH), Rajya Khadya Suraksha Yojana (RKSJ) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries in West Bengal were diverted to the open market, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said in a statement regarding the alleged ration scam in the State.

According to the central agency, the proceeds of crime generated from diverting PDS were shared between the millers and the PDS distributors.

The ED on October 27 arrested West Bengal Forest Minister Jyoti Priya Mallick in a case related to fake paddy procurement and siphoning off PDS ration to the open market. Mr. Mallick, who was Minister in

the Food and Supplies Department from 2011-21, will remain in ED custody till November 12.

The ED statement added that the millers opened fake farmers' bank accounts in connivance with other persons including some cooperative societies and pocketed the minimum support price (MSP), which was intended for paddy farmers.

"One of the prime suspects has admitted that approximately ₹200 per quintal was earned by various rice millers which was to be procured by the government agencies at MSP directly from the farmers and this practice is being followed by various rice millers across the state over the years. Hence, a huge quantum of proceeds of crime are being generated and distributed in this way," the ED statement said.

'Kolkata AQI deteriorating fast ahead of Deepavali'

The data was collected post-Durga Puja festivities between October 29 and November 8, which mark the end of the idol immersion processions and the beginning of the sale of firecrackers

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Kolkata has started deteriorating after Durga Puja and has been recorded in 'poor category', a study conducted by an environmental conservation society across several air quality monitoring in the city has revealed

"The mean daily AQI, PM2.5 and PM10 (in Kolkata) have consistently remained in the moderate zone since the end of Durga Puja. The city recorded an alarming AQI of 249 with PM2.5 and PM10 reaching 104.65 and 188.58 µg/m3 respectively on November 8 at 8 a.m.," stated a report titled *Kolkata, Pre-Diwali Air Quality and An Impending Predicament*.

Post-puja festivities

The report was prepared by SwitchON Foundation after analysing data from seven CAAQMS (Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations) of the Central Pollution Control Board in the city.

"The data was collected



Smog and haze on Wednesday in Kolkata where AQI has been in the 'poor category'. DEBASISH BHADURI

post-Durga Puja festivities between October 29, 2023, to November 8, 2023. These marked the dates for the end of the idol immersion processions and the beginning of the sale and bursting of firecrackers," a press statement by SwitchON Foundation said.

The AQI of other cities in West Bengal has also been deteriorating post Durga Puja. "As on November 8 at 8 a.m., Howrah recorded an AQI of 218 and Asansol 268, both in the 'poor category'. Durgapur recorded AQI 146 while Haldia at 127, both in the 'moderate category'," the

study said.

The study cautions that the forthcoming winter will see a sudden dip in temperature and low wind speeds that will prevent dispersion of pollutants.

'Struggling to breathe'

Vinay Jaju, Managing Director, SwitchON Foundation said with the advent of winters, a deterioration in air quality is witnessed, exacerbated by the significant role of firecrackers. "Cities struggle to breathe as they transform into polluted gas chambers during the winter season. It's our collective responsibility to

say no to firecrackers and strive for cleaner air," Mr. Jaju said.

The report calls for strict enforcement of guidelines by the Supreme Court regarding green crackers during Deepavali. In 2022, the AQI in Kolkata improved due to the Cyclone Sitrang which was responsible for dissipating pollutants. There is no such cyclonic event forecast for this year. Last month during the Durga Puja, people of Kolkata breathed clean air with traffic regulations imposed in the city from October 17 to October 24.

Union Home Ministry seeks Aadhaar authentication of prisoners and jail visitors

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Prisoners lodged in more than 1,300 jails across the country, and their visitors, may have to undergo Aadhaar authentication, an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to ensure the security of the inmates, and prevent identity fraud.

The MHA has written to the States and Union Territories asking them to utilise the Aadhaar authentication of prison inmates and their visitors with a view to strengthening the safe and secure custody of prisoners, and also to ensure the delivery of the Aadhaar benefits to which they are entitled.

After issuing a notification to the Prison Department, authorising them to ensure Aadhaar authentication of prison inmates

NIC has integrated Aadhaar services with the ePrisons system, and made it functional in 1,309 of 1,378 prisons across the country

and their visitors under the provisions of the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules 2020, the MHA said National Informatics Centre (NIC)/ePrisons had developed a standard operating procedure (SOP) for Aadhaar linking/authentication of prisoners/visitors.

However, the notification issued by the ministry dated September 29, 2023, stated that the authentication process would be on a voluntary basis and the States/UTs would have to

adhere to the relevant guidelines issued by the Centre from time to time.

Justifying the move to authenticate the inmates and their visitors, the MHA, in a note, said prison security was one of the critical issues for the State to maintain law and order. With the growing inmate population in the country, prison authorities are under pressure to manage them and identify their records.

"The identification of inmates and other stakeholders of prisons is the requirement of the day. This can be achieved by the Aadhaar-based verification of the inmates," the MHA said, adding that the NIC had developed the Aadhaar services integrated with the ePrisons system, and made it functional in 1,309 of the 1,378 prisons in the country.

11.5 crore PAN cards deactivated for not linking with Aadhaar

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

A total of 11.5 crore permanent account numbers (PAN) have been deactivated for not being linked with Aadhaar before the stipulated deadline, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a reply to a Right to Information (RTI) query.

The deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar expired on June 30.

There are 70.24 crore PAN holders in India and among them, 57.25 crore have had their PAN linked with Aadhaar. The CBDT, in its reply, added that over 12 crore PAN had not been linked with Aadhaar, of which 11.5 crore numbers had been deactivated.

The RTI was filed by Madhya Pradesh-based activist Chandra Shekhar Gaur. For new applicants of PAN, the Aadhaar-PAN

World will overshoot 2030 fossil fuel limit by twice over: report

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Notwithstanding the global consensus among countries that fossil fuel emissions must be eliminated, a new report says that many governments plan to produce twice as much fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and 69% more than that would be consistent with 2 degrees Celsius.

This comes in the backdrop of 151 governments having pledged to achieve Net-Zero emissions - or no net emissions from 2050-2070. The latest forecasts suggest that despite promises by governments made as part of the 2015 Paris Agreement that global coal, oil, and gas demand will peak this decade, even without new policies, their forecasts would lead to an increase in global coal production until 2030, and in global oil and gas production until at least 2050, creating an ever-widening fossil fuel production gap over time.

COP Summit in Dubai

Later this month, at least 190 countries are expected to convene in Dubai, for the annual Conference of

the Parties, to thrash out timelines to abate fossil fuel emissions, accelerate the adoption of renewable energy and pay vulnerable countries to help them weather the effects of global warming.

The Production Gap Report was released on Wednesday. It is prepared by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Climate Analytics, E3G, International Institute for Sustainable Development and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to assess governments' planned and projected production of coal, oil, and gas against global levels consistent with the Paris Agreement's temperature goal.

The report analyses emissions trends for 20 major fossil-fuel-producing countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the UAE, the U.K., and the U.S. "We find that many governments are promoting fossil gas as an essential 'transition' fuel but with no apparent plans to transition away from it later," said SEI's Ploy Achakulwisut, a lead author on the report.

WHO hailed India's success in managing TB: Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India has made tremendous progress in improving case detection and reversed the impact of COVID-19 on the tuberculosis (TB) programme, noted the World Health Organization's (WHO) 'Global TB Report 2023' released earlier this week, the Union Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

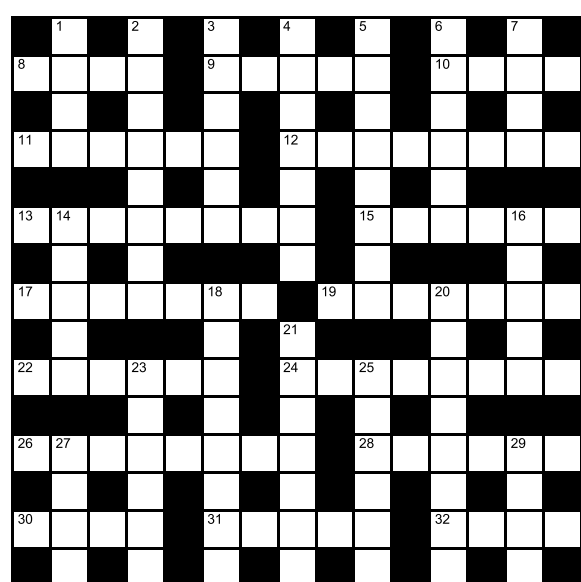
TB treatment coverage, according to the report, has also improved to 80% of the estimated TB cases, an increase of 19% over the previous year.

India's efforts have resulted in the reduction of TB incidence by 16% from 2015 to 2022, almost double the pace at which global TB incidence is declining (which is 8.7%). TB mortality has also reduced by 18% during the same period in India, and globally.

THE CROSSWORD+ 14016

(set by Incognito)

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



- 13 What you could be if this line was blank! (8)
15 Student dropping first letter for breadwinner (6)
17 I left chief holding small rotating drum (7)
19 Raise electricity tax with ease, I hear (7)
22 Martial art from Altaic highlands (3,3)
24 Was no net returned for getting carpentry tool? (5,3)
26 Where one may rest holding tea in a relaxed manner, for starters? Right! (8)
28 American wearing pleated sari in country (6)
30 Cooked a meal devoid of energy for monk (4)
31 Christian saint's clear: "Diamonds taken away by American" (5)
32 Alien captures president in doorway leading outside (4)

Down

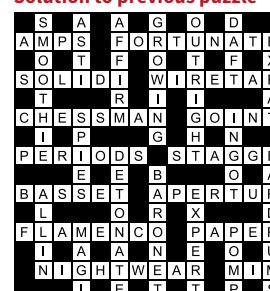
- 1 Woman loves taking first session in courts (4)
2 Intrepid female has no hearing organs (8)
3 Setter eating some ice-cream behind animal accommodation and stall (6)
4 A creature whose former part loves to eat the remainder! (7)
5 Goodbye! We're travelling in autumn! (8)
6 Medico rejected fish on mountain (6)
7 Retired gentleman carries spectacles in chamber (4)
14 Los Angeles has included capital (5)
16 More's additional run from a no-ball, for example (5)
18 Friendly... remains so even after losing a hundred... (8)
20 Ivan danced in front of shack and disappeared (8)
21 Draw a model on some land (7)
23 Commanding officer, accompanied by the Chief of Army Staff, drinks (6)
25 No railway track in this country? (6)
27 Starboard propeller makes loud noise (4)
29 Eye part displayed in Kashmiri school (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH Savitha the originator

In the Vedas, there are mantras for every nakshatra. We find these mantras in Yajur Veda, Taaittiriya Brahmana, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. Every nakshatra has a devata, which claims the star as its own. The devata for the star Hastha is Surya. Surya wanted to be known as Savitha. Savitha means originator, and Surya wanted to be the origin of all decisions made by the devas. One is reminded here of the role played by Rakshasa, the minister of the Nandas, in the Sanskrit drama Mudra-rakshasa, written by Visakadatta. The Nandas were totally dependent on Rakshasa. Surya wanted the devas to depend on him for everything.

There had been another Savitha prior to this, and Surya decided to honour him and the star Hastha, which had given Savitha such honours. For the homam, special offerings had to be made. Rice balls made from a special rice were needed. The rice must have been harvested in just 60 days. This rice was pounded and made into rice flour. The rice flour was rolled into balls. Mud was used to make 12 small receptacles, which were placed over the fire. The rice balls (*purodasa*) were placed in the mud receptacles and cooked. Once the rice balls were done, the homam could be performed. Surya performed the homam, and became Savitha, the one whom all the devas consulted.



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

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad blames Kabul for expelling Afghans from Pakistan



Afghanistan's failure to stop Pakistani militants operating from its soil was to blame for Islamabad expelling hundreds of thousands of Afghan migrants, Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said on Wednesday. Afghans were also deeply involved in suicide attacks and other clashes with Pakistan forces, Mr. Kakar said.

SINGAPORE

China ready to improve ties with U.S. 'at all levels': Vice President



Beijing is ready to hold talks with the United States at "all levels", China's Vice President Han Zheng said at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Singapore on Wednesday, ahead of an expected summit between leaders Xi Jinping and Joe Biden. He added that recent high-level meetings were sending "positive signals".

BEIRUT

IS attacks kill 30 pro-government forces in Syria, says war monitor



Islamic State group attacks killed at least 30 pro-government forces and soldiers in the Syrian desert, a war monitor said on Wednesday, in one of the deadliest such assaults this year. The attacks took place in locations between Raqa, Homs and Deir Ezzor, added the Observatory, which has a vast network of sources.

ADRE

Darfur refugees report spate of ethnic killings by Arab militia, RSF



People fleeing to Chad have reported a new surge in ethnically-driven killings in Sudan's Darfur as the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) took over the main Army base in El Geneina. On Tuesday, refugees said they witnessed killings by Arab militias and RSF targeting the Masalit ethnic group in Ardamata.

More Gazans flee as Israeli troops 'battle inside city'

Israeli military says it killed one of Hamas's leading developers of rockets and other weapons; Hamas, meanwhile, denies that Israeli troops have made any significant gains inside Gaza City

Associated Press
KHAN YOUNIS

Thousands of Palestinians are fleeing south on foot with only what they can carry after running out of food and water in the north, a United Nations agency said on Wednesday, as Israel said its troops were battling Hamas militants deep inside Gaza City.



Running for life: Palestinians going down a road as they flee Gaza City towards the southern areas on Wednesday. REUTERS

Over 70% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have already fled their homes, but the growing numbers making their way south point to an increasingly desperate situation in and around Gaza's largest city, which has come under heavy Israeli bombardment.

The situation inside the besieged Palestinian enclave and no end in sight. Israel has said its war to end Hamas's rule and crush its military capabilities will be long and difficult, and that it will maintain some form of control over the coastal enclave indefinitely. Support for the war remains strong inside Israel, where the focus has

been on the plight of the more than 240 hostages held by Hamas and other militant groups.

Four-hour window
About 15,000 people fled northern Gaza on Tuesday – triple the number that left on Monday – according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. They

are using Gaza's main north-south highway during a daily four-hour window announced by Israel.

Those fleeing include children, older people and people with disabilities, and most walked with minimal belongings, the U.N. agency said. Some say they had to cross Israeli checkpoints, where they saw people being arrested, while others held their hands in the air and raised white flags while passing Israeli tanks.

The Israeli military said it killed one of Hamas's leading developers of rockets and other weapons, without saying where he was killed. Hamas has denied that Israeli troops have made any significant gains or entered Gaza City. It was not possible to independently confirm battlefield claims from either side.

European Union moves closer to starting accession talks with Kyiv

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, on Wednesday, formally declared that the bloc should begin accession negotiations with Ukraine, as well as Moldova. EU leaders will need to approve the recommendation when they meet in December, for accession talks to begin.



Volodymyr Zelenskyy, right, and Ursula von der Leyen attending a press conference in Kyiv, Ukraine, on November 4. AP

"Today is a historic day because today, the Commission recommends that the [European] Council opens accession negotiations with Ukraine and with Moldova," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said at a briefing in Brussels on Wednesday. Welcoming the decision, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine was reforming state institutions despite the war.

"Our country must be in the European Union," he said in a video posted on X. Reacting to the February

2022 invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the EU revived the idea of the country joining the Union and granted Ukraine candidate status in June last year.

Reforms required
Joining the EU requires potential members to align their laws and economy with the Union and its operating principles. The EU has wanted Ukraine to undertake reforms on seven dimensions, of which, Ukraine will be expected to show further progress in tackling oligarch power, fighting corruption, and – perhaps most importantly

for the EU – the rights of minorities. Ms. Von der Leyen said she was able to "convince herself" that 90% of the reforms the EU required of Kyiv had been taken and that further reforms were continuing. The European Commission also granted Georgia "candidate" status on Wednesday, with the understanding that certain reforms are carried out. With regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Commission recognised that the country had made progress on reforms, including in fighting organised crime, money laundering

and terrorism, according to Ms. Von der Leyen.

However, the EU is looking for further reform. Threats of secession and clamping down on media and LGBT rights by the autonomous Republika Srpska entity within the country have not gone down well with the EU. Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik had said in August that rather than joining the EU with its conditionalities, Bosnia and Herzegovina ought to join BRICS, a grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, with six additional countries in the process of joining the bloc.

"Enlargement is a vital policy for the European Union," Ms. Von der Leyen said. "Completing our Union is the call of history, the natural horizon of our Union." The process to membership can be long-winded. Turkiye, for example, began membership talks with the EU just over 18 years ago.

Bangladesh garment worker shot dead

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

A Bangladeshi woman was shot dead on Wednesday in the latest violent protests by garment workers after they rejected a government wage increase offer, with the victim's husband blaming the police.

"She was shot in the head... died on the way to a hospital," said Mohammad Jamal, the husband of 23-year-old sewing machine operator Anjuara Khatun, a mother of two. Jamal said that police had fired on some 400 workers calling for wage increase in the industrial city of Gazipur, outside the capital Dhaka.

U.S. House censures Taib over comments

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The U.S. House of Representatives voted on Tuesday to censure Rashida Taib, the only Palestinian-American in Congress, over her comments on the Israel-Hamas war, U.S. media reported. The Democrat was censured by Republicans and some members of her own party in a resolution that passed by 234 votes to 188.

The resolution said Ms. Taib was "promoting false narratives regarding the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel and for calling for the destruction of the state of Israel".

The censure identified a series of statements made by Ms. Taib, including a video in which she accuses President Joe Biden of supporting what she described as the "genocide" of Palestinians and calling on him to back a ceasefire.

APPOINTMENT

**Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education**

Appointment of Vice-Chancellor of The English and Foreign Languages University Hyderabad (A Central University)

The English and Foreign Languages University is an institution of excellence in higher learning and research.

The Vice-Chancellor, being the academic as well as administrative head, is expected to be:

- A person possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals, and institutional commitment.
- A distinguished academician, with a minimum of ten years of experience as a Professor in a University or ten years of experience in a reputed research and/or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership.
- Preferably not more than 65 years of age as on the closing date of receipt of application of this advertisement.

Salary and Service Conditions

The post carries a pay of Rs. 2,10,000/- (Fixed) per month with Special Allowance of Rs. 1,12,500/- and other usual allowances.

The terms and conditions of the services will be those as set forth in the Act, Statutes, and Ordinances of the University.

Procedure for appointment

Appointment will be made from a panel of names recommended by a Committee constituted under the provisions of The English and Foreign Languages University Act, 2006.

The detailed advertisement along with other necessary information are available on the websites <https://www.education.gov.in> and <https://www.eflu.ac.in>.

The applications in the prescribed format should reach within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement, by Email only

Email address: akumar.doe@nic.in

*Application for the post of Vice Chancellor, EFLU should be the subject of email.

This Department is not responsible for any delays

Date: 09-11-2023

**UT OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)**

Ph: 0484232448/458
Web: www.ldcl.nic.in
E-mail: aminidivi@asianetindia.com

F.No: LDCL/Steamer-2
Dt : 01.11.2023

RE-TENDER

E-tender is invited for engagement of Steamer agents for rendering Steamer Agency Service for complete fleet of vessels operated by LDCL.

For details and E-tendering please visit websites <https://www.tenderwizard.com/UTL> and <https://tendersutl.gov.in> Tender due on 22.11.2023 at 11.00 AM. Help Desk No. 080-40482000 / 9605557738 / 9686115318 (<https://tenderwizard.com/UTL>) and 0120-4001002, 4001005, 6277787 (<https://tendersutl.gov.in>).

Sd/- MD (LDCL)

**Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No.C.C.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 39 / 2023-24**

e-mail : ccekeonjharpcdw@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No.6017, dt.04.11.2023

- No of the work :- 3 number Building Works.
- Estimated cost :- Rs.216.70 Lakhs to Rs.411.03 Lakhs.
- Class of Contractor :- "B" & "A" Class
- Period of completion :- 05 (Five) Calendar Months to 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
- Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal :- From 11.00 Hours of 13.11.2023 to 16.00 Hours of 22.11.2023.
- Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :- 16.00 Hours of 22.11.2023
- Date of opening of Bid from Portal :- 11.30 Hours on 23.11.2023
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid :- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>"

Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.

B-1213: OIPR-34033/11/0054/2324

E-mailID=sectrb_2006@yahoo.co.in; Tel/Fax - 0671-2301751/2302751
Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK ('e' - PROCUREMENT NOTICE)

Bid Identification No.CCE.Gtc.(R&B)24/2023-24

- The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building works as mentioned below.
- No. of work : 03 Nos.
- Nature of work : Building Works.
- Class of contractor : 'A' Class
- Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10000/- (Online)
- Available of bid document in the web site : From 09.11.2023 to 17.30 Hours of 20.11.2023
- Date of opening of bid : Dt. 21.11.2023 at 11.00 Hours.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle

B-1220: OIPR-34012/11/0038/2324

**ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.**

Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-mail - mdosscttd456@gmail.com

NIT No.OSSC/Mktg(Hort)-44/2023

Short e-Tender Call Notice

OSSC Ltd. invites e-Tender from Registered Private Nursery Owner Licensed from Directorate of Horticulture or any other Govt Institute or Licensed Suppliers dealing with Horticultural Planting Materials on item wise rate contract basis for Procurement of different planting materials for the year 2023-24 in double cover system through online mode only for the work below.

Name of the work	Purchase of following for the year 2023-24 1. APPLE BER BUDDED/GRAFTED PLANTLET, 2. Apple ber Budded/ Grafted Plant, 3. Apple Budded / Grafted Plant, 4. Custard Apple Graft, 5. Passion Fruit Planting Material, 6. Avocado Planting Material
No of work	Six
Availability of Bid Documents in Portal	15.00 hrs of dt. 09.11.2023 to 17.00 hrs of dt.18.11.2023
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hrs of dt.18.11.2023
Date and Time Opening of Bid	10.30 hrs of dt.20.11.2023

The detailed descriptions of varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd., BBSR

CAD-2773: OIPR-01106/11/0063/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
CENTRAL IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR.**

"e" Procurement Notice No. ACECIC-11/2023-24

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs. in E.M.D.)	Cost of Bid documents (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Bid documents available online for bidding		Date of opening of Technical Bid	Period of completion of work
							From	To		
ACE, GIC, Bhubaneswar	PID-10/2023-24	Renovation of Madhipur Minor from RD.0.00 Km to 5.300 Km and Anantapur Minor from RD.0.00 Km to 2.704 Km under Kanak Branch Canal System	780.18	780200/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" & "Special" Class	10.11.2023	24.11.2023	28.11.2023	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)

e-mail ID:- secic_dowr@yahoo.com
Further details conditions can be seen from Govt. website: www.tenderodisha.gov.in

Additional Chief Engineer, Central Irrigation Circle

A-798: OIPR-32160/11/0058/2324

**WATCO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO**

Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan,
H.B.Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Telefax: +91-674-2391444; E-mail - ceowatcoodisha@gmail.com; md@watcoodisha.in

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) - Bid Identification No. WATCOIW-35/2023-24, Dtd.06.11.2023

WATCO No.6946, Date: 06.11.2023

- Name of the work : " Procurement of ISI marked DI K-9 & K-7, socket & spigot pressure pipes of different diameters for WATCO Division-I, Bhubaneswar."
- Types of Bid : Double Cover (Technical & Financial)
- Estimated Cost : Rs.960.34 Lakh
- Period of completion : 2 (Two) Months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal. : From 11.00 AM of Dt.09.11.2023 to 5.00 PM of 23.11.2023
- Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal : 5.00 PM of 23.11.2023
- Date & Time of opening of technical bids : 12.30 PM of 24.11.2023
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : CEO, WATCO
Telefax:- 0674-2391444.
E-Mail : ceowatcoodisha@gmail.com; md@watcoodisha.in ; ee@phibbs@ori.nic.in
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in

CEO, WATCO

C-1772: OIPR-13194/11/0058/2324

**ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.**

Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-mail - mdosscttd456@gmail.com

Tender No.OSSC/Mktg(Hort) - 46/2023

Short e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of Certified Coriander Seeds for Rabi-2023-24

OSSC Ltd., invites Short e-Tender only from Registered Coriander Seed Producers (and in case of GOI PSUs, their authorized Agencies) on item wise rate contract basis for procurement of Certified Coriander Seeds for Rabi-2023-24 in double Cover System only through Online Mode only for the work below.

Name of the work	Purchase of Certified Coriander Seeds for Rabi - 2023-24
Nos of work	One
Availability of Bid documents in Portal	15 hours on 09.11.2023 to 17 hours of 18.11.2023
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17 hours of 18.11.2023
Date and Time of Opening of Bid	10.30 hours of 20.11.2023

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.

CAD-2771: OIPR-01106/11/0065/2324

IN BRIEF



BHEL reported ₹238 crore consolidated net loss in Q2

State-owned engineering firm Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) reported a consolidated net loss of ₹238.12 crore for September quarter of 2023-24. The company had logged a profit of ₹12.10 crore in the year-earlier period, a BSE filing showed. Total income dipped to ₹5,305.38 crore in the quarter from ₹5,418.74 crore in the same period year earlier. The company had also reported a consolidated net loss of ₹343.89 crore in April-June period this fiscal year. PTI

Reliance Capital slips to a Q2 loss of ₹239 cr. as costs climb

Reliance Capital on Wednesday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹239 crore for the quarter ended September 30. The company had posted a net profit of ₹215 crore in the year-earlier period. Total income rose to ₹6,393 crore in the second quarter from ₹5,796 crore in the year-earlier period, Reliance Capital said in a regulatory filing. Total expenses increased to ₹6,679 crore as compared with ₹5,756 crore in the same quarter a year earlier. PTI

EID Parry reports standalone Q2 net profit of ₹86 crore

EID Parry India Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the September quarter rose marginally to ₹86 crore, from ₹85 crore in the year-earlier period, due to "export release order restrictions imposed by the Centre," the company said. Revenue from operations registered a 13% growth at ₹726 crore, the leading sugar producer said in a statement. The company's board approved an interim dividend of ₹4 per equity share, which will be payable by November 21.

U.S. to invest \$553 mn. in Adani's Sri Lanka port terminal project

U.S. International Development Finance Corp. to fund the Adani Ports' JV building a deep-water shipping container terminal in Port of Colombo

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has agreed to invest \$553 million in the Adani Ports-led container terminal project in Colombo, less than a year after U.S. investment research firm Hindenburg Research accused the Adani Group of pulling the "largest con in corporate history".

The DFC seeks to drive private-sector investments that "advance development and economic growth while strengthening the strategic positions of our partners," CEO Scott Nathan said at a media conference in Colombo on Wednesday.

The investment in the West Container Terminal, which Mr. Nathan termed as "impressive" after a visit to the facility, is aimed at catering to growing economies in the region, by taking advantage of Sri Lanka's prime location along major shipping routes, according to U.S. officials.

'Compromise deal'

Adani Ports signed a \$700-million deal with the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) and Sri Lankan conglomerate John Keells Holdings in September 2021 to jointly develop the terminal. The move fol-



Porting in: U.S. DFC CEO Scott Nathan is 'glad' that a consortium that includes the Sri Lankan government is executing the project. AP

lowed an abrupt decision by former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa - he was ousted from power by a people's uprising during last year's economic meltdown - to eject the governments of India and Japan out of the East Container Terminal project at the same port. His government had said the West terminal was offered to India as "a compromise", and that Adani Ports was brought in as New Delhi's "nominee".

Subsequently, the Colombo West International Terminal Pvt. Ltd. was set up as a consortium comprising Adani Ports (51% stake), John Keells and SLPA to execute the project on a Build-Operate-Transfer basis spanning 35 years.

Asked about the DFC's decision to invest in a project led by the Adani Group, which is facing a regulatory probe in the

wake of Hindenburg Research's allegations of accounting fraud and stock price manipulation, Mr. Nathan sought to underplay the allegations.

'Unit not implicated'

"I don't think Adani Ports, the subsidiary, was implicated in any of the allegations you mention," Mr. Nathan told a group of foreign correspondents on the sidelines of the event.

The U.S. and the DFC were "committed to high standards that includes transparency and due diligence of partners," the U.S. official asserted.

"We are highly focused on anti-corruption and sustainability," he said, adding that he was "very glad" that a consortium, which included the Government of Sri Lanka, was executing the Colombo terminal project.

'RBI may cut rates in 2024-25 if food inflation is tamed'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings expects the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to cut interest rates in 2024-25 if food inflation and the monsoon don't play spoilsport next year, and believes India would stick to its indicated fiscal glide path till 2026 despite the extension of the free food grain scheme by adjusting other spends.

The rating major, which expects India's GDP to grow 6% this year and 6.9% the next two years, said the country's economic growth shines brightly among its BBB- to A-rated peers in the Asia-Pacific region, but higher rates pose a fiscal headwind.

Indian government bond yields, which have historically been higher than its peers, still remain high and put additional pressure on the cost of funding the country's large debt stock, it noted. "While growth supports market confidence and revenue generation, rates dynamics will be an additional determinant of India's debt trajectory over the next few years," the firm said in a note on Asia-Pacific Credit Outlook for 2024.

Vishrut Rana, senior economist, Asia-Pacific at S&P Global said monetary policy is likely to be a key economic theme through 2024, in the backdrop of the "higher for longer" interest rates in the U.S.

In India's case, headline inflationary pressures are likely to remain controlled



over the next several months and that means there is room for the central bank to consider normalising monetary policy, though the central bank is likely to keep one eye on financial stability and the other on exchange rates and capital flow stability amid tight global conditions.

'Swing factor'

"Having said that, we do expect that interest rates will be lower in the next fiscal year. The RBI is likely to proceed to cut interest rates, while inflationary pressures remain under control," Mr. Rana said, adding that food inflation will always remain the "swing factor" for India. "As long as we see normal monsoons next year, interest rates are likely to be headed lower," he concluded.

On the extension of the free foodgrains scheme for five more years and concerns that more freebies could be announced ahead of the general elections, possibly denting India's fiscal health, the rating firm's sovereign ratings director Andrew Wood said they may not have a major impact in the medium-term.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	64,976	0.05
US Dollar	83.30	-0.03
Gold	61,350	-0.24
Brent oil	80.64	-2.79

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2,259.95	26.60
Adani Ports	818.70	21.15
Apollo Hosp	5,110.95	-25.90
Asian Paints	3,095.25	61.90
Axis Bank	1,021.70	0.80
Bajaj Auto	5,397.60	-21.40
Bajaj Finserv	1,575.50	-5.70
Bajaj Finance	7,459.25	-35.65
Bharti Airtel	936.75	-0.40
BPCL	384.20	11.40
Britannia Ind	4,670.60	15.40
Cipla	1,241.00	24.55
Coal India	317.40	-3.15
Divis Lab	3,490.90	-9.50
Dr Reddys Lab	5,453.55	49.20
Eicher Motors	3,550.30	41.25
Grasim Ind	1,933.85	12.30
HCL Tech	1,267.65	-6.30
HDFC Bank	1,491.55	4.30
HDFC Life	618.75	-3.70
Hero MotoCorp	3,132.10	1.85
Hindalco	488.05	3.50
Hind Unilever	2,519.35	22.90
ICI Bank	935.75	-12.35
Indusind Bank	1,488.55	-2.55
Infosys	1,391.00	-13.30
ITC	436.95	4.25
JSW Steel	756.70	-8.10
Kotak Bank	1,746.25	-5.00
L&T	2,996.45	35.15
LTI Mindtree Ltd.	5,233.40	46.45
M&M	1,487.40	-7.65
Maruti Suzuki	10,322.30	69.00
NestleIndia	24,281.55	-87.95
NTPC	236.70	-2.45
ONGC	195.35	2.15
PowerGrid Corp	207.00	-1.00
Reliance Ind	2,335.90	12.10
SBI Life	1,345.50	4.65
State Bank	580.30	0.55
Sun Pharma	1,176.70	-5.75
TataConsumerProduct	916.30	-5.75
Tata Motors	642.55	-2.45
Tata Steel	119.05	-0.60
TCS	3,381.55	11.10
Tech Mahindra	11,319.15	-9.85
Titan	3,311.85	41.65
UltraTech Cement	8,698.85	13.10
UPL	555.70	-3.70
Wipro	382.20	-1.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 08

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.07	83.39
Euro	88.59	88.93
British Pound	101.78	102.18
Japanese Yen (100)	55.09	55.30
Chinese Yuan	11.41	11.45
Swiss Franc	92.08	92.44
Singapore Dollar	61.20	61.45
Canadian Dollar	60.25	60.48
Malaysian Ringgit	17.14	17.82
Australian Dollar	53.36	53.57

Source: Indian Bank

Tata Power Q2 net profit grows 9% to ₹1,017 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Power Ltd. reported consolidated second-quarter net profit grew 9% to ₹1,017 crore year-on-year on strong fundamentals of all its businesses, including renewables, CEO & MD Praveer Sinha said.

This is the company's 16th consecutive quarter of growth in net profit. The company said it had maintained strong financial performance on the back of a healthy balance sheet, operational excellence, and synergies across all business clusters.

Revenue climbs 9% Consolidated revenue rose by 9% to ₹15,442 crore, largely driven by higher revenue from core businesses of generation, transmission and distribution.



During the quarter, 84% of contribution to the company's PAT came from the core businesses, while the contributions from overseas joint ventures, including coal mining operations, continued to decline.

"Our adherence to financial discipline, operational excellence along with business resilience and diversification helped us in maintaining this consistent profit growth," he added. Dr. Sinha said the com-

pany was constantly focusing on new areas of growth such as the greenfield solar cell and module manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu which had produced its first module in this quarter and was on track to roll out the first cell into Q4FY24.

"We are continually taking significant strides in enabling green-energy transition by supplying round-the-clock renewable energy with hybrid solar and wind plants along with pumped storage plants."

The clean-energy portfolio reached a capacity of 5,500 MW during Q2 FY24, standing at 38% of total installed generation capacity. In the next two years, renewable energy would constitute 50% of total capacity. Dr. Sinha said by 2030, about 70% of the company's installed capacity would be clean energy.

Biocon arm inks ₹366-cr. deal with Eric Lifesciences

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Biocon Biologics Ltd. (BBL), a subsidiary of Biocon, has entered into a definitive agreement with Eris Lifesciences (Eris) for divesting its dermatology and nephrology branded formulations business units in India for ₹366 crore, the company said in a statement on Wednesday.

The transaction is a 'slump sale' that will enable a seamless transfer of the product brands and employees associated with these businesses. Total transaction value of the divestment includes working capital conveyed as part of the deal and represents an accretive multiple of 4x on revenues and 22x on EBITDA, Biocon said.

With ₹7,000 cr., Dabur India scouts for acquisitions

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Homegrown FMCG maker Dabur India, armed with a cash reserve of ₹7,000 crore, is scouting for acquisitions in the healthcare and home & personal care segments, according to its CEO Mohit Malhotra.

Dabur is also looking for acquisitions in the online space; and with several Direct to Consumer brands operating in the space, it finds valuations "more reasonable" now and will pursue targets if it finds a suitable one, he said.

The company is scaling its presence in the online

space where it plans to introduce more innovations under existing brands and through inorganic opportunities.

"We do not want to do any organic new brand launches with the exception of skincare and premium skincare that we are not present in," Mr. Malho-

tra said. "That is where we might do an exception otherwise we look at it to see acquisitions," he added.

If Dabur gets any "reasonable valuation", then it might look at an acquisition for which it has "around ₹7,000 crore lying in our balance sheet," he added.

Indian insurers said to lead bids for Reliance Industries' mega bond sale

Reuters
MUMBAI

Reliance Industries' upcoming bond issue, touted to be the second-biggest for an Indian firm, will see strong demand from insurers, with aggressive bidding enabling the conglomerate to borrow at rates that just top the sovereign yield, several merchant bankers said.

The billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led company aims to raise up to ₹200 billion via 10-year bonds on Thursday, its first such fundraise since May 2020. "There is demand from

Touted to be India's second-biggest corporate bond issue, RIL aims to raise up to ₹200 billion

long-term investors like insurance and pension funds. There has been a limited number of corporate bonds issuance in longer tenor in the last two quarters, so, this RIL issue comes at an opportune time," said Badrish Kulhali, head of fixed income at HDFC Life Insurance. In February, HDFC raised ₹250 billion via 10-

year bonds at 7.97% coupon, making it the biggest bond issue by an Indian company.

"Reliance's longer-tenor bond issue is attractive and we expect around 50%-70% of the issue size to be taken up by LIC, and another 10%-20% by a state-run provident fund house," a banker aware of the development said. Reliance and LIC did not reply to Reuters emails seeking comment.

The company is likely to receive bids in the range of 7.70%-7.80%, around 30-40 basis points (bps) above the 10-year benchmark go-

vernment bond yield on an annualised basis, traders said.

Reliance's bonds, rated AAA by CRISIL, are partly paid where 50% of the issue size will be paid on allotment day, which is Friday and the remainder on December 15.

"The partly paid debenture structure, with staggered redemption, suits mainly insurance companies," said Venkatakrishnan Srinivasan, founder, Rockfort Fincap.

Reliance said it will use proceeds from the issue to refinance existing borrowings, and on capex.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001
Phone No. - 0175-2207649, Email id - se-it-so@pspcil.com
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry No. 307/DIT-1118/(Vol-1) dated 07-11-2023
Dy. CE/IT(O&S) Fourth Floor PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala invites e-tender for AMC of VMware for PSPCL. For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 07.11.2023, 4:00 pm onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.
C-795/23 76155/12/2376/2023/29622

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CORRIGENDUM

Tender Ref. No.: KMC/D.G.(TNP)/61/2023-2024, Tender ID No.: 2023_KMC_560632_1 Published in this Newspaper on 29.08.2023 (Key No. 646/23-24) of TP&DD/TNP Department. Last date and time of submission of bid (online) will be 15.12.2023 upto 2 p.m. instead of 09.11.2023 upto 2 p.m. Bid opening date and time for technical proposal (online) will be 15.12.2023 at 3 p.m. instead of 09.11.2023 at 3 p.m. All other important dates and terms and conditions shall however remain unaltered as thereof in the original tender notice/document.
932/23-24

THE GADAG CO-OPERATIVE TEXTILE MILL LTD HULKOTI - 582205
DIST : GADAG KARNATAKA STATE
MD NO. 9901050892 Secretary No. 9448389666/7618736663
EMAIL : gadagcooptex@yahoo.co.in

Tender Number : GCTM/"E" Tender/Lease/29/845 Dated: 09/11/2023

LEASE TENDER NOTIFICATION
through "E PROCUREMENT" PORTAL (Extended First Time)

Ref Permission from : Commissioner for Textile Development and Director of Handlooms, Textiles GOK Bangalore Dated 23.08.2023

Invited "E Procurement" "TENDER FOR LEASE" THE GADAG CO-OPERATIVE TEXTILE MILLS LTD HULKOTI from prescribed bidders through (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) More Details can get from E-Portal Website.

E Tender documents can be downloaded : 09.11.2023 Onwards from portal
Last date and time for Bid Submission : 20.12.2023 at 05.00 PM
Date and time for Technical Bid Opening : 21.12.2023 at 11.00 AM
Date and time for Financial Bid Opening : 22.12.2023 at 11.00 AM
EMD : Rs.10 Lakhs

NOTE: Both Technical and Financial Bids are opened at the Mill Premises
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Short Tender Notice No: 55/2023-24/SE-III/EE-III/DB/GV/MC/ Dt: 07.11.2023
Number of Works : 1 No. Value of Works (ECV) : Rs.163.03 Lakhs
Downloading Starting Date : 08.11.2023 @ 2.00 P.M.,
Downloading End Date : 15.11.2023 @ 2.00 P.M.,
Last Date for Submission of bid : 15.11.2023 @ 3.00 P.M.,
Further details at <http://www.aperecurement.gov.in>,
O/o the Executive Engineer (PW-III) Division, Ph: 9489 33239 For Commissioner

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
HEAD OFFICE : 12, THAMBUSAMY ROAD, KILPAUK, CHENNAI - 600010
Ph. No. (044) 26426773 Email id : tnccsc@nicl.in CIN : U15137TN1972SG0086157
BS6/042085/2023

SHORT - E-TENDER NOTICE Dated: 08.11.2023
Short E-Tender No : BS6/042085/2023-TNCCSC/23-24
Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites Online electronic tender for Purchase of "60,000 Metric Tonnes of Tur dal (Split-Husked & Fatka) (Indigenous) / Tur Dal (Split Husked -Imported) / Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Split - Husked & Laired No.2) / Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Whole - Husked & Laired No.2) as per AGMARK specifications."

Complete short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded from <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgepp/app>
The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III
Last Date and Time for Online Submission : Upto 11.30 A.M. on 22.11.2023
DIPR/ 5965 /TENDER/2023 MANAGING DIRECTOR

DDU-GKY
GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
STATE RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION
PUDUCHERRY

No.SM/250211/DAY/PSRLM/DDU-GKY/Sagamala Conv/2021-22 dt. 08.11.2023

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS UNDER SAGARMALA, Daval Upadhya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY) CONVERGENCE PROGRAMME IN THE STATE OF PUDUCHERRY

Proposals invited to implement Sagarmala, DDU-GKY convergence project for skilling and placement of 751 rural youths in Puducherry/ Karaikal. Interested Project Implementing Agencies may submit their proposals online at <https://erp.ddugky.gov.in> and advised to go through the detailed guidelines and SOPs of DDU-GKY available on 21st November, 2023 on www.ddugky.gov.in before applying online.

STATE MISSION DIRECTOR - CUM-PROJECT DIRECTOR PUDUCHERRY, SRLM

DIFFERENT GOALS

I thought about getting to 200 but Maxi thought about win: Cummins



EMMANUAL YOGINI
Pat Cummins said that he thought winning was out of question when he walked in at 91/7. "I thought if we can somehow scratch to 200, our net run rate should be pretty good for the semifinal. But Maxi thought differently, he was kind of mapping out how he was going to do it. I was just trying to survive," said Cummins.

AFGHAN COACH'S ANGUISH

Trott wishes there was rule to station fielders in the stands



GETTY IMAGES
As Glenn Maxwell's shots kept soaring into the Mumbai skyline, Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott wished there was a rule to station fielders in the stands as that was the only way to get him out. Maxwell made the most of a dropped catch to score 201 n.o. (128b, 21x4, 10x6).

KNOCK FOR THE AGES

Kohli lauds 'Freak' Maxwell's double ton against Afghanistan



EMMANUAL YOGINI
Virat Kohli heaped praise on RCB teammate Glenn Maxwell for a knock for the ages that helped five-time champion Australia seal a spot in the semifinals. Kohli took to his *Instagram* story and posted a special post for Maxwell. Sharing an image of 'Big Show' Maxwell, Kohli wrote, "Only you could do this. Freak."

INDIAN DOMINATION

Gill and Siraj take the top spots in the ICC ODI rankings



EMMANUAL YOGINI
India opener Shubman Gill and pacer Mohammed Siraj on Wednesday grabbed the top positions in the batting and bowling charts respectively in the ICC ODI rankings. While Gill replaced Pakistan skipper Babar Azam from the top of the batters' chart, Siraj displaced South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj in the bowlers' list.

With a semifinal spot on the line, Kiwis take on wounded Lankans

A victory for New Zealand will see it edge ahead of Afghanistan and Pakistan on net run-rate while a washout will give the other two teams a lifeline; the islanders would look to sign off with a win and boost their Champions Trophy chances

ODI WORLD CUP

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

With Australia having sealed a semifinal spot with an epic win on Tuesday night, the race is on to grab the fourth and last remaining berth.

New Zealand will emerge as the frontrunner to win this sprint, if the side can post a victory over Sri Lanka at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Wednesday. This will take the Kiwis two points clear of the chasing pack - Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Crucially, New Zealand holds the advantage with the best net run rate among the three teams.

New Zealand needs to shake off a recent slump of four consecutive defeats. The most recent slip came at this venue at the hands of Pakistan. New Zealand was comfortably placed after scoring 401 for six, but a fine century from



K. MURALI KUMAR
Gearing up: New Zealand will look to bring its A-game in what will be a crucial contest.

Fakhar Zaman and incessant rain ruined the party. Skipper Kane Williamson must now wonder what constitutes a par score in this notoriously high-scoring ground.

Rain threat

Rain is once again predicted to arrive on Thursday, which could spell disaster for New Zealand. If the

match is abandoned without a result, the doors will be left wide open for Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The return of fast bowler Lockie Ferguson, out for the last two outings with an injury, strengthens New Zealand's attack.

Ferguson could take the place of leg-spinner Ish Sodhi, who went for 44

runs in his four overs against Pakistan.

The stage is perfectly set for Rachin Ravindra, with roots in this city, to shine. Ravindra, who scored a century here on Saturday, will go to the top of the tournament run-scorer list with one more good showing.

Sri Lanka, out of the reckoning, plays for pride.

Today's match
New Zealand vs Sri Lanka
Bengaluru, 2 p.m.
H2H IN ODIs
New Zealand 51 | Sri Lanka 41 | Tied 1 | NR 8
EYE ON THE SKY
High: 30°C
Low: 20°C
Generally cloudy with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
SOURCE: IMC

We can't control the weather, our focus is on the cricket: Williamson

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

The rain prediction for the crucial New Zealand-Sri Lanka match here on Thursday does not faze New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson.

"We can't control the weather. There may be a thought in the back of your mind, but at the end of the day, our focus is on the cricket," Williamson said in a press conference here on Wednesday.

Williamson described

Glenn Maxwell's master-class knock against Afghanistan on Tuesday as an "incredibly special knock".

"It was an incredibly special knock. Not just the runs, but the situation, as he was clearly struggling physically. To be able to pull that off, and in a partnership with Pat Cummins is without doubt one of the great World Cup victories," Williamson said.

"At the same time, it was a tough one for Afghanistan. They've been excellent, and they probably

won 80 to 90% of that game. In white ball cricket, things can change quickly," he added.

Sri Lanka assistant coach Naveed Nawaz stated that the side is keen to finish in the top-eight in order to qualify for the Champions Trophy 2025.

"This is a crucial game. The Champions Trophy scenario says we need to win it. Our preparation was like any other game. Everyone is very positive," Nawaz said.



K. MURALI KUMAR
Centre of attention: The Sri Lankan players watch as Mathews displays his football skills.

Baffling why Kiwis used the spinners to complete 20 overs and let DLS come into play



Sunil Gavaskar

After one of the most astonishing innings in World Cup history by Glenn Maxwell, can we expect the rest of the games to reach the same level of excellence? Or even come anywhere close to it?

If indeed, one of the games produces something even remotely similar then this will be a truly unforgettable World Cup, never mind who wins it.

As luck would have it, the 1983 World Cup-winning team had gathered for an event in Delhi that evening and while we didn't actually see Maxwell's innings, we all could relate to it because we had been blessed to witness

our skipper make 175 not out after we had been reduced to 17 for five.

The team, inspired by the innings and also sensing a change in fortunes, went on to win the World Cup.

Australia could well do the same after such a phenomenal effort and poor Afghanistan will have to lift themselves up in a superhuman effort for their last game and try and qualify for the knockouts.

New Zealand, too, after a string of defeats brought about more by some ordinary captaincy than anything else, will also need to find extra motivation to defeat the already eliminated Sri Lanka side to keep themselves in the hunt for a place in the semifinals.

New Zealand captain and the coach need to be asked why, despite rain clouds hovering and know-

ing that the DLS method will favour the team batting second, it was decided to go with spinners at both ends and complete 20 overs (the minimum required for the DLS method to come into play).

The rains came down almost immediately after and Pakistan got a lifeline by winning.

Even in the earlier games it was baffling why James Neesham who bowls the perfect pace and length for batters to hit into the stands was given the ball especially in the final overs.

He may get the odd wicket but it usually comes at a heavy price.

The weather may also play a part and if New Zealand aren't cricket smart they could be packing their bags for the long trip home.

(Professional Management Group)

Relaxed Indian team trains at Chinnaswamy

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

It was a typically quiet homecoming for India head coach Rahul Dravid at the team's optional training session at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Wednesday.

India takes on the Netherlands in its last league game here on Sunday. Former India and Karnataka captain Dravid, among the first to enter the field, had a close look at the pitch that will be used for the New Zealand-Sri Lanka clash here on Thursday. He took some time out to chat with an old friend - former India and Karnataka left-arm spinner Raghuram Bhat.

Kohli takes rest

Virat Kohli, on the cusp of breaking Sachin Tendulkar's ODI century record, gave the session a miss.

Skipper Rohit Sharma, sporting a relaxed orange tank top, did not bat, but engaged in a lengthy, animated discussion with Shreyas Iyer and Shubman Gill.

Shreyas and Gill hammered big shots aplenty, eliciting nervy screams of 'watch out!' as the ball whizzed dangerously towards unsuspecting onlookers.

Bowlers bat first

Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah were given first strike with the bat.

After his stint, Bumrah held court with an enthu-



K. MURALI KUMAR
Batting clinic: Bumrah teaches Siraj the way to wield the willow.



K. MURALI KUMAR
Perfect all-rounder: Jadeja showcases his skills with a baseball bat.

siastic group of net bowlers. When Bumrah bowled, he hit Ishan Kishan with a rising delivery.

Down for the count

Kishan was down for the count, before eventually getting back on his feet to resume batting duties.

Fast bowler Prasidh Krishna, yet to get a game in this World Cup, bowled at full tilt for nearly the full session.



K. MURALI KUMAR
Holding court: Rohit gives tips to Shreyas and Gill as batting coach Rathour looks on.

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Stokes and Malan keep England's Champions Trophy hopes alive

The all-rounder's maiden hundred in the 50-over showpiece and the opener's 87 pilot Buttler's men to 339; Woakes chips in with a half-century; Moeen and Rashid spin the side to a 160-run win; the loss sends the Dutchmen packing

ODI WORLD CUP

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

Ben Stokes is no stranger to the Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium, having hit his maiden Indian Premier League at the same venue in 2017. Despite having had a quiet tournament so far, Stokes finally came to the party to set up England's win over the Netherlands in its penultimate World Cup fixture.

Stokes' stroke-filled century and his 129-run partnership with Chris Woakes for the seventh wicket ensured Dawid Malan's good work at the top did not go waste.

Once England ran away with the last 10 overs to pile on 339 for nine, its highest tally of the tournament, the Netherlands crumbled in the chase.

The 160-run win – only the second win for the defending champion – meant England remained in the race to finish in top eight and qualify for the 2025 Champions Trophy.

Had it not been for Stokes and Woakes' pyrotechnics, it may have been staring down the barrel in the European Derby.

Stokes took guard in the 21st over after Joe Root's attempted reverse-swinging shot resulted in the ball squeezing between his pads and crashing into the stumps.

At 133 for two, and Malan racing towards his second century, England was in control.

But Malan was involved in a needless run-out soon after and Netherlands choked the run-flow to



In sublime touch: Stokes' match-swinging century contained six fours and six sixes. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

put an underwhelming England middle-order in distress. The Netherlands picked five for 59 in the 15-over passage to leave England reeling at 192 for six in the 36th.

Stokes had held one end together and he found an ally in Woakes.

Even when the latter was playing freely, the former preferred to be restrained.

Only in the 43rd over did the left-hander open his shoulders up to dispatch Bas de Leede over midwicket fence to raise his fifty.

Floodgates open

That over opened the floodgates as England added a whopping 110 runs in the last eight overs.

Off-spinner Aryan Dutt, the pick of the Dutch bow-

lers with figures of 9-0-43-2 – was taken to the cleaners in his last over.

On either side of a contentious lbw DRS review going in Stokes' favour, the left-hander tonked three sixes and a four off Dutt in the 45th over that went for 24 runs.

Reverse sweep

He brought up his hundred by reverse-sweeping pacer Paul van Meekeren in the 48th over.

Woakes went after de Leede in the next over to bring up his fifty to take the target well out of the Netherlands' reach.

The England bowling unit complemented the batting group's effort as it picked up wickets at regular intervals to seal things in the 38th over.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

Jonny Bairstow c van Meekeren b Dutt 15 (17b, 2x4), Dawid Malan run out 87 (74b, 10x4, 2x6), Joe Root b van Beek 28 (35b, 1x4), Ben Stokes c Engelbrecht b van Beek 108 (84b, 6x4, 6x6), Harry Brook c Ackermann b de Leede 11 (16b, 2x4), Jos Buttler c Nidamanuru b van Meekeren 5 (11b), Moeen Ali c de Leede b Dutt 4 (15b), Chris Woakes c Edwards b de Leede 51 (45b, 5x4, 1x6), David Willey c Engelbrecht b de Leede 6 (2b, 1x6), Gus Atkinson (not out) 2 (1b), Adil Rashid (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (w-20, nb-1): 21; Total (for nine wickets in 50 overs): 339.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-48 (Bairstow, 6.6 overs), 2-133 (Root, 20.2), 3-139 (Malan, 21.6), 4-164 (Brook, 26.5), 5-178 (Buttler, 30.1), 6-192 (Moeen, 35.2), 7-321 (Woakes, 48.4), 8-327 (Willey, 48.6), 9-334 (Stokes, 49.4).

NETHERLANDS BOWLING

Dutt 10-0-67-2, van Beek 10-0-88-2, van Meekeren 10-0-57-1, de Leede 10-0-74-3, van der Merwe 3-0-22-0, Ackermann 7-0-31-0.

NETHERLANDS

Wesley Barresi run out 37 (62b, 3x4, 1x6), Max O'Dowd c Moeen b Woakes 5 (11b, 1x4), Colin Ackermann c Buttler b Willey 0 (2b), Sybrand Engelbrecht c

Woakes b Willey 33 (49b, 3x4, 1x6), Scott Edwards c Malan b Moeen 38 (42b, 3x4, 1x6), Bas de Leede b Adil Rashid 10 (12b, 2x4), Teja Nidamanuru (not out) 41 (34b, 2x4, 3x6), Logan van Beek c Malan b Adil Rashid 2 (2b), Roelof van der Merwe c Adil Rashid b Moeen 0 (4b), Aryan Dutt b Adil Rashid 1 (3b), Paul van Meekeren st. Buttler b Moeen 4 (3b, 1x4); Extras (lb-4, w-4): 8; Total (in 37.2 overs): 179.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-12 (O'Dowd, 4.5), 2-13 (Ackermann, 5.4), 3-68 (Barresi, 17.3), 4-90 (Engelbrecht, 22.4), 5-104 (de Leede, 25.3), 6-163 (Edwards, 34.5), 7-166 (van Beek, 34.5), 8-167 (van der Merwe, 35.4), 9-174 (Dutt, 36.4).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Woakes 7-0-19-1, Willey 7-2-19-2, Atkinson 7-0-41-0, Moeen 8.2-0-42-3, Adil Rashid 8-0-54-3. **Toss:** England; **PoM:** Stokes. England won by 160 runs.

Next assignment

ENGLAND: November 11 vs. Pakistan, Kolkata, 2 p.m.

NETHERLANDS: November 12 vs. India, Bengaluru, 2 p.m.

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
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	8	4	4	8	0.398
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)	8	2	6	4	-1.160
Netherlands (E)	8	2	6	4	-1.635

Q: Qualified | E: Eliminated



Final nail: van Meekeren is stumped by Buttler off Moeen to signal England's big win. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

AIFF asks its high profile secretary general — Shaji Prabhakaran — to quit

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

The All India Football Federation was hurled into crisis after its top brass decided to remove its secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran citing breach of trust. The decision appeared to be the culmination of months of disagreement happening within the executive committee over several issues related to the sports finances and administration.

According to sources, the AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey took the decision of removing Prabhakaran after consulting the executive committee members late on Tuesday.

"The All India Football



Shaji Prabhakaran. FILE PHOTO

Federation hereby announces that the services of Dr. Shaji Prabhakaran have been terminated due to breach of trust with immediate effect as of November 7, 2023," the federation said in a brief release to the media. The decision

is set to be ratified by the AIFF executive committee which will meet at Delhi on Thursday.

The AIFF deputy secretary, M. Satyanarayan, has been asked to take charge as acting secretary general till a replacement is decided on.

Arbitrary decisions

According to AIFF sources, Prabhakaran earned the displeasure of the president and executive committee members owing to some arbitrary decisions and actions.

Prabhakaran was one of the key associates of Chaubey, who swept to power in September 2022, replacing the committee led by Pra-

ful Patel, who ruled the federation for 13 years.

Under the leadership of Chaubey and Prabhakaran, the new regime took a number of decisions to reform the AIFF's functioning and announced a strategic roadmap named "Vision 2047" in January this year. The senior national men's team made it to the top-100 in the FIFA rankings for the first time since 2018 as the AIFF sought to achieve more targets under its "Vision" plan.

Recently the high profile secretary general faced a simmering discontent within the executive committee and questions were raised regarding his

high compensation and some financial decisions.

The misgivings reached such a pass that the AIFF president appointed a core committee apparently to oversee the activities of Prabhakaran in key areas of decision-making.

Prabhakaran's take

"AIFF's decision to terminate me comes as a shock. We were working as a team. Charging me for 'breach of trust' is a massive allegation. More on this later. I remain a servant of the beautiful game and thank you all who have supported me in my honest effort for Indian football," Prabhakaran later posted on X.

From Tunbridge Wells to the Wankhede — the relationship between superstitions and cricket



Trendsetters: Maxwell's unbeaten double century against Afghanistan and Kapil's 175 not out against Zimbabwe in 1983 will stand the test of time. EMMANUAL YOGINI & GETTY IMAGES

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI

It was a cold morning in Tunbridge Wells back then in 1983 and after 40 years, the warm evening at the Wankhede carried the same vibes.

It was Kapil Dev back then and it was Glenn Maxwell now.

It was 17 for five against an unheralded Zimbabwe team full of professionals playing league cricket in England back then and on Tuesday night, it was 91 for seven against an Afghanistan attack full of T20 league freelancers across the globe.

The similarities do not end there.

On June 25, 1983, team manager P.R. Man Singh didn't allow Krishnamachari Srikkanth to take a leak as

Kapil bulldozed the Peter Rawson and Kevin Curran. Everyone was told to stay put where they are till Kapil was batting.

Superstitions and cricket have had a long-standing relationship and when Maxwell was on a carnage, the Australian players were "fixated" in their designated dressing room positions till he swatted Mujeeb ur Rahaman for a six.

"I was sitting with George Bailey and Zamps (Adam Zampa) kept floating in and out. He was probably a bit nervous at the end but everyone was sort of fixated (on) where they were and sort of set up our camp," Josh Hazlewood told the media here after Australia won the game and qualified for the semifinals.

"I do not think sitting

there, there were that many nerves. It slightly crept on as the innings got going. I was just blown away by what happened and just got caught up watching like everyone else. I did not think about batting at all," Hazlewood added.

"That is No 1, I think. We have seen a hundred off 40 balls not long ago and I cannot remember an ODI innings from anyone (which) can match that," Hazlewood said.

"I am happy he is on my team – he can hit 360 (degrees). It is like bowling to SKY (Suryakumar Yadav) and Jos Buttler at times. You do not know where to put the fielders – he has got so many shots, it is hard work," said the pacer when asked about where he would bowl to Maxwell.

Stay on your feet and minimise running: physio's advice to Maxwell

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI

Australia's physiotherapist Nick Jones' advice got a "dead man" stand on his feet and the result was an epic World Cup knock that will be talked about for a long time to come.

Suffering multiple body cramps, Glenn Maxwell was done and wanted to retire during the World Cup match against Afghanistan on Tuesday night.

But Jones knew that the "best bet" for Maxwell was to just stand, minimise his running and keep going for his shots. And it worked. For both Maxwell and Australia.

Jones, who has treated Maxwell for severe cramping, advised against leaving



Words of wisdom: Physiotherapist Jones' advice to Maxwell on how to handle his discomfort worked wonders. EMMANUAL YOGINI

the field because the all-rounder's conditions would have only worsened in the dressing room.

Jones told Maxwell, "If we can keep you as upright as possible, you're going to be able to keep going from now". Maxwell had got Australia back on the reckon-

ing, lifting the side from 91 for seven but when the side was still 55 runs away from the finish line, Jones had to be summoned again.

"If you stay on your feet and minimise your running, I think you can stay out here. I think that's your best bet," Jones advised.

THE HINDU
CRICKET WORLD CUP
TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Pakistan lost by 1 wicket in the ongoing World Cup against South Africa. To which team did Pakistan lose by the same margin in the 1975 edition?
2. Who scored the first century in the ODI World Cup history?
3. Who are the only two players to have played in four World Cup Finals?

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. Damien Fleming
2. Abdul Razzaq
3. Lasith Malinga

INBRIEF



Services claims National Games men's football title

Services defeated Manipur 3-1 and won the men's football title in the 37th National Games in Fatorda on Wednesday. Christopher Kamei, Soibam Abhinash Singh (own goal) and Rahul Ramakrishnan scored for Services while Phijam Sanathoi Meetei netted for Manipur. Odisha had defeated Manipur 5-3, via the tiebreaker, to win the women's title.

Casemiro unlikely to play before Christmas

Manchester United midfielder Casemiro is unlikely to play before Christmas after a hamstring injury. Manager Erik ten Hag said Casemiro had a "really strong injury".

Bengaluru races for Nov. 11 postponed to Nov. 12

The Stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club have decided to postpone the third day of the Bengaluru winter meeting races, scheduled to run on Saturday (Nov. 11), to Sunday (Nov. 12).

Hyderabad races for Nov. 12 and 13 cancelled

The Stewards of the Hyderabad Race Club have resolved to cancel the second and third race days of Hyderabad Winter season, scheduled on Sunday (Nov. 12) & Monday (Nov. 13), due to lack of entries.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8.30 a.m.
Men's Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1 & Hotstar, 2 p.m.



Surreal: Shakhtar kept its hopes of qualifying for the last 16 with the thrilling win over Barcelona. AFP

Shakhtar stuns Barcelona

Sikan finds the only goal in the game for the Ukrainian club; Pepe becomes the oldest goalscorer in the league; City and Leipzig advance

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Manchester City and RB Leipzig became the first teams to reach the last 16 of this season's Champions League on Tuesday while Danylo Sikan's goal allowed Shakhtar Donetsk to claim a stunning win over Barcelona.

Barcelona could have booked its last-16 ticket with a victory over Shakhtar but instead the Ukrainian club kept its own hopes alive with a famous 1-0 victory in Hamburg.

Pep Guardiola's reigning champion has eased into the knockout phase with a

perfect record, a 3-0 win over Young Boys. Erling Haaland was the star for City with a brace against the Swiss side. Leipzig joined City in securing progress from Group G thanks to its 2-1 victory at Red Star Belgrade. Xavi Simons gave the German side an early lead with a lovely finish into the far corner, and Lois Openda made it 2-0 in the rain in Belgrade with his 10th goal this season.

Porto beat Royal Antwerp 2-0 in Portugal.

Paris Saint-Germain went down 2-1 to AC Milan away. Borussia Dortmund is on top of the group after beating Newcastle 2-0 in Germany, with Niclas Fullkrug and Julian Brandt scoring the goals. Atletico Madrid tops

Group E after crushing 10-man Celtic 6-0 in Spain to record its biggest win in the modern Champions League.

The results: Group E: Atletico Madrid 6 (Griezmann 6 & 60, Morata 45+2 & 76, Lino 66, Niguez 84) bt Celtic 0; Lazio 1 (Immobile 45+1) bt Feyenoord 0.

Group F: AC Milan 2 (Leao 12, Giroud 50) bt Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Skriniar 9); Borussia Dortmund 2 (Fullkrug 26, Brandt 79) bt Newcastle 0.

Group G: Red Star Belgrade 1 (Henrichs 81-og) lost to RB Leipzig 2 (Simons 8, Openda 77); Manchester City 3 (Haaland 23-pen & 51, Foden 45+1) bt Young Boys 0.

Group H: Porto 2 (Evanilson 32-pen, Pepe 90+1) bt Royal Antwerp 0; Shakhtar Donetsk 1 (Sikan 40) bt Barcelona 0.

India starts with a win over Britain in Rod Laver Cup

Sports Bureau

Manas Dhamne and Rushil Khosla won their singles and doubles matches as India won 4-2 over Britain in the first league match of the IC Rod Laver Junior Challenge Finals in San Diego, California.

The results (league): India bt Britain 4-2 (Manas Dhamne bt Joseph Mazingham 6-4, 6-0; Rushil Khosla bt Arthur Attrill 6-2, 6-1; Asmi Adkar lost to Brooke Black 2-6, 2-6; Sohini Mohanty bt Maria Ustic 6-4, 3-6, [10-7]; Rushil & Manas bt Joseph & Arthur 6-2, 6-3; Asmi & Sohini lost to Brooke & Maria 4-6, 4-6).

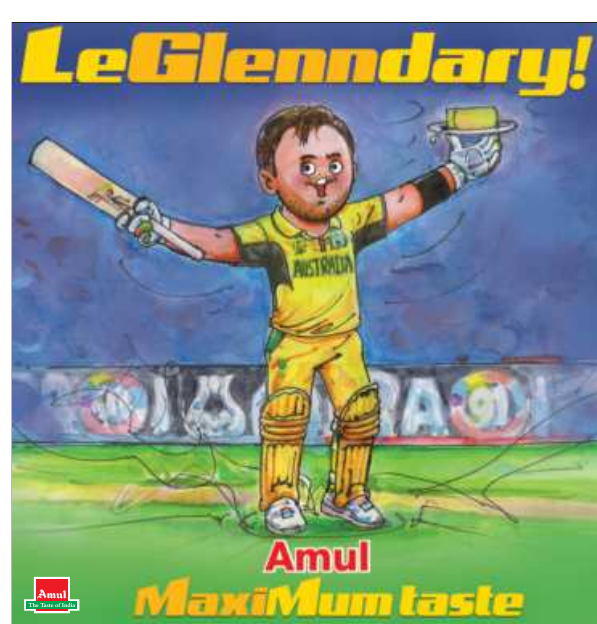
Czech Republic wins in BJK Cup Finals opener

Agence France Presse
SEVILLE

Reigning champion Switzerland suffered a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Czech Republic in its opening match of the Billie Jean King Cup Finals after Australia also lost its opening group match 2-1 to Slovenia in Seville on Tuesday.

The results:
Group B: Slovenia 2 bt Australia 1 [Kaja Juvan bt Ajla Tomljanovic 6-4, 6-1; Tamara Zidansek bt Daria Saville 6-1, 6-4; Veronika Erjavec & Ela Milic lost to Kimberly Birrell & Storm Hunter 5-7, 7-6(2), 5-10].

Group A: Czech Republic 3 bt Switzerland 0 [Linda Noskova bt Celine Naef 7-6(2), 4-6, 6-4; Marie Bouzkova bt Viktorija Golubic 6-4, 6-4; Barbora Krejckova & Katerina Siniakova bt Viktorija Golubic & Jil Teichmann 7-6(3), 6-2.



Indian teams claim two bronze medals

ASIAN ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

The Indian recurve women's team and compound men's side claimed a bronze apiece in the Asian archery championships in Bangkok on Wednesday. Parneet Kaur and V. Jyothi Surekha set up an all Indian title clash. India also made it to the women's and mixed team finals. Abhishek Verma made it to the men's individual bronze medal contest.

The results:
Recurve: Men: Individual: B. Dhiraj bt Otgonbold Baatarkhuyag (Mgl) 7-3, lost to Tang Chih-Chun (Tpe) 3-7 in QF; Tarundeep Rai bt Mohammad Hakim Ahmed Rubel (Ban) 6-4, lost to Kim Je Deok (Kor) 0-6 in QF; **Team:** India bt Malaysia 5-1, lost to Kazakhstan 4-5 (28-27) in QF. **Women: Individual:** Bhajan Kaur lost to Lim Shiyeon (Kor) 0-6; Tisha Punia lost to Hai Ligan (Chn) 1-7; **Team:** India bt Kazakhstan 5-4 (25-24), bt

Thailand 5-4 (27-21), lost to Korea 2-6 in SF, bt Chinese Taipei 5-1 in Bronze medal match.

Compound: Men: Individual: Prathamesh Fuge bt Sergey Khristich (Kaz) 146-144, lost to Abhishek Verma 147-148 in QF; Abhishek Verma bt Chen Chieh-Lun (Tpe) 145-145 (10*-10, shot closer to the centre), bt Fuge 148-147 in QF, lost to Andrey Tyutyun (Kaz) 146-148 in SF; Ojas Deotale lost to Tyutyun (Kaz) 147-149, Priyansh bt Armin Pakzad (Iri) 149-145, lost to Tyutyun 148-148 (10*-10).

Team: India bt Vietnam 236-230, lost to Kazakhstan 236-237 in SF, bt Chinese Taipei 235-235 (29-28) in Bronze medal match.

Women: Individual: Aditi Swami lost to Bonna Akter (Ban) 145-146; Muskan Kirar bt Wang Lu-Yun (Tpe) 147-136, lost to Parneet Kaur 142-146 in QF; Parneet bt Fatlin Nurfattehah (Mal) 143-141, bt Muskan 146-142 in QF; bt Viktoriya Lyan (Kaz) 147-145 in SF; V. Jyothi Surekha bt Song Yun Soo (Kor) 148-144, bt Loh Tze Chieh Contessa (Sgp) 148-141, bt Huang Ji-Jou (Tpe) 148-145.

Team: India bt Hong Kong 233-221, bt Thailand 228-217 in SF; **Mixed team:** India bt Kazakhstan 157-155 in SF.

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

NOTICE INVITING BID Date: 08.11.2023
Notice No. BLWS/08/Locomotive Manufacture and Maintenance
Project: Manufacturing and Maintenance of 500 (five hundred) 6000 HP Freight Electric Locomotives Co- Co configuration and 50 (fifty) 9000 kW High Horsepower Passenger Electric Locomotives Bo-Bo configuration (8 axles) with provision of push pull mode.
The President of India, represented by Principal Chief Materials Manager, Banaras Locomotive Works (hereinafter referred to as the "Authority"), having its principal office at Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi- India is engaged in the developmental of Railways and related infrastructure and as part of this endeavor, the Authority has decided to undertake 500 (five hundred) 6000 HP Freight Electric Locomotives Co-Co configuration and 50 (fifty) 9000 kW High Horsepower Passenger Electric Locomotives Bo-Bo configuration (8 axles) with provision of push pull mode, through single stage two packet bidding system and has to carry out the Bidding process for selection of a Bidder to whom the Project may be awarded. A brief description of the Project may be seen in the information Memorandum of the Project at the Authority's website (www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in) Brief particulars of the Project are as follows:
"Manufacturing of 500 (five hundred) 6000 HP Freight Electric Locomotives Co-Co configuration and 50 (fifty) 9000 kW High Horsepower Passenger Electric Locomotives Bo-Bo configuration (8 axles) with provision of push pull mode (the "Locomotives"), spread over a period of 05 (five) years at BLW, Varanasi by the selected bidder and Maintenance of these locomotives for a period of 35 years at 03 (three) nominated Government Depots over Indian Railways on the basis of a long term manufacturer and maintenance contract (the "Project").
The Bidding Documents can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of the Railways website <https://trep.gov.in> from 21.11.2023 onwards. Bidders must submit their Financial Bid and Technical Bid at <https://trep.gov.in> on or before up to 15.03.2024 at 11.00 hrs. Bids received online shall be opened on 15.03.2024 at 11.00 hrs IST.
Bid submitted through any other mode shall not be entertained. Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 15.03.2024 at 11.00 hrs IST. Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the Bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.
For further details, please contact:
Chief Material Manager-4,
Room No. 7A, Administration Building
Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi
Contact No. - 9794861703
Email: cmm1blw@gmail.com
Website: www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in
PRO/BLW/PR-1 PCMM
www.facebook.com/blwvaranasi Website- blw.indianrailways.gov.in

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male, (depicted in the photo), Namely: Parikshan Ram, S/o Devender Ram, R/o H.No. 1056, Near Firni Road, Shani Bazaar, Vijay Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi. Aged: About 27 years has been missing from his house since 26.10.2023. In this regard a DD No.70-A, Dated 04.11.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Parikshan Ram

Height: 5'5" feet, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Green Chekdar Shirt & Kathai Colour Lower & Hawai Chappal in Feet.

If anyone has any information about the missing male, then please inform to the following at email: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: No.011-24368639, Ph.:011-24368638, 24368641.

S.H.O
P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No. 01-35881343, 011-27907500
DP/12866/RD/2023



SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), Namely: Disha Kirola D/o Jagat Singh R/o House No. 22/23 A-3, Upper Ground Floor, Rajpur Khurd Extension, New Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 30.10.2023 from Budh Bazar Chowk, Rajpura Khurd, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 541/2023 dated 30.10.2023 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at Police Station Maidan Garhi, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 17 Years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Red Colour Top & Light Blue Colour Jeans, Dark Blue Colour Jacket and White Colour Shoes in feet.

If anyone having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Maidan Garhi, Delhi at E-mail ld-cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: SHO 011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Maidan Garhi, Delhi
South Distt., Delhi
Ph. No. 9799738598, 7065569295
DP/12763/SD/2023

SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMEN

General public is here by informed that one women (depicted in the Photo) Namely: Suman W/o: Kailash Kumar, R/o: A-92, Doctor wali Gali, Kondli, Delhi Age: 34 Years, Height: about 5". **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Purple color Suit and Salwar and Black Slipper in Feet. Missing Since 07.10.2023 by 10.00 pm along with her boy Namely- Sachin Age- 04 Years from her home under area of PS Ghazipur, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 78A dated 07.10.2023 has been lodged at PS Ghazipur, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this women but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this women kindly inform to the following:

S.H.O
E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in P.S.- Ghazipur, Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. 011-22610068, 8750870625
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-24368638, 24368641
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/12606/ED/2023



U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

E-Tender Notice
E-Tender No. SD-972 online E-Bids are invited for "02 Years Operation and Maintenance Work at different 09 Nos. 132kV Substations of UPPTCL". E-Tender has been uploaded on 07.11.2023 on www.etender.up.nic.in Estimated Cost of work: Rs. 6.13 Crore (GST Extra) only. Completion Period: 24 months, E.M.D. Cost: Rs. 6,13,000.00 only. Last date of E-tender submission: 23.11.2023 at 15:30 Hrs. Total Quantum of Work, Tender Specification and Other Terms & Conditions are as per Tender Document Available on the E-tender Portal. Undersigned reserves the right to cancel the E-Bids without assigning any reason.
Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.
Superintending Engineer, ESDC-I, UPPTCL
RO NO: 387 Dated: 08.11.2023

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Ramlochan Mehto S/o Bhaglu Mehto R/o Khasra No. 07/02/14, H.No. 17/01, Gali No. 6, Village Jharoda Majra, Sangam Vihar, Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 523/2017 U/s 279/304-A IPC, P.S. Burari, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Ramlochan Mehto cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Ramlochan Mehto has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Ramlochan Mehto of FIR No. 523/2017 U/s 279/304-A IPC, P.S. Burari, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 13.12.2023.

By Order
Sh. Mayank Aggarwal
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No. 286
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/12697/N/2023(Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this man namely Rishi, S/o Jai Prakash, R/o 5512/2, Gali no. 115/19, B Block, Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi, is missing since 01.11.2023 at about 01:30 PM from his house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 10A, dated 02.11.2023, has been lodged at P.S. Burari, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing man is as under:
Gender: Male, **Age:** 18 years, **Height:** 4'3", **Complexion:** Sallow, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Pink t-shirt.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing man, kindly inform to the following:
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Burari, Delhi
Fax : 011-24368639 Ph.No.: 8750870132
DP/12683/N/2023 E-mail: sho-burari-dl@nic.in



PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Sandeep @ Kaliya, S/o Late Shri Birju, R/o 128, Mangol Puri, Outer District, New Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 204/2022, U/s 356/379/34 IPC registered at P.S. Dwarka North, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said Sandeep @ Kaliya cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Sandeep @ Kaliya has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Sandeep @ Kaliya accused of FIR No. 204/2022, U/s 356/379/34 IPC P.S. Dwarka North, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 22.12.2023

By Order
Sh. Sankalp Kapoor,
Metropolitan Magistrate-06,
Room No. 514, 5th Floor,
Dwarka District Courts, New Delhi
DP/12549/DW/2023

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person Namely: Sumesh, S/o : Ram Kripal, R/o : District-Banda, Uttar Pradesh, Age : About 45-50 years, Height : 5'7", Complexion: Fair, Face : Round, Built: Medium, Identification: Mentally Weak, Wearing : Sky Blue Colour Kurta and Blue Colour Pajama has been found dead at Apna Ghar Aasram, Kanjhawala, Punjab Khor, Delhi on 18.10.2023. In this regard a case vide DD No. 25A dated 18.10.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO : P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
Rohini Distt., Delhi
Tel. No. 011- 25951486, 25951634, 8750870324, 9467284384
DP/12793/RD/2023



APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male Age: 60 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Dark, wearing kurta pajama, was found injured on 23.04.2023 Opp. Delhi Public School, he was admitted in AIIMS Trauma Centre, thereafter he refer to AIIMS Hospital vide MLC No. 500369966/23, during the treatment he died on 04.11.2023. In this regard DD No. 24-A dated 04.11.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.
SHO : P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi
Tel. No. : 011-24359989, 24355758, 08750870429, 9868948320
DP/12843/SE/23



Bhawna and Kuldeep hog the limelight

The former bettered Dutee's timing in under-20 women's 100m, while the UP pole vaulter soars to a new high in men's 20 section; Gurleen and Abhi also delight with record efforts

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
COIMBATORE

Haryana's Bhawna sprinted her way to glory in the under-20 women's 100m on day two of the 38th National junior athletics championship at the Nehru Stadium here on Wednesday. Bhawna stopped the clock at 11.55s to shatter Dutee Chand's record of 11.63s set ten years ago.

Kuldeep Kumar (Uttar Pradesh) soared 5.17 metres for a new pole vault record in the men's under-20 section.

But it was R.C. Jithin of Tamil Nadu who started it all with a record leap of 7.35m to clinch the under-16 boys' long jump gold.

Coached by his father R. Chandrasekar, the 16-year-old jumped the distance in his fifth attempt to erase the existing mark of 7.27m set by Pankaj Verma in Ranchi five years ago. He also broke the hexathlon record to complete a golden double.

Fastest on show

Sachin and Abhinaya Rajarajan brought further joy to the host by emerging the fastest athletes in the boys' under-16 and girls' under-18 categories respectively.

Punjab's Gurleen Kaur (U-18 women's shot put)



Speeding away: Haryana's Bhawna running to a new record in the under-20 women's 100m. S. SIVA SARAVANAN



Jithin cleared 7.35m in the under-16 boys long jump. S. SIVA SARAVANAN

U-18: 100m: Anshu Rajak (UP) 10.67s; **400m:** M. Sharan (TN) 48.18s; **long jump:** Mohd. Sazid (Har) 7.62m.
U-20: 400m: C.H. Rihan (Kar) 46.95; **10,000m walk:** Bilin George Anto (Ker) 42:45.25.
Hammer: Mohammad Shahban (UP) 69.55m; **pole vault:** Kuldeep Kumar (UP) 5.17m (NR, Old: Dev Meena 5.05, 2019).
Girls: U-14: 60m: Sneha Deka (Asm) 8.06s.
U-16: 100m: Vala Roshanba (Guj) 12.12s; 3,000m walk: Sarojani (UP) 14:34.77s; **Javelin:** Sabita Murmu (Jha) 40.37m.
Long jump: Nandini Santra (WB) 5.46m; **hexathlon:** Baddi Vyshali (Tel) 3051 pts.
U-18: 100m: Abhinaya Rajarajan (TN) 11.91s; **400m:** Tahura Khatun (WB) 55.66; **discus:** Ritik (Chd) 60.12m.
Shot put: 1. Gurleen Kaur (Pjb) 16.75m (NR, Old: Vidhi 16.56, 2022).
U-20: 100m: Bhawna (Har) 11.55 (NR, Old: Dutee Chand 11.63, 2013); **high jump:** Payal Jamod (Guj) 1.71m.
10,000m walk: Indu (Har) 49:40.30; **shot put:** Vidhi (UP) 15.36 (NR, Old: Kiran Baliyan 14.54, 2017).

and Delhi's Abhi Sirohi (U-14 boys 60m) were the other record-breakers of the day.

The results (winners): Boys: U-14: 60m: 1. Abhi Sirohi (Del) 7.21s (NR, Old: Deepak Toppo 7.30s, 2021).

U-16: 100m: Sachin (TN) 10.97; **5,000m walk:** Nitin Gupta (UP) 20:34.21; **long jump:** R.C. Jithin (TN) 7.35m (NR, Old: Pankaj Verma 7.27, 2018).
Discus: Nishchay (Har) 56.59m; **hexathlon:** 1. R.C. Jithin 4050 (NR, Old: J. Arjunan Guwa 3734, 2022).

Anirudh Chandrasekar makes the ATP doubles quarterfinals

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Anirudh Chandrasekar and Bart Stevens beat Theo Arribage and Luca Sanchez 6-3, 6-4 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €630,705 ATP tennis in Metz, France.

In the quarterfinals, the Indo-Dutch pair will play fourth seeds Sadio Doumbia and Fabien Reboul.

In the Challenger tournament in Japan, Ramku-

mar Ramanathan and Purav Raja defeated the top seeds Ivan Sabanov and Matej Sabanov 6-4, 6-7(2), [11-9] in the doubles pre-quarterfinals.

Sumit Nagal made the singles quarterfinals of the Challenger in Helsinki, Finland.

The results: €630,705 ATP, Metz, France: **Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Anirudh Chandrasekar & Bart Stevens (Ned) bt Theo Arribage & Luca Sanchez (Fra) 6-3, 6-4; Constantin Frantzen & Hendrik Jebens (Ger) bt Yuki Bhambri &

Victor Cornea (Rou) 6-3, 7-6(4). **€145,000 Challenger, Helsinki: Pre-quarterfinals:** Sumit Nagal bt Jakub Mensik (Cze), 7-5, 6-2.

\$80,000 Challenger, Matsuyama, Japan: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Purav Raja & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Ivan Sabanov & Matej Sabanov (Srb) 6-4, 6-7(2), [11-9].

Shintaro Mochizuki & Sho Shimabukuro (Jpn) bt Niki Poonacha & Divij Sharan 7-6(5), 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF men, Hua Hin, Thailand: First round: Zhang Tianhui (Chn) bt Rohan Mehra 7-5, 6-4.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:

David Pichler (Aut) & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Jiayang Dong (Auss) & Mattias Southcombe (GBR) 6-2, 4-6, [10-3].

\$15,000 ITF women, Sharm El Sheikh: First round: Alisa Kummel bt Humera Baharmus 6-3, 6-1; Darja Suvirjonkova (Srb) bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-4, 6-1.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Yasmin Ezzat (Egy) & Vlada Mincheva bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi & Fan An Lin (Tpe) 2-6, 6-4, [10-5].

Humera Baharmus & Elizabeth Danailova (Bul) bt Annelin Bakker & Sarah van Ernst (Ned) 1-6, 6-4, [10-8].

Parth beats Sarthak, enters the semifinals

Sports Bureau

Fourth seed Parth Aggarwal beat Sarthak Suden 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the Rs.2,50,000 AITA men's tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex, Chandigarh, on Wednesday. The top three seeds Neeraj Yashpaul, Udit Kamboj and Jagmeet Singh also made the semifinals.

The results: Quarterfinals: Neeraj Yashpaul bt Tushar Mittal 6-0, 6-3; Parth Aggarwal bt Sarthak Suden 6-2, 2-6, 6-2; Jagmeet Singh bt Ajay Kundu 6-2, 3-6, 6-2; Udit Kamboj bt Shubh Negi 6-1, 6-2.
Doubles: Semifinals: Udit Kamboj & Jagmeet Singh bt Eklavya Singh & Neeraj Yashpaul 4-6, 6-1, [10-6]; Siddharth Basaiti & Ajay Kundu bt Amandeep Singh Bahai & Ricky Chaudhary 6-3, 6-7(4), [12-10].

Can Mourinho work his magic for Roma?

EUROPA LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Roma may once again be relying on Jose Mourinho to lead it on a long European run in order to save its season. Mourinho is in to his third campaign in charge in the Italian capital and has already led Roma to victory in the inaugural Europa Conference League and then to a Europa League final. Yet in Serie A the side continues to lag behind, having finished sixth in each of the Portuguese coach's two campaigns so far.

Handed a kind draw in Europe, Roma has a 100 per cent record so far. The side now travels to the Czech capital to face Slavia again on Thursday, know-



Eye on the continental event: Roma will be vying for a good showing as the side is currently seventh in the Serie A table. AP

ing a win will secure its place in the knockouts.

Roma is not the only team which can clinch a place in the knockout phase this week - Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool will advance if it can make it four

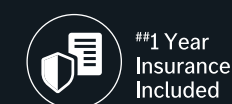
wins out of four in Group E when it visits Toulouse. Bayer Leverkusen also has maximum points and so could wrap up a berth in the knockout stages with a win over Qarabag in Azerbaijan.



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EMMANUAL YOGINI

Maxwell's Miracle in Mumbai – the greatest ODI innings ever?

What the Australian did at the Wankhede on Tuesday night defied belief; it still does, a day later. It will, years later. It was one of the greatest solo acts in cricket ever and was made possible by his captain Pat Cummins, who is turning into the best non-striker in world cricket

CRICKET

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Sometimes a work of genius surfaces that blows the mind, numbs the senses.

Like *Pather Panchali*, Satyajit Ray's debut film. Who would have thought an untrained or inexperienced crew – headed by the director himself – and a bunch of mostly amateur actors, braving financial woes, would make one of the masterpieces of world cinema?

One of the biggest compliments to Ray was paid by Akira Kurasawa, a legendary filmmaker himself: "Not to have seen the cinema of Ray means existing in the world without seeing the sun or the moon."

Not to have seen Glenn Maxwell perform the Miracle in Mumbai is a bit like that, if you are a cricket fan. What he did at the Wankhede defied belief on Tuesday night. It still does, a day later. It will, years later. Maxwell's 201 not out off 128 balls against Afghanistan has to be the greatest ODI innings of all time. There have, of course, been some incredible knocks that have stood the test of time in the 4695 ODIs played before that over the last five decades.

Kapil Dev's 175 against Zimbabwe in 1983 – it remains the innings that changed cricket forever – Viv Richards' 189 not out (vs England, 1984), Saeed Anwar's 194 (vs India, 1997), Herschelle Gibbs' 175 (vs Australia, 2006), Sachin Tendulkar's 143 (vs Australia, 1998), Steve Waugh's 120 not out (vs South Africa, 1999), Ricky Ponting's 140 not out (vs India, 2003), A.B. de Villiers' 149 (vs West Indies in 2015), Kevin O'Brien's 113 (vs England, 2011), Martin Gupthill's 237 not out (vs West Indies, 2015), Rohit Sharma's 264 (vs Sri Lanka, 2014)...

The list is exhaustive, and there is in fact more, but still Maxwell's heroics would take some beating. One had the good fortune of watching him score a 40-ball hundred live at New Delhi's Arun Jaitley's Stadium against the Netherlands a week earlier. That was one of the most astounding displays of batting in recent times. He had come to the crease only in the 40th over and after getting to his fifty off 27 balls – with a stunning six off Bas de Leede over point reversing his stance – he reached his second off 13, breaking the World Cup record for the fastest hundred.

After his 24-ball 41 helped Australia beat trans-Tasman rival New Zealand, he had to miss the match against another



familiar rival, England, because of a freak accident, as he fell from a golf cart and suffered a concussion. Fortunately for Australia, he recovered from the injury in time for the Afghanistan game.

After posting victories over England, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, no side could take Afghanistan lightly in this World Cup, with its established, quality bowling attack and an improving batting line-up. A maiden World Cup hundred for the country, from the bat of opener Ibrahim Zadran, helped Afghanistan reach a rather competitive 291 for five.

That score soon looked even more daunting when Australia slid to 49 for four, 69 for five, 87 for six and 91 for seven. The situation wasn't dissimilar to the India-Zimbabwe game at Tunbridge Wells 40 years ago.

In Mumbai, the ball was swinging. It was spinning, too. And the threat from Rashid Khan was far from over.

If 11 overs remained when he walked out to bat in the Netherlands game, this time around, there were still nearly 42 overs left. So Maxwell could afford to get his eye in and preserve his wicket, and for much of the first half of his innings, he was barely scoring at a rate of run-a-ball.

He was dropped twice and then a DRS overturned the lbw decision against him.



Maxi was out of this world

CUMMINS
Australia skipper

He had begun his walk back to the dressing room when it emerged that the ball from Noor Ahmad was going over the stumps. Before all that, Maxwell had edged the hat-trick ball from Azmatullah Omarzai, but it did not carry to the 'keeper. It was as if the elements were conspiring to set the stage for a masterpiece. If the spectacular theatre – that sport sometimes is – needed more drama, it came in the form of the full-body cramps to Maxwell.

He wretched in pain. He walked, or hobbled for runs. He could not move his feet, but he did not need to, he could play the ball whither he wanted to, standing.

He needed extensive attention from the physio, and he even contemplated retiring hurt. But when he was told by the physio that it would be hard for him to come back down the stairs, he stayed on. There was still a job to be done.

He finished it off in style, too. He was on 195 when five were required, so he



THE GIST

Maxwell had scored a 40-ball hundred – a World Cup record – at New Delhi's Arun Jaitley's Stadium against the Netherlands a week earlier

He had to miss the match against another familiar rival, England, because of a freak accident, as he fell from a golf cart and suffered a concussion

Fortunately for Australia, he recovered from the injury in time for the Afghanistan game

predictably hit a six, depositing Mujeeb Ur Rahman – the man who dropped his easier catch – into the stands beyond the mid-wicket boundary. Mind you, he is someone who cares for records like the fastest hundred, and he even counts the balls he faces; he had said as much after Australia's win against the Netherlands.

After pulling off probably the World Cup's biggest heist, up went Maxwell's hands in the air, the bat – which was more of magic wand – in his left hand.

There was a sense of contentment in his smile. Maybe there was a sense of disbelief, too. It was one of the greatest solo acts in cricket ever, yes. But, that was made possible by Maxwell's captain Pat Cummins, who is turning into the best non-striker in world cricket.

Cummins made 12 not out off 68 balls, while adding 202 for the unfinished eighth wicket with Maxwell. Against the Netherlands too, he had made 12 not out, off nine balls, in the 103-run partnership for the seventh wicket.

After watching the Maxwell magic from the best seat in the house, Cummins said it was the greatest ODI innings ever.

But, while referring to the chances that came his way, Maxwell said, "I was very lucky."

No Maxi. We were.

Trouble with India's guidelines on genetically modified insects

The guidelines offer standard operating procedures for genetically engineering mosquitoes, crop pests, and beneficial insects – but what 'beneficial' means is not clear. This can only impede funders and scientists from investing in this research, and is one of many problems

Shambhavi Naik

India's bioeconomy contributes 2.6% to the GDP. In April 2023, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) released its 'Bioeconomy Report 2022' report, envisioning this contribution to be closer to 5% by 2030. This ambitious leap – of \$220 billion in eight years – will require aggressive investment and policy support. But neither funding for the DBT, India's primary promoter of biotechnology, nor its recent policies reflect any serious intention to uplift this sector. Along with more money, policies that enable risk-taking appetite within Indian scientists will be required to create an ecosystem of innovation and industrial action.

Funding for biotechnology India has been stagnating for a while. Despite a slight uptick during COVID-19, when DBT led the vaccine and diagnostics efforts, funding hasn't returned to the pre-pandemic level. The current allocation is also only 0.0001% of India's GDP, and it needs to be significantly revised if biotechnology is to be of any serious consequence for the economy.

The reduced funding is detrimental to India's national interests as well, considering the DBT is essential to any pandemic preparedness efforts. Further efforts are also needed to attract private funding in biotechnology research and development, a key area that industry representatives, investors, and government officials have highlighted multiple times.

Funding aside, biotechnology policies also need to be aligned to the economic goals set out in the Bioeconomy report. However, the language in a set of guidelines that the Indian government released recently, pertaining to genetically edited insects, indicate a problem.

In April 2023, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) issued the 'Guidelines for Genetically Engineered (GE) Insects'. They provide procedural roadmaps for those interested in creating GE insects. They have three issues, however.

First: Uncertainty of purpose

The guidelines note that GE insects are becoming globally available and are intended to help Indian researchers navigate regulatory requirements. However, the guidelines don't specify the purposes for which GE insects may be approved in India or how the DBT, as a promoter of biotechnology, envisions their use.

The guidelines only provide regulatory procedures for R&D on insects with some beneficial applications. The introduction states:

"The development and release of GE insects offers applications in various fields such as vector management in human and livestock health; management of major crop insect pests; maintenance and improvement of human health and the environment through a reduction in the use of chemicals; production of proteins for healthcare purposes; genetic improvement of beneficial insects like predators, parasitoids, pollinators (e.g. honey bee) or productive insects (e.g. silkworm, lac insect)."



if a GE insect is released then people are exposed to it without their consent. Community engagement and monitoring of the impact of GE will be required. SYED ALI/UNSPASH

That is, the emphasis of using GE insects appears to be on uplifting the standard of living by reducing disease burden, enabling food security and conserving the environment. While these are all necessary functions, current biotechnology-based policies are not in sync with the broader commitment to contributing to the bioeconomy.

The guidelines – which are more procedural in nature than indicative of governmental policy – set out forms and instructions for using GE insects of various types. The approval for these experiments comes under the broad ambit of the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation, a body under the DBT.

The guidelines have been harmonised to guidance from the World Health Organisation on GE mosquitoes. GE mosquitoes represent the most advanced application for this technology – yet the guidelines seem to downplay the economic opportunities that such insects provide.

Engineering honey bees to make better-quality and/or quantities of honey will help reduce imports and also maybe facilitate exports. Similarly, GE silkworms may be used to produce finer and/or cheaper silk, affecting prices and boosting sales. But the guidelines and policy are

But if a company decides to release a GE insect in an individual's neighbourhood, she will have no choice but to be exposed to it. So wider community engagement and monitoring of the impact of GE will be required.

The nature of the technology products – i.e. mosquitoes, honey bees, etc. – also make their private use difficult. In any case, the government will be the primary buyer in many cases, such as 'GE mosquitoes for disease alleviation' or 'honey bees for increased pollination'. But then there's no clarity on whether the Environment Ministry will actually approve the deployment of GE insects or what criteria it might use to consider a proposal to do so.

For example, while researchers have developed and tested GE mosquitoes to alleviate malaria in foreign settings, we don't know if the solution will be feasible in India. On the other hand, as honey bees populations decrease, genetically edited honey bees which live longer, might be of use in India. But if there is no clarity on which idea the government would support, why would anyone invest in research on such insects?

On a related note, the guidelines define GE insects by their risk group and not by the end product. It makes sense to subject any GE insects for human/animal consumption to stringent checks – but why using insects for silk or lac production needs to be checked the same way is not clear. The guidelines can sidestep this by adapting its rules for genetically modified crops for non-consumption purposes.

Third: Uncertainty of ambit

The guidelines offer standard operating procedures for GE mosquitoes, crop pests, and beneficial insects – but what 'beneficial' means, in the context of GE insects, is not clear.

The lack of clarity about the insects and the modifications to them that are deemed 'beneficial' will impede funders and scientists from investing in this research. In a country with low public as well as private funding, the absence of a precise stance to identify and promote research priorities hampers progress.

Other gene-editing guidelines contain similar ambiguity, such as the National Guidelines for Gene Therapy Product Development and Clinical Trials. They identify a gene-therapy product as "any entity which includes a nucleic acid component being delivered by various means for therapeutic benefit". But they don't "define therapeutic benefit", creating confusion on which gene therapy products will actually be permitted.

Further, genetic engineering can also be used to unintentionally generate malicious products. In 2016, the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency floated an 'Insect Allies' programme with the idea of creating insect vectors to deliver gene-editing components to plants that are threatened by pests. Scientists quickly pointed out that this application could also be used to create bioweapons. Similarly, the new guidelines don't sufficiently account for more dangerous possibilities.

So as things stand, the guidelines are not in sync with the ambitions outlined in the Bioeconomy 2022 report.

(Shambhavi Naik is a researcher at The Takshashila Institution.)



If there is no clarity on which idea the government would support, why would anyone invest in research on such insects?

both quiet on how GE insects can benefit the bioeconomy and for which purposes the government might approve the insects' release.

Second: Uncertainty for researchers

The guidelines are applicable only to research and not to confined trials or deployment. That is, once the insects are 'made' and tested in the laboratory, researchers can conduct trials with them on the approval of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), of the Union Environment Ministry.

Government authorities will also have to closely follow the deployment of these insects. Once deployed, GE insects can't be recalled, and unlike genetically modified foods, they are not amenable to individual consumer choice. For example, if a consumer doesn't want to eat a GM organism, she can choose to buy organic food or food labelled "contains no GMO".



ESA Director-General Josef Aschbacher is seen during the World Economic Forum in Davos, January 18, 2023. REUTERS

Europe targets competitive shake-up in space launch services deal

Reuters

Europe on Monday challenged the private sector to develop services for small rockets that could guide future space reform, while stabilising finances for troubled medium and heavyweight launchers for the coming decade.

The head of the European Space Agency (ESA) said the decision to foster competition had long-term implications for the industry, which is wrestling with a short-term gap in space access due to delays and technical setbacks with Ariane 6 and Vega-C rockets.

"We are in the midst of a paradigm shift for space transportation," Director General Josef Aschbacher said halfway through two days of space talks in Seville, Spain.

The announcement marks a new departure for the 22-nation agency, which has previously designed and procured launchers and wants to move towards a leaner system of buying services to help Europe mimic the runaway growth of rivals like Elon Musk's SpaceX.

"The launcher challenge ... will lower the cost of public funding and stimulate a new market for European space entrepreneurs," Gen. Aschbacher told ministers.

This is a new departure for the agency, which previously designed and procured launchers and wants to move towards a leaner system of buying services mimicking the growth of SpaceX

Such projects would start with a new generation of mini-launchers but could set the tone for longer-term replacements for Europe's heavier Ariane 6 and Vega-C, which remain Europe's only independent options for major payloads in coming years.

"It's a mini-revolution because what they want to do now is buy a service," said Antoine Meunier, author of a recent book on the "long road" to European crewed space flight.

The move is part of a broader deal easing months of tensions after France lobbied for more support for Ariane 6, Germany pressed for competition in the France-led launch sector, and Italy demanded a bigger say on its domestically produced Vega-C.

In a side declaration, France, Germany, and Italy took credit for forging an agreement backed by other ESA nations, though delegates said all 22 nations had a role.

The deal means countries involved in existing launchers will provide up to 340 million euros of annual support for Ariane 6 and 21 million euros for Vega-C from 2026, to help close a gap between rising costs and market prices.

They also guaranteed four institutional launches a year for Ariane 6 and three for Vega-C.

The agreement secures a second batch of Ariane 6 launches from flights 16 to 42 after previous commitments covered an inaugural test flight and 14 commercial launches. That will give Airbus and other contractors more confidence to order parts.

In return, the industry will have to cut costs by 11%, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told reporters. Ariane 6 is built by Airbus-Safran venture ArianeGroup.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Transporting electric power efficiently

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

An efficient way to transport electric power is as a three-phase alternating current. What is the typical phase separation (in degrees) between the three phases?

QUESTION 2

When direct current passes through a conductor, the conductor's material may oppose the current's flow. This is called resistance. The corresponding opposition for an alternating current is called impedance. It combines the effects of resistance as well as _____. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

The amount of electric charge that

a material can store is denoted by its capacitance. To increase the capacitance of an electric circuit, engineers commonly add a device called a capacitor to it. What is the inverse of capacitance called? Though it is rarely used, this quantity is useful in some contexts where its increase leads to higher impedance.

QUESTION 4

When capacitance is measured between two objects, like the two plates of a capacitor, it's called mutual capacitance. When it is measured between an object and the ground, it's called self-capacitance. What is the value of the earth's self-capacitance?

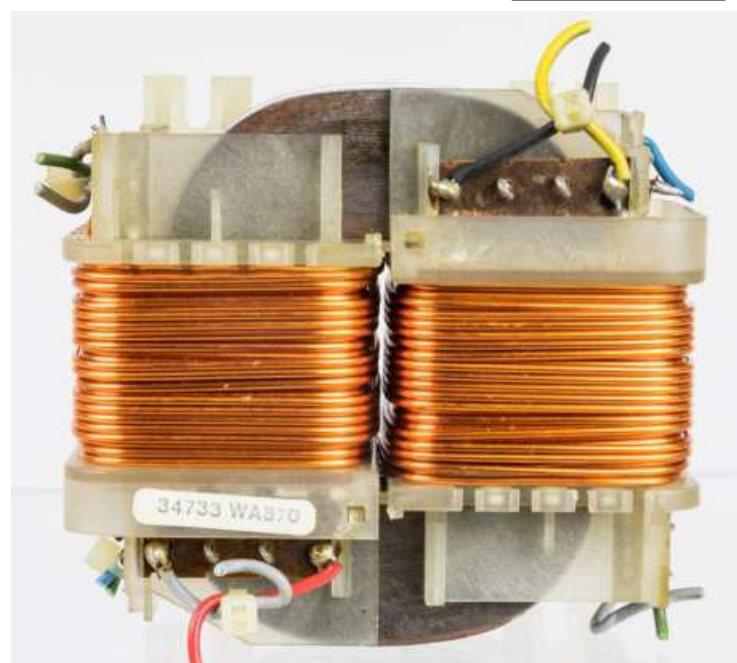
QUESTION 5

Name the English physicist who, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, coined many of the terms like

impedance, resistance, capacitance, etc. In his rubric, terms ending in -ance denoted extensive properties and those ending in -ivity (like resistivity) denoted intensive properties.

Answers to November 7 quiz:

- Expansion of ELF, the lowest radio transmission frequency – **Ans: Extremely low frequency**
 - Cellular network generation planning to use 0.3 THz radiation – **Ans: 6G**
 - Technological interval for producing 0.1-30 THz radiation – **Ans: Terahertz gap**
 - Plastic used to make lenses for terahertz radiation – **Ans: Picarin**
 - Radio telescope group observing in submillimeter wavelengths – **Ans: ALMA**
- First contact: Saurabh Kumar | Kamuju Ridhi Trailokya



Visual: This device is used to increase the voltage and reduce the current in a power line to improve its transmission efficiency. Name it. RAIMOND SPEKING (CC BY-SA 4.0)

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