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The Vision

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IN BRIEF



NIA to probe Raj Bhavan petrol bomb case in T.N.

CHENNAI
The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has registered a case in connection with the hurling of Molotov cocktails (petrol bombs) in front of the Raj Bhavan in Chennai on October 25. » Page 4

In M.P., Rahul keeps focus on Tomar's son

BHOPAL/NEW DELHI
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday flagged the video clips of Devendra Singh, son of Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, discussing transactions worth hundreds of crores of rupees with an alleged middleman. » Page 11

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 17

Wholesale prices remain in deflation zone in Oct.

WPI reflects an inflation of -0.52% from -0.26% in September; food index up 1.07% in October compared to last year, with food prices up 1% sequentially from September levels as well

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

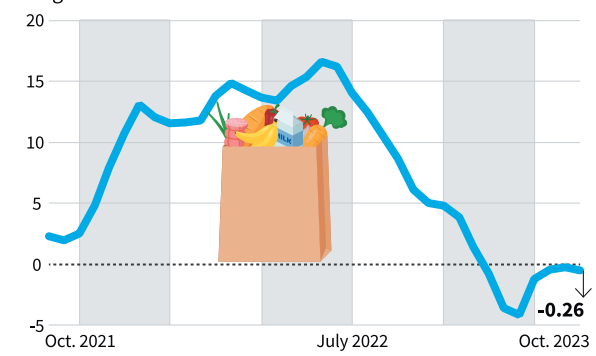
India's wholesale prices remained in deflationary mode for the seventh month in a row in October, with the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) reflecting an inflation of -0.52% from -0.26% in September.

Wholesale price inflation stood at 8.4% in October 2022, creating a high base effect for last month's index. On a month-on-month basis, the WPI was up 0.4% in October.

The wholesale food index was up 1.07% in October compared to last year, with food prices up 1% sequentially from September levels as well. But the trends within the food basket were divergent and runaway prices of some

Maintaining status quo

While wholesale inflation accelerated from -0.26% in September to -0.52% in October, it continued to be in the negative zone for the seventh time in a row



items like onions and pulses pose risks to the retail inflation trajectory.

While vegetable prices dropped 21%, inflation in paddy and cereals accelerated to 7.5% and 9.4% respectively, and pulses and

onion inflation jumped to 19.4% and 62.6%, respectively. Fruits inflation picked up to 6.3% while milk inflation is 7.9%. Manufactured products' prices were unchanged from September levels.

Fuel and power prices rose 0.65% from September levels, but were 2.5% below last year's levels. Crude petroleum and natural gas inflation stood at -2.2% in October.

"The negative rate of inflation in October, 2023 is primarily due to fall in prices of chemicals and chemical products, electricity, textiles, basic metals, food products, paper and paper products, etc. as compared to the corresponding month of previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said.

"The uptrend in domestic prices of most food items as well as an unfavourable base is projected to lead to a turnaround in the WPI to a marginal 0.1% inflation in November," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA.

Dabur Group chairman, 31 others booked by Mumbai Police in Mahadev app case

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police, which is investigating the alleged ₹15,000-crore gambling and cyber fraud linked to Mahadev Book Online Betting App syndicate, registered a case against 32 persons, including Dabur Group director Gaurav Burman, company chairman Mohit Burman and actor Sahil Khan.

Sources said Mr. Mohit Burman has been listed as accused number 16, while Mr. Gaurav Burman is at number 18. The Matunga Police registered the first information report (FIR) under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Gambling Act and the Information Technology (IT) Act, following a complaint lodged by Mumbai-based social worker, Prakash Bankar.

Mr. Khan, accused num-



Mohit Burman. X/MOHITBURMAN

ber 26, was accused of promoting and propagating the Mahadev app and earning huge profits from it.

The allegations

Mr. Bankar, in his complaint, alleged that a large number of people had been defrauded of nearly ₹15,000 crore through the betting app. He levelled allegations of match-fixing against the accused. Mr. Mohit Burman has direct equity in one of the teams in the Indian Premier League.

"A probe has been

launched, and we named the app's promoters Saurabh Chandrakar, Ravi Uppal, and Shubham Soni as the key accused for committing the fraud since 2019 until now," an official privy to the case said.

The Enforcement Directorate recently claimed that a forensic analysis and a statement made by a 'cash courier' Asim Das has led to 'startling allegations' that the Mahadev betting app promoters had paid about ₹508 crore to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. Soon, the BJP released a video of Mr. Soni saying he was the owner of the app and had 'proof' of payment of ₹508 crore so far to Mr. Baghel. The Central agency has already arrested four persons and seized proceeds of crime worth over ₹450 crore.

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BUSINESS TYCOON

Sahara Group founder Subrata Roy dies at 75

NEWS » PAGE 12



CHILD RAPE, MURDER CASE

Kerala court sentences Bihar native to death

STATES » PAGE 5

Israel Army says it has seized Hamas Parliament in Gaza

Agence France-Presse
Reuters
JERUSALEM/GAZA

The Israeli Army said on Tuesday it had captured Gaza's Parliament and other government institutions run by Hamas in Gaza City, as its forces deepened their offensive in the Palestinian territory.

Military units "took over the Hamas Parliament, the government building, the Hamas police headquarters and an engineering faculty that served as an institute for the production and development of weapons," the Army said in a statement.

The statement said "government institutions of the terrorist organisation Hamas" had been used for "military purposes" including "for training in preparation for the attack

on Israel" on October 7.

Israeli forces bombarded southern Gaza on Tuesday after tanks advanced to the gates of the enclave's biggest hospital in the north where health officials say dozens of patients, including babies, have died due a lack of power and the heavy fighting. At least 13 people were killed when Israeli forces targeted their homes in Khan Younis, Gaza Health Ministry officials said.

The military has also positioned tanks outside Al Shifa Hospital, Gaza City's main medical centre, which Israel says sits atop tunnels housing a headquarters for Hamas fighters.

Israel's attacks have left more than 11,200, also mostly civilians, dead, according to Gaza authorities.



Watching with dread: People mourn as they collect the bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli raids in Khan Younis on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

39 Myanmar soldiers who entered Mizoram sent back

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Indian defence authorities on Tuesday sent back 39 soldiers of the Myanmar military who had taken refuge in Mizoram after their camp was overrun by ethnic armed groups aligned with the pro-democracy movement in Myanmar.

Two armed forces helicopters carried out two sorties each to evacuate the soldiers from Champhai, the headquarters of Mizoram's Champhai district bordering Myanmar, to Moreh in Manipur.

Moreh is on the border with Myanmar's Sagaing region.

"The entire operation

The soldiers had fled Myanmar after their camp was overrun by armed groups

from evacuating the Myanmar soldiers to Moreh and sending them across towards Tamu (nearest Myanmar town from Moreh) was over by 3 p.m.," an Army officer monitoring the exercise said.

He said there were reports of at least two more Myanmar soldiers having crossed over in the last 24 hours. They would be sent back to their country as son as they are located, he added.

A civil war has been rag-

ing in Myanmar following a military coup in February 2021. The fighting between the country's Army and pro-democracy groups, including ethnicity-based extremist groups, intensified close to the Mizoram border a few days ago.

Indian security officials keeping tabs on the Myanmar situation said a fierce gunfight erupted at Khawmawi in Myanmar, situated across Zokhawthar in Champhai district on Sunday evening.

The fighting saw about 1,500 Myanmar nationals taking refuge in border areas of Mizoram.

CONTINUED ON
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Efforts on to create escape route for trapped workers at Uttarakhand tunnel collapse site

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The operation to rescue 40 labourers from an under-construction tunnel that collapsed in Uttarakashi district of Uttarakhand continued for the third consecutive day on Tuesday.

Technical experts, along with disaster management officials, are continuously removing debris to insert 900-mm diameter steel pipes through the rubble to create an escape passage for the workers. They are expected to be rescued by Wednesday, State Disaster Management Secretary Ranjeet Kumar Sinha said.

The 4,531-metre-long tunnel is being built by Na-



A way out: Rescue work under way at the tunnel in Uttarakashi district of Uttarakhand on Tuesday. PTI

tional Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL) in partnership with Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd at a cost of ₹853.79 crore. It is part of the Char Dham

all-weather road project that aims to reduce the road distance between Uttarakashi and Yamunotri town by 26 km.

A portion of this tunnel collapsed at Silkyara

around 5.30 a.m. on Sunday.

The authorities said that one of the trapped workers had fallen ill and medicines were sent to him through a pipe. Those

trapped are being provided with food and water through it.

Emotions ran high when Akash Singh Negi of Uttarakhand spoke to his father G.S Negi, one of the 40 trapped workers inside the tunnel.

"My nephew spoke to my brother via the pipe through which oxygen is being supplied to the workers. He asked about his father's health. He told his son that he is fine and will soon come out," said Maharaj Singh Negi, uncle of Akash. The teenager could not hold back his tears after hearing from his father.

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IN BRIEF



BJP slams AAP for toxic foam in Yamuna before Chhath Puja

The BJP on Tuesday slammed the Delhi government over the toxic foam and pollution in the Yamuna river. Earlier in the day, Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj said the government has prepared over 900 ghats for Chhath Puja apart from arranging water, tents, lights, and sound facilities at the designated ghats. However, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said that the toxic foam spread over the Yamuna has "disturbed" the sentiments of the Purvanchali community members.

One dead, 9 injured after east Delhi building catches fire

A 55-year-old woman, Anita Singh, died after a five-storey apartment building in east Delhi's Shakarpur caught fire on Tuesday, the police said. An officer said a portion of the building caught fire around 1 a.m. and soon engulfed the first floor. Mr. Singh, a resident of a fourth-floor apartment, died of asphyxiation. According to a senior Delhi Fire Service official, 31 people were trapped inside the burning building. "While five of them jumped off their balconies to save themselves, the rest were escorted out of the building by firefighters," the official added.

Govt. starts drive to sprinkle water across city to curb pollution



Sixty mobile anti-smog guns have been deployed at pollution hotspots, the Environment Minister said. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday announced the start of a special campaign to curb air pollution. The development comes a day after Deepavali firecrackers caused a toxic haze to set over the national capital.

"We are starting a mega campaign of sprinkling water on the roads of Delhi from today. I am optimistic that there will be an immediate reduction in the pollution levels. The campaign will run across the city," he said.

Mr. Rai said 60 mobile anti-smog guns have been deployed at the identified pollution hotspots, besides

70 anti-smog guns for each Assembly constituency.

The city's air quality index (AQI) on Tuesday remained in the 'very poor' category and is unlikely to improve within the next three days, according to official data. An AQI reading between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe', and 451 and 500 'severe plus'.

Unfavourable meteorological conditions, combined with vehicular emissions, stubble burning, and other local pollution sources, contribute to hazardous air quality levels in Delhi-NCR during winter.

'Land scam': Atishi seeks removal of Chief Secy., Divisional Commissioner

Preliminary report submitted to CM states that a 'clear nexus' existed between Chief Secretary and others; Divisional Commissioner says Vigilance Minister 'colluding with the wrongdoers'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Vigilance Minister Atishi, in a preliminary report submitted to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, has recommended the immediate removal of Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar and Divisional Commissioner Ashwani Kumar so that they do not influence the probe into an alleged land scam, a ruling Aam Aadmi Party source said on Tuesday.

The Chief Secretary did not respond to calls and messages for comment. He had earlier called the action against him a "vendetta", saying it was he who had recommended action against the officer who allegedly approved the deal.

The Divisional Commissioner accused Ms. Atishi of "colluding with wrongdoers".

"The facts, which are a matter of record, were well explained to the media in yesterday's press conference," he added.

The case pertains to the acquisition of a 19-acre land parcel, which was acquired in south-west Delhi's Bannoli village by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for the Dwarka Expressway project.

The land deal allegedly



Delhi Vigilance Minister Atishi expressed apprehension that Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar (right) may influence the probe. FILE PHOTO

led to undue benefits to one of the landowners, who is said to be linked to the business associate of the Chief Secretary's son.

CM's orders

Last week, CM Kejriwal had asked the Vigilance Minister to launch an investigation into the land deal. Ms. Atishi had said in an official communication that the Vigilance Department has already examined the issue and the role of then District Magistrate (South West) Hemant Kumar, but the role of the Chief Secretary is yet to be examined.

The report said there existed a "clear nexus" among the Chief Secretary, his son, and the landowner, who got "windfall gains" to the tune of hundreds of crores as the price of the land parcel was increased from around ₹41 crore to ₹89.1 crore.

The source said the preliminary report mentioned that the Divisional Com-

missioner withheld from Ms. Atishi the relevant files related to the case on two different occasions.

It said the Divisional Commissioner did not initiate suo motu action against the "exorbitant" award until the NHAI flagged the issue and that he had conducted an "unauthorised" press conference, all of which need a thorough investigation, the source added.

The Divisional Commissioner held a press conference on Monday and defended the Chief Secretary, terming the allegations against him as "baseless" and prompted by "dirty politics".

'Seize relevant files'

Ms. Atishi said disciplinary action should be initiated against both officers, the source said.

She said all files related to the matter be seized from both officers to prevent any tampering or des-

truction of evidence.

"In the course of this inquiry, it has been discovered that the Chief Secretary's son is also the founder or director in a web of companies, many of which have been awarded contracts by government agencies, including in Delhi. There could be further cases of collusion and undue benefits in these contracts," the source said about the report.

'Send report to CBI'

The Minister has recommended that the report be sent to the CBI to provide the agency with "a complete view" of the facts discovered and expand the scope of the existing inquiry, the source said.

The report said the Directorate of Vigilance probe did not examine how the landowners purchased the land in Bannoli village at only 7% of the circle rate in 2015, despite all facts being available on record.

"There is a likelihood that the remaining 93% payment may have been done in cash. Therefore, it appears that it is not only a case of corruption but might involve money laundering as well, making it a case fit for investigation by the Enforcement Directorate," the source said, citing the preliminary report.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
My client, Mohd Raja Khan S/o Iqbal Hussain Khan along with his wife Shehla Khan R/o Toiba Colony, Humama, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir - 190021 has severed all relationship with their son Mohd. Haamid Khan (son) & Mahak Mushtaq Bukhari (son's wife) Disowned them from all their movable & immovable properties due to their disobedient nature. My client will not be liable for any acts done by him and his wife in respect of the above said. Anybody dealing with them in any civil and criminal activities shall bear at his own cost and risk.
Manoj Mittal (Advocate)
Ch. No. F-623, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110032

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

A Business Initiative

REC signs MoU with RailTel, to Finance Infrastructure Projects in Telecom, IT and Railway Signalling



REC Limited signed an MoU with RailTel on 9th November 2023 to extend financial assistance upto Rs. 30,000 Crore for Infrastructure Projects to be executed by RailTel in next 5 years. These projects encompass a wide range of areas, including Data Center products and services, Telecom & IT products and services, Railways & Metro projects, and the KAVACH Train Collision Prevention System. Additionally, the MoU extends to the possibility of financing overseas ventures related to High-Speed Rail, metro, IT network, and the Upgradation of Railway Network, as part of bilateral country discussions and Infrastructure Projects in Southeast Asia and Eastern Africa where RailTel is currently focusing. Shri T.S.C Bosh, Executive Director (Infra & Logistics), REC and Shri Jasmeet Singh Marwah, Company Secretary, RailTel signed the MoU in the presence of Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD, REC; Shri Sanjay Kumar, CMD, RailTel; Shri Ajoy Choudhary, Director (Finance), REC; Shri V K Singh, Director (Projects), REC; Shri Manoj Tandon, Director (Project) RailTel; Shri Anshul Gupta, Advisor, RailTel and other senior officials from REC and RailTel. Post the MoU Signing, they also discussed opportunities for collaboration in detail and agreed upon exploring new areas viz, Renewable Energy, Smart Metering and other projects where RailTel and REC (through its wholly owned subsidiary RECPDCL) can join hands. RECPDCL, a Maharatna CPSE established in 1969, under Ministry of Power, provides long term loans and other finance products for Power-Infrastructure sector comprising of Generation, Transmission, Distribution, Renewable Energy and new technologies like Electric Vehicles, Battery Storage, Green Hydrogen etc. More recently REC has also diversified into the Non-Power Infrastructure sector comprising of Roads & Expressways, Metro Rail, Airports, IT Communication, Social & Commercial Infrastructure (Educational Institution, Hospitals), Ports and Electro-Mechanical (E&M) works in respect of various other sectors like Steel, Refinery, etc. The loan book of REC exceeds Rs 4,74,275 Crore.

Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW-2023) Concluded in POWERGRID



The week-long observance of vigilance awareness was concluded with the closing ceremony held at Corporate Centre of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSE under Ministry of Power, Govt. of India. During the closing ceremony, Sh. D. K. Madan, CVO welcomed Sh. Hari Mohan, I.O.F.S., Ex Chairman & Director General, Indian Ordnance Factories and he addressed on Vigilance issues & Decision Making in Complicated Situations. Sh. R. K. Tyagi, Director (Operations) and Sh. G. Ravisankar, Director (Finance) attended the

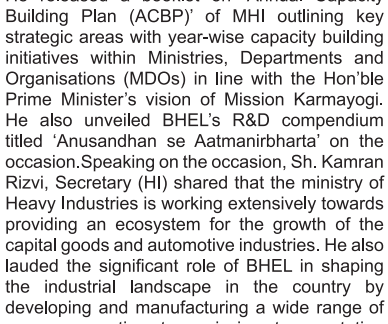


event. The Annual Vigilance House Journal of POWERGRID 'Candour' was also released by the dignitaries on this occasion. During the Vigilance Awareness Week, a Vendor Meet was also organised on 2nd November 2023, at Corporate Centre, Gurugram. Sh. Abhay Choudhary, Director (Projects), Sh. R. K. Tyagi, Director (Operations), Dr. Yatindra Dwivedi, Director (Personnel) and Sh. D. K. Madan, CVO interacted with vendors and noted the feedback. It brought together vendors, suppliers, and key stakeholders, laying the foundation for stronger partnerships and collaborations. Vendor Meets were also organized in the regional headquarters throughout the country. During the VAW-2023, walkathon & several Gram Sabhas were conducted across the nation apart from competitions for school and college students for public awareness.

BHEL organises dialogue for strengthening local supply ecosystem for a vibrant Aatmanirbhar Bharat



In pursuance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision to make India self-reliant, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) organised BHEL SAMVAAD 3.0 - the third edition of its dialogue with domestic business partners, industry associations, academia, research institutes, government organisations and other ministries like CEA, DoE, DPIIT, and MoP, MoSteel and MeitY, etc. at Bharat Mandapam. The theme of the event, organised under the aegis of Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), was 'Development powered by Research and Innovation'. In his address, Hon'ble Union Minister of Heavy Industries, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey citing the clarion call of the Hon'ble Prime Minister for being 'Vocal for Local', exhorted the fraternity to come out with solutions on the challenges faced and focus on achieving the aspiration of becoming a developed nation by 2047. He released a booklet on 'Annual Capacity Building Plan (ACBP)' of MHI outlining key strategic areas with year-wise capacity building initiatives within Ministries, Departments and Organisations (MDOs) in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Mission Karmayogi. He also unveiled BHEL's R&D compendium titled 'Anusandhan se Aatmanirbharta' on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Kamran Rizvi, Secretary (HI) shared that the ministry of Heavy Industries is working extensively towards providing an ecosystem for the growth of the capital goods and automotive industries. He also lauded the significant role of BHEL in shaping the industrial landscape in the country by developing and manufacturing a wide range of power generation, transmission, transportation and defence equipment and technologies which has helped reduce India's dependence on imports. Sh. Rizvi said that initiatives like 'BHEL Samvaad' stand testimony to the company's commitment towards Aatmanirbhara. In his address, Sh. Vijay Mittal, Joint Secretary (HI) appreciated the outcomes that have emerged from SAMVAAD 1.0 and 2.0 and the pivotal role played by BHEL to manufacture products within India leading to import substitution and development of indigenous vendor ecosystem. He appreciated BHEL's efforts to organise SAMVAAD 3.0, an inclusive event with a bigger



outreach and scope to connect more partners. Earlier, welcoming the delegates, Sh. Koppu Sadashiv Murthy, CMD, BHEL called upon all stakeholders to constructively engage in productive discussions in the technical sessions, incubate ideas, and foster an environment that encourages open communication and mutual understanding. The star performers among BHEL's success partners who have contributed to the cause of Aatmanirbhar Bharat were felicitated on the occasion by Hon'ble Union Minister of Heavy Industries, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey. During the event, Sh. Jai Prakash Srivastava, Director (E, R&D) and Director (Fin.) - Addl. Charge touched upon the various technical sessions held in BHEL SAMVAAD 3.0 and thanked all stakeholders for their active participation and success of the event.

A SPOTLIGHT ON THEME: 'VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM - UNITED BY TRADE'

The 42nd edition of the India International Trade Fair 2023 is set to be inaugurated on November 14, 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The inaugural ceremony will be led by the Hon'ble Minister of State, Smt. Anupriya Patel, and presided over by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Prakash. This year's theme, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' draws inspiration from ancient Indian philosophy, emphasizing the significance of interconnectedness and cooperation in trade for achieving sustainable growth and well-being. Importantly, IITF offers an ideal platform to showcase Indian products and infuse renewed confidence and vigour in the Indian economy. With nearly 3500 exhibitors from both India and abroad, IITF 2023 occupies an expansive 110,000 square meters. Partner States for this event include Bihar and Kerala while Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh take the spotlight as the Focus States. A total of 28 States and Union Territories are actively participating in the exhibition this year. Representatives from 13 countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Oman, Egypt, Nepal, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Iran and UAE are actively taking part in the event from overseas. Just like in previous editions, the festivities of State Day Celebrations, seminars and cultural programmes will stand out as additional highlights for the visitors. Participation of 46 nos. Central Ministries/Commodity Boards/PSUs namely KVIC, Department of Income Tax, DGTS (Customs & Excise), Ministry of Ayush, Security Printing & Minting Corpn. Of India Ltd., National Jute Board, Ministry of Rural Development, RBI, MSME, NHDC, LIC, DC Handicraft, Spices Board of India, Ministry of Railways, SBI, TRIFED, Ministry of social justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Mines will showcase the achievements of their respective sectors. The timings of the fair is 10.00 AM to 7.30 PM. The expected footfall during 14 days shall be 10,00,000 +. The tickets are available both online and offline at selected metro stations excluding the Supreme Court Metro Station. Entry inside is from Gate No.4,6 & 10. IITPO has made extensive efforts to improve the overall experience for exhibitors and visitors alike. The layout has been kept spacious with extensive circulation area. New Halls with state-of-the-art facilities, new toilet blocks, seating facilities, green areas will add to the comfort and experience of the visitors. Apart from dedicated post office, banks and ATMs, other facilities include: Media Centre, Protocol, registration for business days (first five days only). During IITF and other events, IITPO encourages proactive steps to make the venue plastic-free and replacing the same with environment friendly substitutes. Appeal- Cleanliness + abide Traffic norms + Public transport system + usage of Basement parking.

L-G gives nod to 10 more family courts

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor V. K. Saxena has approved the creation of 10 family courts, taking the total number of such courts in the city to 31, Raj Niwas officials said on Tuesday.

The approval follows a 2019 recommendation by senior judges of the nation's various courts, in view of the pendency of cases for more than five to 10 years, an official said.

The decision will also create over 80 new posts, including 10 judges and other posts such as read-

ers, stenographers, Ahlmads, naib nazims, among others.

Another Raj Niwas official said nearly 46,000 cases are pending in Delhi's family courts. With 1,321, the Principal Judge, Family Court, Saket, has the least number of pending cases while the Family Court, Rohini, has the highest at 3,654. According to the Family Court headquarters, Dwarka, 150-200 cases are registered in family courts on a daily basis and around 80% of the staff in these courts are working on diverted capacity from various other departments.

Bharat Mandapam's maiden Trade Fair hosts 3,500 exhibitors

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The 42nd edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) was inaugurated on Tuesday at the recently opened Bharat Mandapam, offering widespread business opportunities to over 3,500 exhibitors, both domestic and foreign.

This year, the theme of the annual exhibition organised by the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: United by Trade'. Representatives from 13 countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Oman, Egypt, Nepal, Thailand, Türkiye, Vietnam, Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Iran and the UAE - are participating in the fair. The fair will also have a



The 42nd edition of the IITF was inaugurated on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Delhi Pavillion, showcasing the Capital's heritage and its three key aspects - tourism, cultural corridor, and industrial corridor.

A daily footfall of over 10 lakh visitors is expected at the event, being held from 10 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. till November 27, the ITPO said. Tickets are available online as well as offline.

Punjab, Haryana govts. must compensate victims of dog bite: HC



The court has recommended ₹10,000 per tooth mark, with increase in compensation when flesh is removed from the skin. FILE PHOTO

Asian News International
CHANDIGARH

In a significant ruling, the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Tuesday said the State governments would be primarily responsible for paying compensation to the victims of dog bites.

The court added that the minimum financial assistance would be ₹10,000 per tooth mark. "When the flesh is removed from the skin, the compensation will be at least ₹20,000 per 0.2 cm wound," the court said.

Bunch of pleas

The ruling came during a hearing on a bunch of petitions pertaining to dog bite incidents.

Disposing a batch of 193 petitions, the HC also mandated the governments of Punjab and Haryana, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh to set up committees, headed by the Deputy Commissioners, to

determine such compensation.

"The award should be issued by the committees within four months of the filing of the claims along with the necessary documents... The State shall be primarily responsible for paying the compensation, to the defaulting agencies of the State, from the resources of the State, with the right to recover, or a private person," a single-judge bench of Justice Vinod S. Bharadwaj ruled.

The ruling assumes significance at a time when dog bite cases have been on the rise across the country.

Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh has been topping the charts when it comes to such cases.

No less than 70-80 incidents are reported daily and 150-180 injections are administered every day to the victims, according to data shared by the State government recently.

Joynagar tense after TMC leader's murder; CPI(M) says police barring entry

Police did not come to the rescue of the villagers during the violence, Saifuddin Laskar has been killed not by our supporters but rebel faction of ruling party: CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakraborty

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Tension ran high in Joynagar in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas a day after the murder of local Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader, Saifuddin Laskar, and one of his assailants, Sahabuddin. The residents of the Doluakhaki village, whose houses were burnt down following Monday's violence, held protests outside the Joynagar police station, demanding that they be allowed to go back to their houses in the village.

Local Trinamool leadership had alleged that the Communist Party of India (Marxist) supporters were behind the 'murder' of TMC's Bamangachi 'anchal' (zonal) president, and had set fire to over a dozen houses of party supporters in Doluakhaki.

'Using women as shield' The villagers whose houses were destroyed had taken shelter in a CPI(M) party office. They were stopped by the police from returning to their houses on Tuesday. A delegation of CPI(M) leaders was also stopped from



Houses set ablaze following the killing of a TMC local leader, who was shot dead on Monday morning in Joynagar, South 24 Parganas, in West Bengal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

entering the village. Although a police officer said entry was restricted only for outsiders, visuals aired by local television channels showed that a group of local women had also been barred entry by the police. Later, the police said the CPI(M) leaders were using the women as a shield.

Dozens of women alleged that the police stood by and did nothing while their houses were set on fire. They added that everything they owned had been destroyed in the re-

latory violence, including utensils, foodgrain and furniture.

A scuffle ensued between the police and CPI(M) leaders Sujan Chakraborty and Samik Lahiri. According to Mr. Chakraborty, the police did not come to the rescue of the villagers during the violence, and were now stopping them from entering the village. He also alleged that Laskar had been killed not by CPI(M) supporters, but a rebel faction of the ruling TMC.

Two of Laskar's assai-

lants were nabbed by the locals. One of them, Sahabuddin, was beaten to death, and another was arrested. According to Sahabuddin's wife, he was a TMC supporter. The arrested assailant was produced before the Barurip court, and sent to a 10-day police remand.

Three FIRs have been registered in this case. Anisur Naskar, a local CPI(M) leader against whom the family of the deceased TMC leader has levelled allegations, remains at large.

BJP criticises Jawaharlal Nehru to hide non-participation in freedom movement, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah took a jibe at the BJP saying that none of its leaders participated in the freedom struggle, and they were only beneficiaries of India's independence.

Noting the contribution of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to the country's independence and development of modern India, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the BJP leaders' only job is to criticise Nehru for political gain.

freedom movement. The BJP embraced Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, claiming that all the previous governments had forgotten his legacy and his contribution to the country's independence movement. The BJP leaders are attempting to sideline the legacy of Nehru."

Noting that Nehru was a committed socialist, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, Nehru spent nine years in jail during the freedom struggle.

During his tenure as the

freedom movement. The BJP embraced Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, claiming that all the previous governments had forgotten his legacy and his contribution to the country's independence movement. The BJP leaders are attempting to sideline the legacy of Nehru."

Noting that Nehru was a committed socialist, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, Nehru spent nine years in jail during the freedom struggle.

During his tenure as the

Odisha readies draft of PESA Act rules, seeks suggestions

Satvasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Close to 27 years after the enactment of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, Odisha has come up with the draft of the Odisha Gram Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Rules, 2023, to bring clarity in its implementation.

The State Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department says affected persons can submit their suggestions and objections in the next two months.

The rules dwell upon the issues

of gram sabhas' role and power in respect to acquisition of land, minor minerals and grant of prospecting licence or mining lease, control over alienation of land in the scheduled areas and control over the markets.

As per the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, though Odisha has made good progress in respect of compliance of State subject laws, it had not framed PESA Rules. "Since PESA Act is a central Act, the rules should have been framed by the Union government," said A.B. Ota, a prominent researcher on tribes.

Dudhwa to reopen today

With around 33% decrease in its tariff rates and focus on enhanced amenities for tourists, the Dudhwa National Park is now all set to greet its visitors here from today.

Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15
RISE 06:43 SET 17:28
RISE 08:36 SET 18:51

THURSDAY, NOV. 16
RISE 06:44 SET 17:28
RISE 09:41 SET 19:49

FRIDAY, NOV. 17
RISE 06:45 SET 17:28
RISE 10:41 SET 20:52

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 27 12
Safdarjang 27 12
Palam 26 15

Delhi Palam Today 27°C The pollution level will be critical. A dry weather to continue. Morning will be very cool with shallow fog and mist. Day will be comfortable.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 28°C The severe pollution level to continue. Weather will be dry. Morning will be very cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable.

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All arrangements in place at Sabarimala for devotees

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

Marking the beginning of yet another pilgrimage season, doors of the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala will be opened for the annual Mandalam-Makaravilakku season on Thursday.

According to K. Radhakrishnan, Minister for Devaswom, all arrangements are in place to ensure a smooth pilgrimage. Besides, steps have been taken to streamline the flow of pilgrims with the use of advanced technologies. This includes the introduction of a dynamic queue control system to manage crowding at Sannidhanam, besides the installation of video walls at Nilackal, Pampa and Sannidhanam to provide update on the status of pilgrim rush. The e-Kanikka system for the pilgrims to make donations has been made more comprehensive.

The preparations at all major base stations like Erumely, Chennannur, Kumily, Ettumanur and Punalur too have been completed. The bus station at Pampa is operational and 473 buses will be operated till the first week of December.

The frequency of services will be augmented in the days leading up to the Makaravilakku festival. A temporary barrage has been constructed at Kakkiyar to facili-



All set: The Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala will be opened for the annual Mandalam-Makaravilakku season on Thursday. FILE PHOTO

tate water supply to the Pampa base camp.

The traditional trekking paths through the forest have been cleared and eco-shops opened along the Azhutakkadav-Cherianavattam (18 km) and Sathram-Sannidhanam (12 km) routes. The service of 75 Forest Guards, who belong to the Scheduled Tribes of the region, has been ensured along these routes.

The parking grounds at Nilackal are ready and a FASTag system has been introduced. A system for delivering the temple's offerings has been launched in association with the Postal Department. The Minister requested all temples under the TDB and those run privately to devote their facilities for accommodat-

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e-bids are invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under two cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

Sl. No.	Name of work and Tender No.	Bid Security	Probid meeting Date	e-Bid Submission closing Date	e-Bid Opening Date
1	Improvement of Water supply system in Thiru V. Ka Nagar Constituency - Phase II - Improvement of water supply for providing water supply through tap to the individual buildings and the TNUHDB Tenements in Kannigapuram area by laying new feeder line from Vyasaripadi WDS and laying new distribution mains in Depot 72, Area-VI of Chennai City. CNT/WSS/NCB/Singara Chennai 2.0/006/2023-24	Rs.12.32 Lakhs	01.12.2023 at 11.30 a.m.	20.12.2023 upto 3.00 p.m.	21.12.2023 after 3.30 p.m.

EMD by online transfer only through tender Portal. The tenderer shall submit scanned copy of online transaction statement towards EMD as part of tender document.

Availability of tender documents and e-bid submission is permitted through tender portal / website: www.tntenders.gov.in For all other details refer tender schedule in the website from 20.11.2023.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (Contracts & Monitoring)
DIPR/6038/Tender/2023

THE TAMILNADU CO-OP. MILK PRODUCERS' FEDN. LTD.,
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, PLOT No.29 & 30, SIDCO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, AMBATTUR, CHENNAI - 600098. Tel. Ph. Nos. 044 - 23464528, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34. Fax No.: 044-23464536, e-mail - dgmurchase@gmail.com

A two part e-bid open tender is invited from the reputed firms for the following procurement:

Sl. No.	Ref. No.	Description	Estimate Value	Pre-Bid Meeting	Important Dates
1	2353/KS/2023	Purchase of Ghee Jars along with the accessories for packing Ghee in 100ml/200ml/500ml/1000ml to meet out two years requirement to Dairy cum Powder Plant, Ammapalayam, Thiruvannamalai	697.00 Lakhs	21.11.2023 by 11:00 A.M.	01.12.2023 by 3:00 P.M. 01.12.2023 by 4:00 P.M.
2	4650/K1/2023	Purchase of 1,05,00,000 Nos. ± 25% of 200ml Butter Milk Pet Bottle with Lids & Recycle Symbol to meet out two years requirement to Products Dairy	285.00 Lakhs	21.11.2023 by 11:00 A.M.	01.12.2023 by 3:00 P.M. 01.12.2023 by 4:00 P.M.

For pre-qualification criteria, specifications, EMD payable, place of tender opening, etc., please refer the website www.tntenders.gov.in and www.tamilnadu.coop.milk.org.in. Tender documents can also be downloaded at free of cost and submission of filled tenders only through the e-tendering Website www.tntenders.gov.in.

JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR, TCMPPF LTD.
DIPR / 6048 / TENDER / 2023

TAMIL NADU FIBRENET CORPORATION LIMITED,
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)

e-TENDER NOTICE

1	Tender Inviting Authority, Designation and Address	Managing Director, TANFINET Corporation, 807, 5th Floor, P.T.LeeChengalvaraya Naicker Maaligai, Anna Salai, Chennai-2.
2	a) Name of the work	Tender for Selection of Third Party Agency (TPA) to provide audit services during implementation of Last Mile Connectivity Project and during O&M of BharatNet Project.
	b) Tender reference	NIT_TANFINET_020_TPA_LMC_O&M
	c) Place of Execution	Tamil Nadu
3	Tender Document available place, cost for obtaining tender	https://tntenders.gov.in in the e-Tender portal. 15.11.2023 at 11.00AM.
4	Earnest Money Deposit amount	Rs.8,00,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs only)
5	Pre-Bid meeting	22.11.2023 at 3.00PM, as per the tender document
6	Bid submission start date and time	07.12.2023 at 11.00AM, as per the tender document
7	Due date, time, and place for submission of tender	14.12.2023 at 3.00PM, as per the tender document
8	Place, Date and Time of tender opening	14.12.2023 at 4.00PM, as per the tender document

DIPR/6034/Tendre/2023 Managing Director, Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Limited.

IN BRIEF



Kolkata's air quality dives on Deepavali night; 361 arrested

The Air Quality Index (AQI) of Kolkata deteriorated on the night of Deepavali due to late night bursting of crackers. Data from Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) revealed that PM 2.5 concentration at Ballygunge, Victoria Memorial and Salt Lake exceeded 400 micrograms per cubic metres. Police have arrested 361 people for bursting crackers on Sunday night. Officers have also seized over 650 kg of crackers.

Not hiding my caste, not done politics using it: Sharad Pawar

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Tuesday said he does not want to hide his caste and that he has never done politics using it as a medium. Mr. Pawar's statement comes days after a purported certificate showing him as belonging to the Other Backward Classes category went viral on social media. His daughter Supriya Sule dismissed the document, calling it fake. PTI

Six killed in car-truck collision on Delhi-Haridwar highway

Six people were killed when their car collided with a truck at Rampurtiraha on the Delhi-Haridwar NH early Tuesday, a police officer said. Circle Officer (Sadar) said the accident took place at 4 a.m. when the victims, hailing from Delhi and Meerut, were en route to Haridwar. PTI

Uttarakhand's Gangotri temple closes for winter

The sacred portals of the Gangotri Dham closed for the winter on the auspicious occasion of the Annakoot festival on Tuesday amid chanting of vedic hymns. Prayers were also offered to goddess Ganga for the safe evacuation of 40 workers trapped in the Silkyara tunnel on the Char Dham route, a temple official said. Soon after the closure of the temple gates, an idol of goddess Ganga left in a palanquin decorated with flowers for Mukhba, where she will be worshipped during the winter. PTI

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- The Admission will be granted on the basis of an entrance test and interview.
- Last date to apply: 2nd December 2023.
- Apply online @ <https://researchadmissions.gitam.edu/>

Director - Research & Development Cell

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
RAMAYATNAM PORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
e-Procurement Cum Reverse tendering (3rd Call)

Online Tender Notice No.05/SE/RPDC/2023, Dt: 14-11-2023

Online tenders are invited for the following works.

1) NIT No.05/SE/RPDC/2023-24. "Supply, manning, operation and maintenance of Two Tugs of 40 Ton Bollard Pull (ASD / SRP / VOITH) or more of RSV Type-IV / Coastal vessel compliant for Ramayapatnam Port for a period of FIVE years". The details can be viewed and download online directly through www.tender.apecrovement.gov.in from 15-11-2023 onwards.

DIPR 2476PP/CL Dt: 14-11-2023 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, RPDC, Mangalagiri

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST INVITED FROM DISTRIBUTORS

Kerafed, one of the largest coconut oil manufacturers in India, is looking for distributors all over Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Calcutta, New Delhi and selected districts in Kerala (Calicut, Kannur, Palakkad, Wayanad, Idukki, Malappuram & Kasargod) to distribute Kera coconut oil and other value-added Products. Those who have experience in the FMCG sector can apply. For more details, visit our website, www.kerafed.com WhatsApp: 6282900669 Email: kerafedmktg@gmail.com

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Indian Institute of Information Technology Kottayam (IIIT Kottayam) invites online applications from Indian Nationals including OCs & PIOs for recruitment to the post of **Assistant Professor Gr. II (On contract) (Academic Pay Level-10) in Mathematics.**

Interested candidates may apply online through <https://recruitf.iitkottayam.ac.in/> on or before **5.00 pm on 27.11.2023**. Please visit the Institute website for details. **The recruitment process will be conducted only under offline at the Institute.**

REGISTRAR

IN BRIEF



PM begins Jharkhand visit with roadshow in Ranchi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a 10-km roadshow in Ranchi around 10 p.m. on Tuesday. The 45-minute roadshow began amid tight security soon after Mr. Modi landed at the airport, officials said. Thousands of people lined up from the airport to the Raj Bhavan to greet the PM. Mr. Modi is on a two-day Jharkhand visit beginning on the eve of tribal icon Birsa Munda's birth anniversary that also happens to be Jharkhand's Statehood day. PTI

Ex-J&K Minister Lal Singh's ED custody extended by 5 days

A Jammu court on Tuesday extended the Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody of former Jammu and Kashmir Minister Lal Singh in a money laundering case by five more days. Mr. Singh, the chairman of the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP), was arrested on November 7 after a special court dismissed his anticipatory bail application. He was under investigation by the ED in connection with a case against an educational trust run by his wife and former legislator Kanta Andotra. SPP Ashwani Khajuria said Mr. Singh was produced before the special court on Tuesday through video conference on the expiry of his remand. PTI

As BJP inducts 21,000 Yadavs in community outreach, RJD chief says he will foil any bid to dent party base

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

In a bid to woo the Yadav voters in Bihar ahead of the next year's Lok Sabha polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday inducted around 21,000 community members at a programme here.

Reacting to it, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav accused the BJP of attempts to create a divide in the community and said he won't let it happen in the State.

The Yadavs are considered core voters of the RJD, the largest constituent of the State's *mahagathbandhan* government.

According to the caste survey conducted by the Bihar government recently, Yadavs form the largest



Union Minister Nityanand Rai, former Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Bihar BJP president Samrat Choudhary and Leader of Opposition Vijay Kumar Sinha during Govardhan Puja in Patna on Tuesday. ANI

bloc in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) group, comprising 14.26% of the State's population.

After Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) parted ways with the BJP in 2022 and formed a coalition government with the RJD and the Congress, the BJP has been trying to make up

for the lost votes.

BJP State unit president Samrat Choudhary addressing a gathering at Bapu Sabhagar in Patna, said Bihar should have been a leader in milk production (traditional occupation of the Yadav community) but it is liquor that is "flowing in the State".

"When the regime of Lalu Prasad Yadav came to

an end in 2005, there were only 997 liquor shops in the State. After prohibition was imposed in 2016, their numbers shot up to around 11,000," he alleged.

'Bid to create divide'

Meanwhile, the RJD supremo at a programme organised by ISKCON in Patna alleged that wherever the BJP ruled, it tried to create a wedge in the community. He said it is only the present *mahagathbandhan* government that has protected the weak.

Like Lord Krishna protected the weak, the government "recruited lakhs of teachers", with more hirings to take place soon, Mr. Yadav said, adding that the ceiling on reservation has also been increased.

Social justice plank under attack, Congress doubles down on pitch for backward classes

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday doubled down on its pitch for the marginalised and backward classes in response to Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, who, on Monday, accused the grand old party of being disingenuous in its claims of championing the cause of the backward classes.

The Congress has also come under attack from the BJP for not doing enough for Dalits, tribals, and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

At a poll rally in Madhya Pradesh's Bundelkhand region, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said his party had played a huge role in laying the foundation for social justice in the country.

He made the statement while paying tribute to former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on his



SP chief Akhilesh Yadav (left) accused Congress of not conducting a caste census after Independence; Congress made it possible for Narendra Modi to become the Prime Minister, Mallikarjun Kharge said. PTI

birth anniversary on Tuesday.

"Mr. Modi keeps asking what the Congress has done since Independence. To that, I say that had it not been for the Congress' work, Mr. Modi would not be the Prime Minister today," the Congress chief said.

Affirmative action

He added that it was because of the Congress government and leaders like



Jawaharlal Nehru, B.R. Ambedkar, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel that the country got its Constitution, which gave equality to all citizens - Dalit, Tribals, Backward Classes, rich, poor, women - through the right to vote, the right to education, and reservation.

"If the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) had its way, the children of the poor and the *Shudras* would have been punished

for trying to get educated," Mr. Kharge also said.

Earlier in the day, senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram took to X (formerly Twitter), saying, "The first amendment to the Constitution providing for reservation for socially and educationally backward classes was made in 1951 under the Congress government."

He added, "The 27% reservation for the OBCs in Central government jobs

FIR against Kumaraswamy for alleged 'power theft'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the Karnataka government accused JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy of power theft, the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Vigilance Unit on Tuesday filed an FIR against the leader upon inspecting his house.

On Tuesday, the Congress posted a video on X, showing a cable from the terrace of Mr. Kumaraswamy's house connecting directly to a power line across the street.

Mr. Kumaraswamy clarified that the lighting had been put up by a private light decorator, and the connection was removed after it was brought to his notice. He added that he would willingly pay a fine if served a notice.

Congress can't do any good as it wants to rule Madhya Pradesh through three families: Shah

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday that the Congress wants the State to be ruled by only three families.

Addressing election rallies in Rewa and Jabalpur, Mr. Shah amplified his attacks on the Congress saying, "Congress wants to rule Madhya Pradesh through three families - one is Kamal Nath and Nakul Nath, Kamal Nath wants to make his son the Chief Minister; second is Digvijaya Singh and his son Jaivardhan Singh; and third is Sonia (Gandhi)ji and Rahul Gandhi, Soniji wants to make Rahul Baba the PM."

"The party which is in politics for its sons, can

Shun religion talk, challenge Cong. on work: Gehlot to BJP

Press Trust of India
JAIPUR/KOTA

Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot in Kota on Tuesday. ANI

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other BJP leaders to speak on the work done by his government instead of talking about religion in election rallies.

Accusing the leaders of the Opposition party of doing politics in the name of religion ahead of the November 25 Rajasthan Assembly polls, Mr. Gehlot said the Congress was fighting the electoral battle on issues of development and welfare of the people.

"BJP leaders come and say provocative things in their speeches in the name of religion. They impose their agenda in the name of religion which is not a good tradition," he said at Jaipur's Albert Hall after paying tributes to former Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru on his birth anniversary.

"I challenge them to speak on our schemes and programmes and the performance of the government instead of doing pol-

itics in the name of religion... If they have something to criticise our development works with, they should do it but it is not a good thing to do provocative things," Mr. Gehlot added.

Mr. Gehlot later left for Kota to launch the 'Guarantee Yatra' in the division, participate in roadshows in favour of Congress candidates Shanti Dhariwal, Rakhi Gautam and Naimuddin Guddu, and address a public meeting at Thermal Circle.

Speaking to media persons at the Kota airport, he said, "We are asking for votes on the basis of developmental work and we want an issue-based contest as we don't have enmity with anyone..."



Election pitch: Union Home Minister Amit Shah during an election campaign rally in Jabalpur on Tuesday. PTI

that do any good for you?" he asked.

Mr. Shah continued his attacks on Mr. Gandhi over the issue of OBC politics.

"Rahul Baba feels that talking about OBCs would get more votes, that is why someone has written a speech for him and he keeps repeating the same speech wherever he goes. But the fact is that Congress is an anti-backward class party," he said, alleging

that the Congress "sat on" the report of the Kalkar Commission for years.

Mr. Shah repeated his charges from Monday in which he claimed that former PM Rajiv Gandhi had "opposed" the Mandal Commission report.

With OBCs forming nearly 50% of M.P.'s population, the Congress wants to dent the BJP's vote base while the ruling party is aiming to keep it intact.

Man from Bihar awarded death in Aluva child rape and murder case

Asafak gets the maximum punishment as court finds that case belonged to the rarest of rare category; convict also given a jail term of 49 years under various provisions of the IPC; he is also involved in a child sexual abuse case in Delhi in 2018

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Asafak Alam, 29, from Bihar was awarded the death penalty on Tuesday for raping and murdering a child in Aluva on July 28.

K. Soman, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ernakulam, who is also the Special Judge for the trial of cases relating to atrocities and sexual violence against women and children, awarded the convict the maximum punishment after finding that the case belonged to the rarest of rare category.

The court directed that he be hanged by the neck till his death.

Asafak was also awarded a total jail term of 49 years under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, which included five rigorous imprisonments for various periods for causing the disappearance of evidence, trespassing on a burial ground, kidnapping or abducting for murder and procurement of a



Strong verdict: Asafak Alam, convict in the rape and murder of a minor girl, being taken out of the court in Kochi. THULASI KAKKAT

minor girl, and offences of kidnapping and causing hurt by means of poison.

Another count of rigorous imprisonment for three years and a fine was awarded under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act for

giving intoxicating liquor or narcotic drug or psychotropic substance to the child. The offence of committing unnatural sex also invited him imprisonment for life for the remainder of his natural life and a fine of ₹1 lakh.

He was further sentenced to undergo imprisonment for life for the remainder of his natural life and a fine of ₹1 lakh each under 5 (i), (m) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, for penetrative sexual assault causing grievous hurt or causing bodily harm and injury or injury to the sexual organs of the child and committing penetrative sexual assault on a child below 12 years. The term sentences shall run concurrently, the order said.

The judge held that the proceedings in the case be submitted to the High Court of Kerala for confirmation of the death sentence under Section 366 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The death sentence shall not be executed unless confirmed by the High Court, the judge ordered.

The judge noted that the accused was proved to be involved in a child sexual abuse case in Delhi in 2018, which was even before the victim in the case was born, which indicated his paedophilic nature. The "cruel tendency of the accused and his total disregard to human life is writ large from the manner of attack and the nature of injuries caused to the dead body," the court felt.

4 women will get Cabinet berths if Cong. wins election in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

TPCC chief Revanth Reddy said the Congress government, if voted to power in Telangana, will have a fair representation of women and he would bat for four Cabinet berths for women, unlike the present government, where there is hardly any women's representation.

Mr. Reddy, who was campaigning in Station Ghanpur in support of Congress candidate Singapuram Indira on Tuesday, said the BRS has given ticket to just six women in the Assembly polls, reflecting "how Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao treats women". "BRS has given opportunity to only two Ministers in the present Cabinet, while there was not a single woman in the first term of the BRS government," he said.

"On the other hand, Congress gave tickets to 12 women and similarly, a fair representation will be given in the Cabinet with four women Ministers. The 'Mahalaxmi scheme' will also be introduced for women welfare and free bus ride to women are other schemes that reflect the party's respect for women," he added.

Shah likely to release BJP's poll manifesto for Telangana soon

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP's manifesto ahead of the State Assembly elections on November 30 is almost ready and is likely to be released by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday, said Rajya Sabha MP and National OBC chairman K. Laxman.

"It will be a people's manifesto and have implementable policies, not just for votes. Our party has clearly demarcated a 'Lakshman Rekha' with regard to welfare versus freebies. We are not against welfare for the poor. For instance, the supply of free foodgrains for 80% of the population has ensured no one goes hungry in the country," he said at a press meet on Tuesday.

PM's roadshow planned
Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadshow is also being planned in the twin cities on November 26 or 27, he said.

Mr. Laxman used the opportunity to criticise BRS and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for their "election stunt" in seeking the Election Commission's permission to issue new ration cards.

"What was the government doing during the last 10 years? Was it sleeping?"



Amit Shah

Not a single ration card has been issued in the two terms of this regime. Having miserably failed in implementing their promises, they are making fresh promises but people are not going to be fooled this time," he asserted.

He accused Mr. Rao of diverting Prime Minister Awas Yojana funds meant for constructing houses for the poor to build Pragati Bhavan, the CM's camp office, and also charged that the State was in a dire strait financially due to his mismanagement.

Mr. Laxman termed the ongoing war of words between Telangana Congress president A. Revanth Reddy and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi a "new drama".

Mr. Shah will be campaigning in Gajwel at 10 a.m., Nalgonda at 12 p.m., Warangal East at 2 p.m. and a roadshow at Rajendranagar at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Accused in Hyderabad fire is under police watch

Naveen Kumar
HYDERABAD

The accused owner of a four-storey building in Hyderabad, where a fire resulted in the death of nine persons on Monday, has been placed under police surveillance.

Ramesh Jaiswal, the owner of Balaji Residence, is accused of illegally storing chemicals and inflammable materials in drums in the stilt area, which resulted in the blaze. Officials said Jaiswal suffered a heart stroke during the fire accident and was hospitalised.

"We have booked Jaiswal under Section 304 (II) (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the IPC," the Nampally Police said. "He is under police watch at a private hospital in Nampally and will be arrested once he recovers," said Hyderabad City Police Commissioner Sandeep Shandilya.

Hyderabad clues team chief Venkanna said the cause of fire is suspected to be short circuit. "This has been confirmed by the camera footage of the local-

ity as well," he said.

However, Director-General of Telangana State Fire Department Y. Nagi Reddy said the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The fire mishap in Balaji Residence on Monday, a four-storey building which has 16 flats, killed nine individuals from three families. Officials from the fire department said that the fire had started at the stilt of the building, where Jaiswal had illegally stored chemicals in plastic drums and other flammable materials including fibreglass rolls.



A probe team inspecting the residential building in Hyderabad where a major fire broke out on Monday killing nine. G. RAMAKRISHNA

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) **Name:** Unknown **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 40-45 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** about 5'5", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **ID Mark:** artificial leg fitted on Right leg, **Wearing:** Dark Yellow color T-shirt and light Green color Pant found dead at Ajmeri Gate side, General Car Parking, New Delhi Railway Station on 09.11.2023 by 06.39 pm under area of P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 40A dated 09.11.2023 has been lodged at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Dead Body has been preserved in Mortuary of LHMC Hospital, New Delhi for 72 hours. If any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S.- New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi
Ph: 011-23744073, 8750871305
DP/13086/Rly/2023 (UIDB)

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.

Short Term E-Tender Notice
E-TENDER NO. TD-495/23.

Online e-Bids are invited for "CONSTRUCTION OF BALANCE WORK OF 220 KV MULTI CIRCUIT(4X220) LINE FROM SEC-148(400), NODA - SEC-45(220), NODA (UP TO COMMON/BIFURCATION POINT) ON TURN-KEY BASIS-18KM". E-tender has been uploaded on dt 14/11/2023 on <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of the work: Rs. 14.18 Crore only. Time Period is 12 Months. EMD Cost: Rs. 14.18 Lacs. Last date of tender submission is 29/11/2023 at 17:00 Hrs. Total Quantity of work, tender specification and other terms and condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Undersigned reserve 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, ETDC, 10th floor, Shakti Bhawan Extn., Lucknow

पत्रांक: दिनांक:.....

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Sonu @ Podhi, S/o: Sita Ram Paswan, R/o: A-750, Budha Marg, Mandawali, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 148/2019 U/s 354/354A/509 IPC, P.S.: I.P. Estate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Sonu @ Podhi cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sonu @ Podhi has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Sonu @ Podhi accused of FIR 261/2017, U/s 356/379/34 IPC, P.S.: I.P. Estate, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.12.2023.

By Order
Sh. Vinod Kumar
Metropolitan Magistrate
Central, Room No. 150,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi
DP/12779/CD/2023-(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Shiv Raj, S/o Vinod, R/o: Jhuggi Indra Camp, Vikash Colony, Delhi has committed the offence of FIR No. 579/2016 U/s 324/341/34 IPC, P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Shiv Raj cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Shiv Raj has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Shiv Raj of FIR No. 579/2016 U/s 324/341/34 IPC, P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 14.12.2023.

By Order
Ms. Swati Gupta-III
Metropolitan Magistrate-06, West Court No. 355
Tis Hazari Courts, New Delhi
DP/12997/WD/2023(Court Matter)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male **Age : 40 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Identification: A mole on right side of nose, was found unconscious on 10.11.2023 at Geeta Ghat Rain Basera, Delhi**

he was admitted in LNJP Hospital, where doctor declare him brought dead. In this regard DD No. 40-A dated 10.11.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23815444, 23810633, 08750870127, 09811579086
DP/13068/N/23

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Ran Vijay Chauhan S/o Sh. Ramesh Chand Chauhan R/o A-1/179 CK H.No. 108/9 BLK-A-1 Madhu Vihar New Delhi-110059 & WZ-1024 Nangal Raya Pankha Road New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 148/2019 U/s 354/354A/509 IPC at PS: Kotwali, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Ran Vijay Chauhan can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Ran Vijay Chauhan has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person Ran Vijay Chauhan of FIR No. 148/2019 U/s 354/354A/509 IPC at PS: Kotwali, Delhi is required to appear before this court or before me to answer the said complaint on or before 20.12.2023.

By Order
Divyashree Raina
Metropolitan Magistrate
Mahila Court (Central-02),
Room No. 273, Second Floor,
Tis Hazari Court Delhi
DP/13045/N/2023

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Amit, S/o Ramesh Chand, R/o H. No. 25, 26, Block No. 16, Triok Puri, New Delhi-110091 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 196/2020, U/s 379/511/34 IPC & 11(1)(C) PCA Act, P. S. IP Estate, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Amit cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Amit has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Amit accused of FIR No. 196/2020, U/s 379/511/34 IPC & 11(1)(C) PCA Act, P. S. IP Estate, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 10.01.2024.

By Order
Sh. Vinod Kumar
Metropolitan Magistrate-03
Central District, Room No. 150
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/12662/CD/2023

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0478-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: md@kmmll.com, URL: www.kmmll.com

TENDER NOTICE

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2023_KMML_619460_1	For supply of conveyor belt
2	2023_KMML_616483_1	Global Tender for the supply of Manufacture and Supply of Paper Valve Product bags for- RC 822
3	2023_KMML_621518_1	Detailed Project Report preparation to manufacture sponge iron from iron oxide at KMML.
4	2023_KMML_618143_1	For the supply of Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) Panels
5	2023_KMML_621916_1	For the manufacture and supply of 3,000 Nos of Jumbo bags Polypropylene product-Sillimanite

Chavara 14.11.2023 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	UHBVN	PURCHASE OF 750 MW RTC POWER ON SHORT TERM BASIS DURING 01/05/2024 TO 15/10/2024 THROUGH DEEP PORTAL OF PPFCCL.	16.11.2023 06.12.2023	RS. 30000/- PER MW PER MONTH OF QUANTUM OFFERED	www.uhbvn.org.in NIT No: NIT108/HPPC	9812451200 chpccp@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in
SAMVAD - 13/2024/40/22618/1/199/7

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा।

शुद्धि-पत्र

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा द्वारा Expression of Interest No.-RDD/SD/CATRA/EOI-18/2023-24 में चर्चित कार्य जिसका PR 310730 द्वारा निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु कडिका क्रमांक 08 में Date of Publication of Tender on Website 11.11.2023 (11:00AM) के स्थान पर 17.11.2023 (11:00AM), कडिका क्रमांक 07 में Start Date/Time for Online Submission of bid 11.11.2023 (11:00AM) के स्थान पर 17.11.2023 (11:00AM), कडिका क्रमांक 08 में Last date of submission of Bid online/Time for receipt of bids 18.11.2023 (17:00PM) के स्थान पर 24.11.2023 (17:00PM), कडिका क्रमांक 09 में Last Date and Time of Submission of Hard Copy of Cost of Tender, EMD and other Documents 21.11.2023 (03:00PM) के स्थान पर 25.11.2023 (03:00PM) तथा कडिका क्रमांक 10 में Technical Bid Opening Date and Time 22.11.2023 (02:00PM) के स्थान पर 28.11.2023 (02:00PM) पढ़ा जाय।

निविदा की शेष शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेगी।
PR 311349 Rural Development(23-24)D

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age** about 45/50 years, **Height** 5'3", **Complexion** Shallow, **Long Face, Thin Built, Wearing** Blue colour checkdar shirt, grey colour pant and chappal in feet was found dead at KM Pole No. 07/17, Up Line Near Rampura underpass, Delhi on 30.10.2023.

In this regard a DD No. 42A dated 30.10.2023 U/S 174 Cr.PC. has been lodged at PS Sarai Rohila Railway Station, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased female may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
PS: Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: 011-28711697
DP/13010/Rly/2023

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

(Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhaya Division)

Tender Notice No. :- SG/DSE/OT/07/23

1. Name of work with its location: Augmentation of Electric Loco Shed for increased holding capacity of 150 to 200 Loco with maintenance facility for 3 phase Loco; Provision of telecom facilities at Rly ORH at Iodhi Colony Rly station, New Delhi and ORH at DDU; Provision of SSP 3 in DDU Yard for Electric Loco Shed Area for isolating Loco shed area OHE from Main Line. (Telecom facilities for subject work); Pd. Deen Dayal Upadhay Jn.- Provision of Combined Crew at DDU; Provision of CCTV System at Relay room and Panel room of GC section of DDU Division. 2. **Approx. Cost of the work:** Rs. 94,47,428.99/- (Rupees ninety four lakh forty seven thousand four hundred twenty eight and paise ninety nine only). 3. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,89,000/- (Rupees one lakh eighty nine thousand only) 4. **Closing date & time for Submission of e-tendering:** 11.12.2023 up to 12.30 Hrs. 5. **Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen etc.:** www.reps.gov.in

Divnl. Signal & Telecom Engineer
East Central Railway, DDU
PR/01653/DDU/S&T/723-24/36



Bridge to nowhere

India should be forceful in articulating its position on Gaza

Two weeks after abstaining from a UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution that called for a ceasefire in the Israeli strikes on Gaza, India voted in favour of five of six annual draft resolutions at the UNGA's Fourth Committee that criticised Israel for increasing settlements in the Occupied Territories, was in favour of Palestinians' right to homes and property, and supported the UN Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWA) operating in Gaza. The official explanation of the votes as "routine" affirmation of India's traditional policy has only added to the confusion over the government's stand on the crisis. Its Explanation of Vote in the original UNGA resolution in October said that India could not vote for a resolution that did not include an "explicit condemnation" of the October 7 attacks by Hamas. However, none of the six resolutions, including one in which India abstained, that discusses investigating Israel for rights violations, actually referred to the October 7 attacks. These were instead identical to resolutions that India had voted for before, and neither India nor any other country at the Fourth Committee deliberations proposed amendments. The Israeli envoy, in fact, demanded a rejection of the "anti-Israel" resolutions as they did not contain references to the current situation. Cuba argued that the resolutions were important to vote for, but that they also did not contain references to the more than 11,000 Palestinians killed, including 4,000 children, and the displaced (nearly a million). India did not propose amendments, nor did any Indian diplomat speak, although a lengthier explanation may be expected when the resolutions are put to a vote by the UNGA next month – by which time more of Gaza would have been flattened.

At a time when every day counts, New Delhi appears unwilling to exert itself to making a difference. True, the government continues to hold its traditional stand on support for the Palestinian cause and a two-state solution (which it reaffirmed during the recent India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial meeting), and that it "stands by" Israel, with "zero tolerance" for terror attacks. However, it has not joined the call for a ceasefire or explicitly asked for an end to the strikes on civilian targets, where Israel claims it is hunting for Hamas fighters and searching for hostages. Nor has it named Hamas for the terror attacks or changed Indian law, as the Israeli Ambassador to India called for, to designate Hamas as a terror group. More than a month after Israel's reprisals began, the government must explain its position on the conflict, including where, if anywhere, India could play a role in alleviating the situation. The upcoming Voice of Global South and G-20 virtual summits may present the opportunity to articulate options for ending the violence, recovering Israeli hostages, as well as post-conflict scenarios for Gaza and Palestinians. India's voice, once known for being forceful and balanced on such issues, must not be replaced by an expedient silence.

Search and seizure

Unfettered powers to seize devices threaten freedom of speech

The Supreme Court's direction to the Union government to frame guidelines to protect the interests of media professionals with regard to the seizure of their digital devices is a timely first step. Recent actions against journalists, whose laptops and smartphones were seized and searched, have sent a chilling message not just to the wider media fraternity but also to whistle-blowers and others who speak to journalists on the condition their identity will not be revealed. If a journalist's communication devices can be seized and their data examined on the flimsy grounds of allegations, it compromises sources and impedes news professionals' ability to do their job. In this way, it impinges on the freedom of the press and also strikes at the right to livelihood of journalists, as digital devices have become the critical tools of the profession.

The guidelines must ensure that law enforcement agencies are not permitted to seize or search devices without a prior judicial warrant, clearly laying out the information that the agency expects to find, rather than authorising an unlimited fishing expedition. Journalists must not be forced to incriminate themselves or their sources by being compelled to provide passcodes or biometric data. The guidelines must include protocols to safeguard the devices and the data, to ensure that it is not leaked or tampered with, or passed on to third parties, and that data irrelevant to an investigation is deleted in a timely manner. Technological interventions allow for the cloning of a device, thus allowing journalists to continue their work and not depriving them of their own data for an unspecified period. Similarly, it is important to create a record of the device at the time of seizure to ensure that incriminating material is not planted on it during the investigation process. The Court, in its directive to the Additional Solicitor-General, indicated the need for a "balancing of interests". Thus, the guidelines must be drafted in a transparent manner and involve public consultations. The Court referred to the fact that "privacy itself has been held to be a fundamental right", indicating that this is an issue involving all citizens whose professional and personal lives are increasingly contained in a vulnerable hand-held device. Beyond these guidelines for media professionals, there is a need to update the laws allowing search and seizure by law enforcement agencies to take these new digital realities into account.

The government of Bihar has taken two historic steps that move it ahead of all other States in the country as well as the central government on the long road to social justice. It has conducted what amounts to a caste census (despite the legal nomenclature of a survey) and made public the population numbers associated with different caste groups. Even more important, it has now revealed, at least partially, the additional data that tell us something about the broad socio-economic status of castes.

However, the Rashtriya Janata Dal-Janata Dal (United) combine may squander its well-earned lead if it falters in the crucial third step – of using the caste survey data to rejuvenate the social justice agenda. Going by the measures announced so far – expansion of reservations to 65% – Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar seems intent on pouring new wine into old bottles.

The new context that frames the social justice agenda in the third decade of the 21st century demands a response that goes beyond the strategies of the 20th century. This new context has four main dimensions.

Providing 'decent work'

First, there is the global economic situation, where neoliberal policies have re-positioned States as market-enablers while severely constraining their social welfare capabilities. The hard fact is that despite – or because of? – four decades of market-friendly policies, the formal sector of the Indian economy offers less than 8% of all jobs. While reservation remains relevant as a mode of providing representation to marginalised groups, it is hopelessly inadequate as a means for reducing caste inequalities. The challenge – and it is a formidable one – is to imagine new ways of providing on a mass scale what the International Labour Organization (ILO) calls "decent work".

Second, like many other countries in the world, India today is ruled by an authoritarian regime built around a personality cult focused on a single leader. The important point is that the hegemonic power of this regime is being used to alter the shape of the Indian state like never before in the history of our republic. Core constitutional norms such as the system of checks and balances between different organs of state; or the distinction between government, party and



Satish Deshpande

is currently the M.N. Srinivas Chair Professor at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru

The ruling coalition in the State has the opportunity to inaugurate a new kind of politics by using the caste survey data to rejuvenate and deliver the social justice agenda

individual leader; or the basic federal structure of the Indian union are being undermined in ways that are already hard to reverse and may soon become irreversible.

An ideological hegemony

Unlike the first two dimensions of the current context, the last two are explicitly related to caste. The third and most visible aspect of our society and polity today is the arrival of an overt and aggressive north-Indian Hindu upper-caste hegemony in the guise of the ideology called Hindutva. This hegemony itself is not new. Indeed, it has been a permanent feature since Independence, with a brief interruption during the 1990s. But while the earlier upper-caste dominance of the Nehru-era wore the garb of secularism and socialism and was neither overt nor aggressive, the Modi-era version is the opposite in each of these respects. Today, we have a violently anti-secular, unabashedly crony-capitalist form of dominance that insists not only on one nation, one leader and one religion but also on there being one and only one way of being Hindu, or even of being Indian. The caste hierarchies of Hinduism are attempted to be folded into a larger Hindu identity shaped by the upper castes, and defined by a visceral hatred towards Muslims and, to a lesser extent, towards Christians.

The fourth dimension – the most challenging from the point of view of social justice – has to do with the internal differentiations that are now an undeniable aspect of every major caste group. In other words, not only is there more than one class in every caste group but also the interests of these different classes cannot be easily harmonised in a one-dimensional caste politics. The indications are that caste politics will have to become more and more coalitional and address similar class-fractions across multiple castes if it is to remain electorally viable. This may also precipitate a class polarisation within castes with unpredictable consequences. There are intriguing asymmetries here that need to be considered: it is easier for upper caste politics to deal with the problem of poor upper castes than it is for lower caste politics to deal with the problem of rich lower castes. The former goes with the grain of democratic politics in general, while the latter is against the grain.

The ruling coalition in Bihar stands at a

historic crossroads. It has the opportunity to inaugurate a new kind of caste politics that takes account of the various dimensions of our present. To do this, the habits of the past will have to be broken, while maintaining continuity with the core of the social justice agenda. The crucial point, obscured in the past but highlighted by the current conjuncture, is that caste politics can no longer be automatically equated with the politics of social justice. If this equation was taken for granted in the past, it was largely because of a misrecognition – itself prompted by the dominant upper caste ideology – that "caste politics" effectively meant lower caste politics. While the immediate effect of this misrecognition was to make upper caste politics invisible, it also shielded lower caste politics from critical scrutiny.

Effective counter-assertion of State rights

On the other hand, the politics of the lower castes, even when it is not fighting for social justice but for the interests of a particular community, can still be an effective counter to the politics of Hindutva, which is the current avatar of the politics of the upper caste neo-elites. Bihar has already been playing this role to some extent by halting the triumphant march of Hindutva politics across north India. Along with Karnataka, Kerala and Rajasthan in recent times, Bihar has also led the resistance against the erosion of Indian federalism. The very act of conducting a caste count was an assertion of the rights of States to fashion locally-relevant policies.

The survey itself raises questions that will profoundly affect our collective future as a nation. A census is ultimately about aggregated numbers, and as such, it privileges larger numbers – in other words, it carries the seed of majoritarianism. In the context of a majority-rule electoral system, the counting of identities like castes seems to juxtapose the "portrait" model of representation against a "proxy" model. Should our political representatives be judged by how well they resemble us (like a portrait), or by how well they act on our behalf (like proxies)? Bihar has the opportunity to show us that even if sharing the same identity is a necessary condition for representation today, it must not be accepted as sufficient.

The views expressed are personal

A Norwegian perspective of India's digital journey

Leaving no one behind'. This is the powerful but challenging promise that United Nations member-states have pledged to work towards in the pursuit of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). India has discovered some of the ways to move closer to this promise. With a vast and diverse population of 1.4 billion people, the progress made in the past decade to reach out and give social protection to every Indian has been impressive.

One of India's most powerful tools in this journey has been Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). As the Norwegian Minister of International Development, I am impressed by the development benefits of the use of digital public goods. Aspiring to leave no one behind, India has been able to issue digital identities to almost all its citizens. In turn, this has provided them access to social services, the digital economy, government support services and more. These lessons can be used as a blueprint to maximise international development efforts.

The first is India's role in accelerating the digital public goods agenda. During India's G-20 presidency this year, the world saw that digital public goods are part of the international development architecture of the future. India made digital public goods and DPI more tangible. One key step was in getting all G-20 countries to agree to the G-20 Framework for Systems of Digital Public Infrastructure. Arriving at this common framework is an impressive feat. The definition (which describes "a set of shared digital systems" used to "drive development, inclusion, innovation, trust, and competition and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms") captures the idea behind digital public infrastructure very well.

Digital South-South cooperation

Work on digital public goods provides a great example of how the world is organically organising itself in new ways, and how countries in the global South are now leading this effort. Over 97 million people in countries as diverse as



Anne Beathe Tvinnereim

is the Norwegian Minister of International Development

Crucial lessons from this journey can ensure that more countries can cross the digital divide like India has

Morocco, Togo, Sri Lanka and the Philippines have received by now an ID through the Bengaluru-developed open source ID source system, or MOSIP (Modular Open Source Identity Platform), an effort I am proud that Norway supports. It is also illustrative that today, members of the Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA) are meeting in Ethiopia for their annual assembly, and that these strategic decisions are taken in the global South. The international development ecosystem should pay attention to these conversations as they are shaping the world at an impressive speed – in a way which positively benefits the SDG agenda.

The Norwegian perspective

Norway has a long history of supporting digital public goods and is a proud co-founder and member of the DPGA, which provides a registry of certified digital public goods. Norway also recently pledged to become a frontrunner country in the 50-in-5 campaign, which was launched last week by the DPGA, the United Nations Development Programme and others. In this campaign, countries pledge to make at least one national digital goods available globally in the next five years. I can see only benefits in doing so. If taxpayers are paying for the development of national systems which can be shared without creating scarcity nor competition, then the default should be that it should be released globally as a digital public good. As the Minister of International Development, I am happy and proud to see that some of the digital public goods that Norway has already provided are being put to good use across the world.

One example is the weather services of the Norwegian meteorological services Yr, which is used to forecast weather around the world. Another system is a warning system for plant health, VIPS, which has been used for over 20 years in Norway, and which is now being implemented in Malawi, Africa. Yet another example is the District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2), managed by the University of Oslo. The system is the world's largest health

management information system platform and is used by health authorities in 73 low- and middle-income countries, representing 30% of the world's population.

There is also the use of digital goods to put food on the table. One crucial and defining challenge of our time is food insecurity. In response to a deteriorating situation for food security globally, Norway is placing food security at the centre of Norwegian international development efforts; digital public goods such as VIPS and others are a part of this picture. I am happy to see that 24 of the registered digital public goods are already targeting SDG2 on ending food hunger – and the list is growing.

No service nor good is fully free, and the same is true in the digital domain. Someone must finance the development of protocols and their maintenance and security. Going forward, governments and businesses need to respond to increasingly challenging concerns of privacy and data leaks.

Countries also need to ensure the safeguarding of digital sovereignty without tampering with an open, free and secure Internet for all or leading to Internet fragmentation by states and non-state actors. At the end of the day, sovereignty is every country's first concern, and open solutions such as digital public goods are a good way to ensure not to end up in a vender-lock in or paid subscription mode. In the face of these complex challenges, the good thing is that we have a compass for the journey ahead, based on certifying and pooling our digital public goods under the global lead of the DPGA.

Following the Indian blueprint

I warmly welcome close collaboration with India within the frameworks of the DPGA and the 50-in-5 campaign. I am excited to be visiting India and to experience first hand how digital public goods have transformed Indian society. Together, we can draw on crucial lessons from India's digital journey to ensure that even more countries leapfrog the digital divide just like India has.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tunnel collapse

If a tunnel collapses while still under construction, there can only be three reasons: technical deficiency in construction; geological incompatibility; corruption (Inside pages, "40 workers trapped in tunnel in Uttarkashi safe; rescue efforts on", November 14). Whatever be the real reasons, the government would do well not to meddle too much with nature, especially in ecologically sensitive hill areas. Though unconnected with

this incident, one shudders to think of the environmental destruction, and the resultant consequences, in the Nicobar Islands, where eight lakh trees are to be cut down, for, yes, "development". God help us.

A.R. Ramanarayanan, Chennai

British cabinet rejig

The appointment of David Cameron, former British Prime Minister, as the new British Foreign Secretary (Page 1, "Ex-PM Cameron in,

Suella Braverman out in U.K. cabinet rejig", November 14) comes at a time when the Conservative party is grappling with the existential challenges posed by Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, immigration and international issues such as the Ukraine war and the crisis in Gaza. The calculated move by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak reflects his readiness to take risks and potentially reset the faltering state of the government.

P. Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

Pollution across the year

A number of readers ("Letters to The Editor", November 14) complained about the high decibel level of fire crackers and also the pollution caused. What happens on Deepavali is short lived. Have we forgotten about the grave pollution caused when there is stubble/biomass burning in northern India? And, what about vehicle emission and waste burning, which are very harmful to the respiratory system of all living beings? We have lost much green

cover over recent years and something needs to be done to restore tree cover.

V.S. Kannan, Chennai

A report highlighting grave pollution in three big Indian cities is disturbing. The right to clean air cannot be brushed aside and there must be a focus on how we address the issue of air pollution. The subject cannot come to life only during a major festival. Are not other days important? Jaya Kumara Varma R.K., Pandalam, Kerala

Why is there finger pointing to air and noise pollution only on Deepavali? Right across the year, there is severe air pollution caused by toxic emissions from vehicles and industry. What about the ugly sounds made by vehicle horns? Ramnath Ramamurthy, Chennai



Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

The Qatar death row and India's options

On October 26, Qatar's local court handed down the death penalty to eight former Indian Navy officers. The case has garnered international attention.

In August 2022, the eight officers were detained in Doha by Qatari intelligence authorities. They worked for Dahra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services, which served Qatar's defence and security agencies. Legal proceedings encountered delays, including the rejection of the initial bail plea one month after the arrest. The first trial was held in March 2023. In October, consular access was granted, and the Indian Ambassador met the detainees. But the situation took a grim turn on October 26 with the local court's verdict.

Similar incidents

The case shares similarities with other incidents involving the arrest of Indian nationals by foreign authorities. For instance, Kulbhushan Jadhav, an Indian national, was sentenced to death in 2017 in Pakistan on charges of espionage and sabotage. Pakistan accused him of acting at the behest of India's intelligence agency, which India denies. The case proceeded in a military court with no transparency. India moved the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which found that Pakistan had breached Article 36 of the Vienna Convention requiring immediate notification of an arrest to the national's consulate. It ordered Pakistan to review the process of Jadhav's trial and conviction, and provide India with consular access.

In a separate incident, Indian Air Force pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman's aircraft was shot down by Pakistani fighter jets after he took down a Pakistani F-16 fighter jet. He was captured on the Pakistani side of the Line of Control, but was released about 60 hours later following intense back-channel communications between India and Pakistan.

In both instances, the



Hasan Mohammed Jinnah

is Tamil Nadu State Public Prosecutor

Whether through diplomatic dialogues, political interventions, legal appeals, or a blend of these strategies, India has the potential to seek a resolution

individuals involved were reluctant to disclose their identities, mirroring the present situation. India either mitigated their sentences or brought them back to their home country through diplomatic means.

India's options

India has the option to initiate legal appeals within the Qatari legal system. As per Article 110 of the Penal Code of Qatar, engaging in espionage is regarded as a serious criminal offence. Espionage is legally defined as the act of collecting or transmitting confidential information or documents to a foreign state or its agents with the intent to harm Qatar's national security or interests. Penalties can result in imprisonment not exceeding 15 years, depending on the gravity of the offence. During times of war, the punishment may escalate to life imprisonment or the death penalty. It is noteworthy that Qatar has not disclosed information about the verdict. India can pursue a legal battle with the aim of reducing the sentence to imprisonment.

In 2015, India and Qatar signed an agreement pertaining to the transfer of sentenced prisoners. Under the agreement, Indian citizens who are sentenced in Qatar have the choice to serve their prison sentence in their home country. If the legal appeals in Qatar's judiciary do not yield the desired outcome, India could turn to the ICJ as a means of redress. Just as in the Jadhav case, there has been a delay in notifying the Indian embassy here too.

The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations provides the framework for consular relations between sovereign states. Article 36 of the Convention is central to this case, as it deals with communication and contact with nationals of the sending state. The Convention's Optional Protocol grants the ICJ compulsory jurisdiction over disputes arising from its interpretation or application. As mentioned earlier,

Article 36 of the Vienna Convention requires immediate notification of an arrest and the right to consular access.

India has the capacity to initiate diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the case. The relationship between India and Qatar has yielded significant economic ties. Qatar is the largest provider of liquefied natural gas to India. While India's defence collaboration with Qatar has been somewhat limited, it still offers an avenue for diplomatic engagement. The Indian community represents the largest expatriate group in Qatar. The remittances sent to India by the community amount to an estimated \$750 million annually. Moreover, a steady stream of Indian artists performs in Qatar at events organised by community associations affiliated with the Indian Cultural Centre. By harnessing these robust ties with Qatar, New Delhi can exert pressure on the Qatari government to adopt a more lenient approach towards the detained individuals, potentially offering them some relief.

Numerous global human rights organisations have been actively combating unlawful imprisonment, capital punishment, and other violations of human rights. Amnesty International, for instance, has consistently championed human rights on a global scale. These organisations also have the potential to mobilise and advocate for the Indian Navy officers who are facing the death penalty.

This is a challenging diplomatic issue that requires careful consideration and strategic action. India's response should take into account the implications of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, international precedents, and the broader context of India-Qatar relations. Whether through diplomatic dialogues, political interventions, legal appeals, or a blend of these strategies, India has the potential to seek a resolution.

In Kerala, playing politics over Gaza

The conflict in West Asia has triggered a game of political opportunism

STATE OF PLAY

Hiran Unnikrishnan
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The raging conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza has triggered a game of political one-upmanship in Kerala. The two main coalition groups – the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) – have been quick to condemn the violence and organise pro-Palestine protests across the State, apparently in a bid to woo Muslim voters. These protesters have been focussing on the atrocities and alleged war crimes committed by Israel in the Gaza Strip.

The CPI(M) has seized the opportunity to connect with the Indian Union Muslim League (IUM), a Congress ally and a key constituent of the UDF, and by extension, the Muslim community, especially in north Kerala. Realising that a section of the IUM's leaders and workers might be willing to find common ground with the Left, the CPI(M) invited the group for an event to show solidarity for Palestine, in Kozhikode on November 11. For the CPI(M), the invite marked a continuation of its attempt to be at the vanguard of a broad-based platform for minorities in Kerala.

However, political observers were caught off guard by the events that followed. Instead of turning down the invite immediately, the IUM sat on it for sometime before finally rejecting it, citing technicalities. Unfazed, the CPI(M) kept the invitation open, hoping that it would expose fault lines in the Muslim community's platforms, which are otherwise aligned on most issues.

Also, recognising the fissures within the Congress in Malabar, the CPI(M) invited all those who are disgruntled with the Congress' ambivalence on the Palestine question, to the solidarity event. While the Congress Working Committee (CWC) officially refrained from referring to Hamas or the word "terror" in its October 9 resolution, CWC member Shashi Tharoor caused a row by stating at a Palestine solidarity rally of the IUM in Kozhikode that Hamas is a "terror outfit".

In this round of outreach, the Left was buoyed by the support of the Samastha Kerala Jem-iyathul Ulama, a powerful body of pro-IUM Muslim scholars. Notwithstanding the IUM's decision, the religious body sent a delegate to the Left party's event.

The Congress, which from the beginning insisted that the IUM skip the event, was shocked to see its partner take time to reject the invite. Much to the chagrin of the IUM leadership, the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) publicly reminded its oldest ally in Kerala that no joint campaigns had been held with Left parties previously even on issues such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the conflict in Manipur. On these issues, both the coalitions had a similar stand.

At the same time, the Congress taunted the CPI(M) for at-

tempting to reach out to the IUM despite repeated humiliations, adding that the CWC was the first to extend its unconditional support to the Palestinians through a resolution.

While this might be true, the episode also underscores the fact that the national party could seem, to voters, muddled on this issue. Drawing on the lesson, the PCC scrambled to announce a similar rally in Kozhikode on November 23. The IUM will be invited to this event too. Apart from its stated objective, the Congress is seeking to use the platform to dismiss all speculations of the IUM having any dilemmas. It also hopes to shed light on its rival's apparent plan for political gains.

Amid all this political churning, the central Travancore region has been conspicuously silent. The Catholic Church, which holds sway in the region, is not at all happy that these parties are vying for 'Muslim votes'. For the Church, the growing support for Gaza has become a symbol of political Islam exerting control over secular political organisations. In fact, the issue even appears to have resulted in some Catholics extending greater support to Israel. It is no surprise then that the two Kerala Congress factions, which have a significant command over the Catholic votes, have chosen not to speak up.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, the Bharatiya Janata Party, which has so far adopted a cautious approach, has announced four rallies across the State focusing on the terror caused by Hamas. The party hopes that this will help it regain the trust of Christian voters who have been alienated by the protracted riots in Manipur and the government's failure in bringing the situation in the Northeast under control.

Many Indian cities record peak pollution during Deepavali day

Ahmedabad's Deepavali day hourly PM2.5 pollution levels peaked at 999 µg/m3 – possibly because devices can measure only to that extent

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

An analysis of hour-by-hour particulate matter levels in 2023 shows that many Indian cities registered this year's highest pollution levels around Deepavali day (November 12). In seven Indian cities analysed – Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Chennai, and Kolkata – the hourly pollution levels crossed the 500 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m3) mark around Deepavali day.

Pollution during Deepavali spikes due to firecrackers. The Chest Research Foundation of India in Pune carried out experiments in 2016 to measure the amount of PM 2.5 particles released by firecrackers during Deepavali. The experiments showed a significant increase in pollution, with the snake tablet firecracker emitting a peak level of 64,500 µg/m3 of PM 2.5, which are tiny particles with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less.

Chart 1 shows PM 2.5 levels in µg/m3 recorded every hour between January 1, 2023 and November 14, 2023 in a measuring station across select cities. Each circle in the chart depicts the average PM 2.5 level in a one-hour period in a city. The higher a circle is placed, the more the PM 2.5 particulate level. Hourly readings just before, after, and on Deepavali day are highlighted. The highest-ever pollution level recorded in an hour just before, after, and on Deepavali day is annotated in the graphs.

For instance, in Delhi's Anand Vihar, between 11 p.m. on November 12 and 12 a.m. the next day, PM2.5 readings peaked at 957 µg/m3. This is the highest reading in the station for this year till November 14. On seven different hours around Deepavali day, Anand Vihar recorded PM2.5 levels more than 500 µg/m3.

A similar analysis shows that Noida's PM2.5 levels peaked at 716.5 µg/m3 between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. on November 12 and Gurugram's levels peaked in the same period at 567 µg/m3. Lucknow's hourly PM2.5 levels peaked at 696 µg/m3 between 12 a.m. and 1 a.m. on November 13 (the day after Deepavali). Except for Gurugram, the other northern cities recorded their pollution peaks around Deepavali day. Hourly readings are important. This is because the impact is relatively less felt if the pollution peak is achieved at a time when most people are indoors.

Ahmedabad's Deepavali day pollution levels peaked at 999 µg/m3 – possibly because most pollution measurement devices can measure only to that extent – between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. on November 13. This peak number in Ahmedabad was double the peak number in the city on a non-Deepavali day (May 11: 459 µg/m3). Jaipur and Patna also recorded high levels of pollution on Deepavali day, but not record levels. Mumbai recorded very low levels of pollution, while Kolkata recorded peak pollution on Deepavali day.

Pollution peaked during Deepavali day in the southern cities of Amaravathi, Chennai, and Hyderabad. While Bengaluru too recorded very high levels on that day, it did not break the city's record this year.

Other types of pollutants also breached their 24-hour limits on Deepavali day. These include carbon monoxide, atmospheric ammonia, nitrous oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), PM10 (particulate matter equal to or less than 10 microns) and sulphur dioxide (SO2). For instance, NO levels in Delhi on Deepavali day peaked at 140 µg/m3 (limit is 80 µg/m3). Exposure to NO2 and NO impacts lung function. The World Health Organization reports that days with elevated levels of SO2 are associated with increased hospital admissions for heart disease.

Smoky skies

The data for the chart were sourced from the Central Pollution Control Board

Chart 1: Each circle in the chart depicts the average PM 2.5 level in a one-hour period in a city. Hourly readings just before, after and on Deepavali day are highlighted. The highest-ever pollution level recorded in an hour just before, after and on Deepavali day is annotated in the graphs. The higher a circle is placed, the more the PM 2.5 level



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The *Hindu*

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 15, 1973

2-tier gold price system to be ended

Washington, Nov. 14: The United States and six West European countries have agreed to terminate the 1968 agreement establishing a two-tier market for gold, the U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman, Mr. Arthur Burns said last night. The six countries are Belgium, West Germany, Britain, the Netherlands, Italy and Switzerland. "The United States may henceforth sell gold from its stockpile but will not buy gold either in present circumstances or in foreseeable circumstances," Mr. Burns told a press conference. He said the U.S. view was that it would be bound by Article 4 of the International Monetary Fund agreement which prohibits members from buying gold at higher than "par value" – its official price – or selling at below par. The 1968 agreement established a two-tier system for buying and selling gold. Central banks would buy and sell gold among themselves at the then official price of \$35 an ounce and stop supplying gold to private markets, which would be allowed to find their own price levels. The move was taken to stop a massive flow of gold from central banks into the private market. The official gold price now is \$42.22 an ounce compared with about \$97 an ounce on the private market. In Tokyo Japanese monetary officials said that the agreement to terminate the two-tier gold price system was expected to cause a decline in free market gold prices and help stabilise the world monetary situation – Reuter.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 15, 1923

Case against 'Tarun Bharat'

Patna, Nov. 14: The Editor and Printer of the "Tarun Bharat", a local Hindi Weekly, which was being prosecuted at Patna for publishing a proscribed poem called "Soldier's Song," have tendered an unconditional apology to the Government and admitted committing the offence by publishing the poem for which they express deepest regret and throw themselves at the mercy of the Government. They undertake to publish their apology in three consecutive issues of their paper "Tarun Bharat" and pay Rs. 1000 to the Flood Relief Fund. They have also undertaken that neither in this or in any other paper nor by any public speech will they publish anything under section 124 A and 152A I.P.C.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Emission cuts possible by 2030 with current climate plans

2 in percentage. The original goal was to cut emissions by 43% from 2019, by the end of the decade. UN Climate Change Chief Simon Stiell called for climate talks in Dubai this month to mark a "clear turning point." AFF

The number of anti-Semitic incidents rise in France

1,500 cases. Anti-Semitic acts and comments recorded a rise in France since October 7. This was a three-fold increase compared to the whole of 2022. AFF

The decrease in risk of diabetes if one quit smoking; WHO

30-40 in %. Quitting smoking can lower the risk of developing type-2 diabetes, as per a newly developed brief in which the WHO was also a party. PTI

The stubble-burning incidents recorded in Punjab on Tuesday

1,776 This takes the total number of farm fires to 28,117 since September 15. These figures come as air quality indices in Haryana are in the 'poor' and 'very poor' categories. PTI

Complaints resolved by SEBI through SCORES in October

3,500 About 16 complaints were pending for more than three months on SEBI's online system SCORES as of October. PTI
COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The economy of a world without work

A future where artificial intelligence has eliminated the need for all forms of work is one where AI has become self-aware. If such a future is possible, how would economic relations be organised? Can the current capitalist system function in a world where we don't have to work?

ECONOMIC NOTES

Rahul Menon

At the recently concluded Bletchley Park summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), in an interview with the U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, billionaire Elon Musk highlighted the disruptive potential of AI. Mr. Musk conceived of a future where AI would substitute for all human labour – both physical and cognitive – and hence individuals would face no pressing need for a job, but would only seek work for personal fulfilment.

While AI may substitute for certain jobs, it generates new jobs in turn, for instance AI programmers. A future where AI has eliminated the need for all forms of work is one where AI has become self-aware – where AI software can not only take on the task it was designed for, but can also design AI to undertake new tasks, and operate and maintain itself. Such a future may be theoretically possible, but practically improbable.

The need for work

A world without work may not be probable, but is it desirable? The history of economic thought reveals different ways in which a human's relation with work has been theorised. Here one looks at two thinkers with diametrically opposite views on the nature of work – John Maynard Keynes and Karl Marx. Keynes was a liberal thinker who extolled capitalism but wished to save it from its worst excesses. He believed that at its heart, work represented a form of drudgery, and a world in which the hours of work could be reduced was one that unequivocally increased welfare. Keynes theorised that technological change under capitalism would eventually lead to a reduction of working hours. Mr. Musk's comments can be seen as an extension of Keynes' thinking, where improvements in technological change, if taken to its theoretical extreme, could eliminate the



GETTY IMAGES

need for work altogether, representing an unambiguous positive outcome.

Karl Marx had a more nuanced analysis. For him, the essence of humanity lies in our ability to materially manipulate nature; work therefore provides meaning to human life. The problem arises within the economic system of capitalism, as the product of human labour is not the labourers' to enjoy, but is seen as the property of capital to dispose of in the market for profit. Capitalism, in this reading, causes humanity to lose touch with the one activity that provides self-fulfilment. In contrast to Keynes' view, the elimination of work does not imply an elimination of drudgery, but the elimination of the only activity that gives human life meaning. In Marx's view, the ideal state is not one where AI replaces human labour, but where individuals can utilise AI to enjoy

and elevate their work, without it being appropriated by someone else.

The impact of AI on the economy

One may disagree with Keynes' notion that decreasing working hours will always increase welfare, for the working world does provide valuable social networks for many. At the same time, one can critique Marx's view of humanity finding meaning through work, for it does not allow us to conceptualise any kind of future without work at the centre. Yet the views of the above thinkers reveal an important problem in the current discussions around AI – the neglect of the economic system. Assume a situation where AI has advanced to the point that it is capable of substituting all kinds of labour. Under our current system of capitalism, the only way an individual can access material resources such as food and shelter is

through income derived from work. In such a system, a world without work does not imply a world without drudgery, but one where individuals who cannot find work cannot access basic resources.

One can make the caveat – as Mr. Musk has – that work would be available for those who desire it for personal reasons. However, in a capitalist world, labour has no choice but to seek out work if they are to feed and clothe themselves. The world as sketched out by Mr. Musk cannot emerge under modern-day capitalism.

A world without work

Imagine an economy where a part of the surplus generated in the productive sphere – where AI is the only productive factor – is transferred to human individuals to meet their basic needs. There is nothing wrong, of course, with postulating such a world. But this is not a capitalist world. It is a world with very different institutional arrangements regulating production and distribution, one where a universal basic income is a major source of income and not wage labour. This throws up several important questions, such as what determines the amount individuals receive, what determines the division of the net product between those who own the machines and those who don't and what determines the division between future growth versus current consumption. More importantly, is our current society open to devising new institutional arrangements to bring such a future to fruition, given that the current system has led to the emergence of rising inequality and a powerful billionaire class?

A situation where AI reigns supreme may never come to pass, and one may dismiss this article as speculative fiction. Yet the world economy will face disruptions, and it is imperative for us to fully understand the nature of these challenges. The impact of technological innovations cannot be seen in isolation from prevailing economic institutions.

Rahul Menon is Associate Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University.

THE GIST

▼ Billionaire Elon Musk highlighted the disruptive potential of AI, wherein he conceived of a future where AI would substitute all human labour.

▼ Under our current system of capitalism, the only way an individual can access material resources such as food and shelter is through income derived from work. In such a system, a world without work implies a world where individuals who cannot find work cannot access basic resources.

▼ Therefore, a world where AI is supreme would not be a capitalist world but a world with very different institutional arrangements regulating production and distribution.

Why is the amnesty deal by Spain's govt. contentious?

Who is Carles Puigdemont? Can the Pedro Sanchez-led administration successfully form a new government?

Garimella Subramaniam

The story so far:

Spain's socialist (PSOE) government struck a contentious amnesty deal on November 9 with the hardline Catalan separatist party, Together for Catalonia, to enable another four-year term for caretaker Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

What is the deal about?

The chief of Together with Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont, Catalonia's former regional president and a Member of the European Parliament (MEP), is the unlikely kingmaker who could break the country's political deadlock since the inconclusive elections in July. A fugitive from the Spanish justice system, now in self-imposed exile in Brussels, he faces six to 12 years in jail for an embezzlement charge linked to the failed Catalan referendum in October 2017 that was declared unconstitutional. Mr. Puigdemont has dangled the carrot of his

seven seats in exchange for an amnesty for him and hundreds of others in connection with the secessionist agitation. The clemency legislation must be tabled in Parliament for Mr. Sanchez's investiture, but its approval is not a given.

Why is the amnesty proving divisive?

Mr. Sanchez views the offer of amnesty as a route to defuse the protracted crisis arising from the movement for an independent Catalan state. However, this move is the exact opposite of his earlier stance that a broad amnesty for the separatists was unacceptable. Moreover, in 2021, the Prime Minister controversially granted pardon for nine jailed separatists. The centre-right People's Party (PP) and the far-right Vox have dubbed the current deal as an opportunistic ploy by Mr. Sanchez to retain power.

Critics contend that the withdrawal of penalties against those involved in the unconstitutional referendum would undermine the principle of equality before the law. Spain has witnessed

widespread protests which is a reminder of the outpouring of anger during the secessionist movement. The judiciary has voiced concerns over the move, with one judge even pointing to Mr. Puigdemont's association with Democratic Tsunami, a group engaged in violent activities, as amounting to terrorism.

Why not hold another election?

There is no certainty that another general election would produce a decisive outcome. Spain has come to exemplify the wider European phenomenon of post-electoral stalemate, underpinned by a steady erosion of the two-party system and the mushrooming of smaller parties on the extreme right and left of the political spectrum. Spain had gone into election mode twice in the space of six months, in December 2015 and June 2016. A second ballot had become inevitable only because a governing combination could not be established after the first vote. Consequent to the June 2016 ballot, there was relatively greater longevity of

parliament but only in purely technical terms. The centre-right government of Mariano Rajoy was defeated in a vote of no confidence on corruption charges in June 2018, within two years of taking office. Mr. Sanchez then became Prime Minister, only to step down in February 2019, well before the end of the four-year parliamentary term, as he failed to secure the legislature's approval for the annual budget. Then, in a repeat of past events, Spain would hold elections twice in a single calendar year. The ballot in April failed to result in any government and led to the elections of November 2019. Negotiations following the second ballot led to the formation of the current coalition. Four months since the elections in July 2023, there is no clarity on the shape of Spain's next government. While the PP emerged as the single largest party in seats, it failed to garner the numbers even with the backing of Vox.

Will another Sanchez govt. rise?

Nothing is off the table. The PSOE government is currently allied with extreme left parties, including Basque and Catalan separatists. Although MPs from Together voted against the formation of the Sanchez coalition in 2019, they have since extended backing for crucial legislation. Given Mr. Sanchez's dealings with leftwing parties since 2018, concerns over the cost from collaboration with secessionist parties may be overblown.

The writer is Director, Strategic Initiatives, AgnoShin Technologies.

THE GIST

▼ The chief of Together with Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont, a fugitive from the Spanish justice system, has dangled the carrot of his seven seats in exchange for an amnesty for him and hundreds of others in connection with the secessionist agitation.

▼ Critics contend that the withdrawal of penalties against those involved in the unconstitutional referendum would undermine the principle of equality before the law.

▼ Spain has come to exemplify the wider European phenomenon of post-electoral stalemate, underpinned by a steady erosion of the two-party system and the mushrooming of smaller parties on the extreme right and left of the political spectrum.

BUILDING BLOCKS



ISTOCKPHOTO

How does an electric battery work and what are the different types?

As portable sources of electric power, batteries are at the foundation of what convenience means today in industrialised societies. Two batteries that are often on the news these days are the lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery and the batteries used in electric vehicles

Vasudevan Mukunth

The electric battery has increased the penetration of motorisation and the lack of wires in our lives. Electric batteries hold and release electrical energy that they have acquired by converting other forms of energy. As portable sources of electric power, batteries are at the foundation of what convenience means today in industrialised societies. Innovations to improve the efficiency with which they handle electric energy will determine what such convenience as well as sustainability mean tomorrow.

What led to the invention of the electric battery?

All chemical reactions are fundamentally about how the electrons in the bonds between atoms are rearranged. The bridge between this fact and the electrochemical cells that were the precursors of modern batteries is most apparent in an experiment that Luigi Galvani conducted in 1780. Galvani touched together two plates of different metals and then touched both at the same time to a frog's leg. He found that the leg contracted but couldn't say why.

The next major pre-industrial innovation on this front was the voltaic pile built by Alessandro Volta in 1800. This cell consisted of copper and zinc plates arranged in alternating fashion, separated by sheets of paper soaked in salty water. Volta found that this set-up could produce a steady current for some time but, like Galvani, couldn't explain why.

The British chemist John Daniel improved on Volta's design: he filled a copper pot with copper sulphate, and inside that placed an earthen pot containing a zinc electrode sitting inside sulphuric acid. This more sophisticated set-up could produce an electric current for an even longer duration. Then, in the early 19th century, Michael Faraday worked out why these cells worked the

way they did, and named its various components (anode, cathode, electrolyte, etc.).

What is an electric battery?

A voltaic, or galvanic, cell uses redox reactions to produce an electric current. The cell consists of two half-cells. Each half-cell is made of a metal electrode immersed in an electrolyte of that metal – say, a zinc electrode in zinc sulphate and a copper electrode in copper sulphate. The two metal electrodes are connected by a wire and the two tubs of electrolyte are connected by a salt bridge (a material that conducts ions while remaining electrically neutral).

In the zinc half-cell, zinc ions (Zn^{2+}) from the electrode dissolve in the zinc sulphate, releasing two electrons into the electrode. In the copper half-cell, the reverse happens: copper ions (Cu^{2+}) from the copper sulphate deposit onto the electrode, which now requires two electrons. So the wire connecting the electrodes transports two electrons from the zinc to the copper electrode. Similarly, the salt bridge connecting the two electrolytes allows the Zn^{2+} and the sulphate (SO_4^{2-}) ions to meet and exchange electrons.

Since the wire connecting the zinc to the copper electrodes carries electrons, an external circuit connected to it can draw the electron flow for various applications.

A battery is a collection of such cells.

What are the concepts of a battery?

The cathode is the positively charged electrode, the one to which electrons arrive (copper in the example above). The anode is the negatively charged electrode, which 'supplies' electrons. In an oxidation reaction, electrons are released, and in a reduction reaction they are consumed. So zinc oxidises at the anode and copper reduces at the cathode. This is the redox reaction at the heart of every electrochemical cell.

The energy imparted to the electrons by the half-cells is called the source

voltage (previously called the electromotive force). The terminal voltage is like a driving force that pushes the electrons from the anode to the cathode. In ideal conditions, the source voltage is equal to the terminal voltage. The higher the source voltage, the greater the cell's electrochemical potential. For example, nickel-cadmium batteries and zinc-copper cells have voltages of 1.2 V and 1.5 V respectively, whereas lithium-ion cells have more than 3 V.

A well-known problem that degrades the performance of electrochemical cells is corrosion. For example, in humid conditions, water droplets can condense on the electrodes. If atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are high, the water can combine with the gas to produce carbonic acid, which can corrode the electrode. Another source is galvanic corrosion, whereby one of the electrodes in a cell dissolves faster into the electrolyte over time because it is more reactive, before the less reactive electrode starts to erode. For example, in a (non-rechargeable) carbon-zinc battery, zinc erodes preferentially as the battery is used.

In the late 18th century, the British Navy found that in wooden ships with copper plating nailed to the hull (for protection), the plating was intact but had become detached from the hull because the iron nails had turned to paste. This is because the nails had preferentially eroded due to galvanic corrosion, with sea water as electrolyte.

What are the types of batteries?

Two batteries that are often on the news these days are the lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery and the batteries used in Electric Vehicles (EVs).

The Li-ion battery won the developers of its foundational principles the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 2019 – a testament to the revolutionary impact it has had in the 20th and 21st centuries. This battery is a voltaic as well as an electrolytic cell. A voltaic cell converts chemical energy to electrical energy. An electrolytic cell converts electrical energy to chemical

energy. A battery that can do both is thus rechargeable.

In a Li-ion polymer cell, used in smartphones, a lithium metal oxide is the cathode and graphite is the anode. The electrolyte is a semisolid polymer gel. Microporous polyethylene is used to separate the two half-cells.

The basics are as follows: in the voltaic phase, lithium oxidises to Li^+ in the anode and releases an electron. The electron moves via the external circuit to the cathode whereas the Li^+ moves via the electrolyte to the cathode. There, the ion slips between the layers of carbon sheets that graphite is made of in a process called intercalation. In the electrolytic phase, an over-voltage is applied to the cell so that it charges and the Li^+ moves from the graphite to intercalate in the metal oxide, getting ready for the next discharge.

Li-ion batteries are an important research focus worldwide, with a large variety of batteries with different configurations and different pros and cons. These batteries can also be used to power EVs. For example, the P85 battery used in Tesla's Model S cars consists of 18,650 Li-ion cells, weighing half a tonne in all with an energy output of 80-90 kWh. Other sources of electric power in motor vehicles include fuel cells, of which – like Li-ion batteries – there is a large body of research and variety.

Hydrogen fuel cells are also of great interest today. At the anode, a catalyst separates hydrogen into protons and electrons. The electrons flow through an external circuit and the protons through the electrolyte – both to the cathode. At the cathode, the particles react with oxygen from the air to create heat and water. A cell like this will work as long as hydrogen is supplied, and is expected to be a key component of the hydrogen economy.

In January 2023, the Indian government approved the ₹19,744 crore National Green Hydrogen Mission to make India a "global hub" to utilise and export green hydrogen.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Ms. C.V. Lata, CGS Qtrs, Besant Nagar, Madras, wants to know the origin of 'honeymoon'."

"Dr. Johnson defined honeymoon as 'the first month after marriage, when there is nothing but tenderness and pleasure'. One of the meanings of 'moon' is 'month'. Perhaps because of this, Dr. Johnson referred to the duration as a honeymoon. But it can be long for some and short for others. Honeymoon is the short period when everything is sweet as honey to the newly-weds. This sweet life soon changes like the moon. Hence the term 'honeymoon'. It is also used these days to mean 'the first warmth of newly established relations'."

The honeymoon between the two parties is over.

"Second honeymoon" is a holiday, resembling a honeymoon taken by a couple who have been married for sometime'. It is also used as a verb.

They are honeymooning in Ooty.
"Sir, Mr. V. Ganapathy, Tamil Nadu Steels, Arakkonam, wants to know the pronunciation of 'morale'."

"The 'o' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'India' and 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'path'. The stress is on the second syllable. 'Morale' is 'the disposition or mental state which causes a man or body of people to face an emergency with spirit, fortitude and zeal'."

The morale of the troops is superb.

"Sir, Mr. C. O. Sadasivan, Kizakekkara, Trivandrum, wants to know the meaning of 'whistle-stop tour'."

"In America, a whistle-stop is any small station where trains do not stop unless requested by a signal given on a whistle. A whistle-stop tour is a journey that is undertaken by politicians who want to visit even small places during their election campaign. They address groups of people from the train itself."

His whistle-stop campaign was hectic.

"Sir, Mr. M. S. Venkataraman, Melpatti Ponnappan Street, Vyasarpadi, Madras and Mr. K. Radhakrishnan, Indian Airlines, Meenambakkam, Madras want to know the meaning of 'psephologist'."

"Psephology" is 'the study of public elections and statistical analysis of trends in voting'. A psephologist is a political scientist who specialises in the study of elections. 'Psephos' in Greek means a pebble. When they voted, Athenians dropped a pebble into an urn as we drop a ballot paper into the ballot box. The 'e' is pronounced like the 'e' in 'bed', the first 'o' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'got' and the second 'o' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'India'. The stress is on the second syllable. In American English, the 'e' is pronounced 'i' as in 'bit'."

"Sir, Mr. Salim Hameed, Panchamoodu Lane, Pattom, Trivandrum, has written a letter regarding 'Long years ago' discussed in this column a few weeks ago.

He says: 'I do not agree with Prof. K. R. S. Sarma that Nehru was wrong when he said 'Long years ago'. In her novel *To The Lighthouse*, Virginia Wolf has a sentence which begins: 'Begun long years ago, their friendship had petered out on a Westmore Land Road'."

"Many thanks, Mr. Hameed for drawing my attention to the sentence in *To The Lighthouse*."

Published in The Hindu on December 26, 1989.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Children's Day is celebrated on November 14 in India to raise awareness about the rights and welfare of children. A quiz on the day, and how it is observed across the world

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

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
On which date was the first children's day observed? What was it observed as?

QUESTION 2
In which year was Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday first celebrated as "Children's Day"? Who recommended this?

QUESTION 3
Inspired by which event in the U.K. was Children's Day proposed to be celebrated on Nehru's birthday?

QUESTION 4
This was a nodal organisation of the Government of India that produced children's films and various TV programs, first mooted by Nehru. Name the organisation.

QUESTION 5
If November 14 is observed as Children's Day in India, when is World Children's Day celebrated? What is the significance of that day?



Visual question:
This was a stamp released on November 14 to commemorate Children's Day in India. In which year was this stamp released?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The inability to produce this hormone causes Type 1 diabetes. **Ans: Insulin**
2. The reason why November 14 was chosen as World Diabetes Day. **Ans: It marks the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922**
3. The logo of World Diabetes Day. **Ans: Blue Circle**
4. This term means increased fasting blood glucose concentration. **Ans: Hyperglycemia**
5. This percentage of the adult population has diabetes. **Ans: 10.5%**
6. The theme of World Diabetes Day. **Ans: Access to Diabetes Care**
Visual: This is the logo of this company. **Ans: International Diabetes Foundation**
Early Birds: Divya Sukhram Kumar| Ann| Ravi Shankar| M. Suresh Kumar| Rajnandini

Word of the day

Beeline:

the most direct route

Synonyms: route, path, itinerary

Usage: He made a beeline for the bathroom.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/beelinepro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /bi:laɪn/

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

From Page One

Dabur Group chairman, 31 others booked

The Mumbai Police's 25-page FIR lists the names of 31 persons. "We suspect Mr. Khan, who was seen in a video of a party hosted by the promoters of the app in Dubai, was not just promoting and making huge profits, but also running another app," the officer said.

The complainant accused kingpin Chandrakar and others of being involved in 'match-fixing' of major cricket matches and tournaments organised and hosted in India, to make huge profits. Mr. Bankar alleged that the match-fixing operations were done through Mr. Chandrakar's London-based 'partner' Dinesh Khambhat and Chander Agarwal, also named in the FIR.

39 Myanmar soldiers sent back from Mizoram

The members of three extremist groups - the Kuki Independent Army, Kuki National Army, and the Chinland Defence Force - eventually overran the camp. Reports said the pro-democracy forces also took control of the Myanmar military's camp in Rikhawdar after killing several soldiers.

Fleeing for their lives, the 39 soldiers crossed over to Mizoram on Monday evening. A mob, reportedly comprising Chin refugees from Myanmar, staged a protest outside the Zokhawthar police station where the soldiers were kept.

A senior district police officer said the soldiers were handed over to the Assam Rifles.

Mizoram has been hosting over 35,000 Chin refugees since the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021. The refugees are taking shelter in schools, community halls, and the homes of relatives across Mizoram.

The Chins and Mizos of Mizoram belong to the Zo ethnic group.

Efforts on to create escape passage

A team of experts constituted by the State government to investigate the causes of landslide in Silkyara reached the spot on Tuesday. The team, which includes experts from institutions such as the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG); Geological Survey of India (GSI); Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee; and the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA), Dehradun, is surveying the tunnel and the hill above it.

Meanwhile, the environmentalists, who were part of the Supreme Court-appointed high-powered committee on the Char Dham all-weather road project, criticised the government for going ahead with the project, despite the ecological concerns raised by them.

Geologist Navin Juyal told *The Hindu* that the area is fragile terrain because of its proximity to the Himalayas. The rocks there contain a lot of water. "When you are aligning a tunnel in an area that is very close to the highly fragile Himalayas, the authorities, I believe, must have conducted some geological investigation," said Mr. Juyal. He said that if a geological assessment wasn't carried out, then the government and the authorities concerned had not complied with the orders of the Supreme Court in this regard, which had maintained that no construction should take place in fragile Himalayas without proper scientific assessment.

PM's promise for sub-categorisation of Madigas aims for the long term

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbur
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's declaration in Hyderabad last week that the Union government would set up a committee to consider the sub-categorisation of the Madiga community in Telangana within the Scheduled Castes is a plank from which BJP hopes to reap political dividends in the Lok Sabha election in 2024.

The announcement, made at a huge rally in Telangana in the presence of community leader Manda Krishna Madiga and under the aegis of the Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi (MRPS), is being considered part of the BJP's "three Ms" strategy - to get the support of the Munnur Kapu, Mudiraju, Madiga communities - for making inroads into Telangana, if



PM Narendra Modi and Madiga community leader Manda Krishna Madiga (right) at a public rally in Hyderabad recently. NAGARA GOPAL

not during the Assembly election now, then at least in 2024.

The Munnur Kapu and the Mudiraju communities are Backward Class groups. Dharmapuri Aravind and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, BJP MPs, belong to the former. The party's election committee in-charge, Eatala Rajendra, is from the Mudiraju community.

The Madiga community makes up at least 50% of Telangana's SC population, which is a little over 15% of the State's population, as

Adani Group adviser on govt. expert panel raises eyebrows

Janardan Choudhary was reportedly part of meeting held in October when a hydel power project proposed by the firm came up for evaluation, raising questions of a possible conflict of interest

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

In what has raised questions over potential conflict of interest, the member of an expert committee meant to give independent advice to the Union Environment Ministry on the ecological impact of large hydroelectric power projects was also found to be a full-time adviser to Adani Green Energy Ltd. (AGEL), one of India's largest renewable energy companies.

The adviser was also reportedly part of a meeting in October when a project by the company came up for evaluation, a news report said on Tuesday.

Janardan Choudhary, a key adviser to AGEL, was named as one of seven non-institutional members of the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for River and Hydroelectric Projects by the Union Environment Ministry this October.

The AGEL's 1,500-megawatt (MW) Tarali pump storage project in Maha-



Adani Green Energy Ltd's pump storage project in Maharashtra was discussed in the meeting.

ashtra's Satara district came up for consideration during the reconstituted EAC's first meeting on October 17-18, show the minutes of the meeting available on the Ministry's PARIVESH portal.

Mr. Choudhary clarified to the news agency Press Trust of India that while he had attended the October 17 meeting, he had refrained from participating in the session focusing on AGEL's Tarali project.

The minutes of the meeting, perused by *The Hindu*, show that he participated in the meeting on October 17 "via video-conferencing" but was absent

on October 18. The records, however, do not suggest that he recused himself from the meeting. *The Hindu* could not immediately reach Mr. Choudhary for comment.

Inside view

EAC members are typically academics, Environment Ministry officials, and members of think tanks. A senior official in the Ministry, familiar with the procedures around EAC proceedings, told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity that having members affiliated to industry on the EAC committees was not out of the ordinary and an accepted practice.

This was because their practical experience was "invaluable" in ascertaining the impact of projects. However, all members had to declare their affiliations and recuse themselves from matters that could conflict with their position. Such recusals were expected to be noted in the minutes of the meeting, and this has been an esta-

blished practice in the past. "It was possibly an oversight but this would require an explanation," the official noted.

There was no official comment from the Environment Ministry on the matter.

Mr. Choudhary, who had a 36-year tenure with National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. and retired as Director (Technical) of the public sector undertaking in March 2020, describes his role as 'Full time advisor to AGEL' on LinkedIn, the professional networking platform. He also told PTI that he had disclosed his affiliation with AGEL to the Environment Ministry before his appointment to the EAC. Mr. Choudhary was appointed to the EAC in September.

The primary function of the EACs is to offer recommendations to the Environment Ministry regarding project proposals after evaluating their potential impacts. (With inputs from PTI)

Parliamentary panel on criminal law Bill leaves decision on death penalty to Centre

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The proposed Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Bill, 2023, which seeks to replace the British-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), has increased the number of crimes which can attract the death penalty from 11 to 15, says a parliamentary panel report published last week.

The report adds that the domain experts consulted by the committee "deliberated at great length about the need to abolish death penalty".

India has in the past voted against a United Nations General Assembly's draft resolution on the abolition of the death penalty.

A study conducted by the National Law University, Delhi - the Annual Statistics Report 2022, published by Project 39A -



Union Home Minister Amit Shah introducing the three Bills in the Lok Sabha in August to revamp the country's criminal laws. ANI

shows that till December 31, 2022, as many as 539 prisoners had been on death row in India, the highest since at least 2016.

The parliamentary panel, headed by BJP member Brij Lal, recommended that the matter be left to the Union government to consider. "The committee, after considering the submissions regarding the death penalty, has understood that the reason for a passionate argument

against death penalty is that the judicial system can be fallible and to prevent an innocent person from being wrongly sentenced to death," it said.

Dissect notes Three opposition members - P. Chidambaram and Digvijaya Singh of the Congress and Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool Congress - submitted dissent notes against the provision. Mr. Singh said while

the government had hailed the Bills as a move towards shedding the colonial nature of criminal laws, the Bills still retained the colonial spirit of the current laws and punishments for some offences had been made harsher and the death penalty had been added for at least four new crimes such as mob lynching, organised crime, terrorism and rape of a minor.

Mr. Chidambaram, former Union Home Minister, submitted: "According to the data, the Supreme Court has affirmed the death penalty in only seven cases in the last six years. While the imposition of the penalty itself causes distress and trauma, the wait before the sentence is set aside or confirmed causes distress many times more. It has been established that

Modi to release PM KISAN funds today; Opposition protests

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 15th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme at a function in Jharkhand on Wednesday. The Opposition has alleged that the instalment was deliberately delayed to coincide with the ongoing Assembly elections in five States and it is a violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

The Union Agriculture Ministry said in a release on Tuesday that Mr. Modi would release the money during the *Janjatiya Gaurav Divas* to recognise the efforts of the tribes in the preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of Indian values of national pride, valour, and hospitality. Over eight crore farmers will receive an amount of more than ₹18,000 crore - ₹2,000 each - in this instalment of the BJP's pet scheme.

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh told *The Hindu* that the Prime Minister may argue that this

Over 8 crore farmers will receive over ₹18,000 crore - ₹2,000 each - in this instalment of the BJP's pet scheme

was an ongoing scheme but it definitely violated the spirit of the MCC. He pointed out that instalments of similar quarters in 2022, 2021 and 2020 were released on October 17, August 9 and August 1 respectively. "The date of release of the 15th instalment was deliberately delayed to coincide with the elections," Mr. Ramesh added.

According to the Centre, as of July this year, 83,70,263 beneficiaries from Madhya Pradesh, 63,98,381 from Rajasthan, 21,70,541 from Chhattisgarh, 31,15,499 from Telangana and 92,520 were registered under the scheme.

A senior Ministry official said since it was an ongoing scheme, there were no restrictions on distributing the funds among farmers in poll-bound States.

Submit details of funds from poll bonds, EC tells parties

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has once again asked political parties to submit details of funds received by them through electoral bonds by Wednesday.

The reminder letter issued on Tuesday requested "the political parties, who are yet to furnish the information regarding Electoral Bonds received by them, to expedite the matter and furnish it to the Commission in a sealed envelope". This is a follow-up letter to a similar one dated November 3.

The Supreme Court had directed ECI to produce before it in a sealed cover the "up to date" data of funds received by parties through electoral bonds till September 30, 2023.

Stalin deposes Ministers to oversee relief works as T.N. gears up for rain

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

With heavy rain being forecast in various parts of Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday deputed certain Ministers to oversee precautionary measures and relief operations in Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai and Nagapattinam districts.

Senior IAS officers, who have been appointed monitoring officers, have been directed to coordinate relief operations in 13 districts - Chengalpattu, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Madurai, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Theni, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram.

Mr. Stalin on Tuesday visited the State Emergency Operations Centre in the Ezhilagam complex in Chennai and reviewed the precautionary measures being taken. He was accompanied by Minister for Re-

venue and Disaster Management K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena and senior officials.

He also virtually interacted with Cuddalore Collector A. Arun Thamburaj and Nagapattinam Collector Johnny Tom Varghese.

The government had on Monday instructed the Collectors of 27 districts to adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures to handle disasters and take measures to tackle any exigency. The instructions were issued to the Collectors of Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvallur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Cuddalore, Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Sivaganga, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Villupuram, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, Tirupattur, Vellore, Ranipet, Tiruvallur, Chennai, Tiruvannamalai, Kallakurichi, Tiruchi, Virudhunagar, Madurai and Dindigul.

IIT-Kanpur accused of facilitating bias by recruitment firms

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

As Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) across the country start campus placements, a complaint has been filed with the Education Ministry, Social Justice Ministry and National Commissions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, alleging that the Placements Office at IIT-Kanpur was allowing recruiting companies to discriminate against prospective candidates based on their caste or socio-economic category.

The incident highlighted in the complaint related to application forms circulated by a company called Merilytics on the campus placements portal. In the forms, seen by *The Hindu*, the firm required applicants to mandatorily fill in the "General" ranks secured in both the JEE-Mains and JEE-Advanced stages, which prompted students from reserved categories to flag the issue.



The donations sent through Ch.D.D.NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No.: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring Women's Welfare Syndicate is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd Public Charitable Trust, Flat No.GF 1, Cordel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E-Mail ID: womenswelfarewelfare@gmail.com. Website: www.womenswelfarewelfare.org. WWS

ASSEMBLY POLLS 2023

MIZORAM » MADHYA PRADESH » RAJASTHAN » CHHATTISGARH » TELANGANA

AAP, Priyanka get EC notice for remarks on PM

The Election Commission on Tuesday issued a show-cause notice to the Aam Aadmi Party for making “disparaging” remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on its social media handle. It also issued a show-cause notice to Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for allegedly making unverified and false statements with

regard to Mr. Modi. The EC in its notice asked AAP to respond to the charge of model code violation by November 16. It comes after a complaint by the BJP. The AAP had posted a video on X featuring a leading industrialist and Mr. Modi.

Acting on a complaint made by the BJP that she had made “false” and “unverified” statements against Mr. Modi at an rally in Madhya Pradesh recently, it asked her to explain her statements by Thursday. (With PTI inputs)



AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann at a roadshow in Madhya Pradesh. ANI

Political twist to rape of minor girl in Rajasthan

The rape of a four-year-old girl allegedly by a police sub-inspector in Lalsot last week has taken a political turn in Rajasthan’s Dausa district ahead of the election. The BJP has criticised the Ashok Gehlot government for the sexual assault on the minor.

The sub-inspector, Bhupendra Singh, has been arrested and dismissed from

service. After the rape came to light, BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena staged a dharna. Mr. Meena, who is contesting the election from Sawai Madhopur, said the police had become dictatorial because of the Congress government’s incompetence. The BJP has linked the case with its allegation of increasing crimes against women in the State.

Congress leader Kailash Vijay said the BJP’s “internal politics” and rivalry among local leaders was responsible for the case being given a political twist.



The BJP has decided that if it retains power in M.P., the elderly people and women will be taken to Ayodhya for prayers at the Ram Temple

RAJNATH SINGH
Defence Minister

Gandhi family destroyed poor people: Irani

Union Minister Smriti Irani on Tuesday lashed out at the Congress, claiming that the Gandhi family destroyed the poor in Chhattisgarh by getting them addicted to betting and liquor and filled its coffers.

She hit out at the State government over alleged liquor and recruitment scam and accused the Congress of making false promises. PTI



We now have to move on. It is not about individuals or positions or someone’s statements. It is about the country and party

SACHIN PILOT
Congress leader



Taking potshots: The Congress shared an image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and BRS leader K. Chandrashekhar Rao. ANI

War of words between Owaisi, Congress over ‘links to RSS’

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

The decision of Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-e-Ttehadul Muslimen to contest merely nine seats in its home State of Telangana has set off a war of words with the party and the Congress accusing each other of having a quiet understanding with the RSS. The Telangana Assembly, which has 119 seats, goes to the polls on November 30.

Telangana Congress chief Revanth Reddy, alluding to a tacit understanding between the AIMIM and the BJP, accused Mr. Owaisi of wearing “khaki knickers under his sherwani”.

The allegation gained currency on social media with fellow party leader Srinivas writing on X, “When he can put 95 candidates in U.P., why in his home State of Telangana, [AI]MIM has only nine candidates with seven of them in Hyderabad? Why doesn’t Owaisi declare an [AI]MIM candidate from the seat where his party HQ is? Because it has Raja Singh as MLA? Why doesn’t Owaisi declare an [AI]MIM candidate from the seat where his house is? Even a child in Telangana knows that BRS, BJP and [AI]MIM are in alliance with their only goal being to defeat a rejuvenated Congress.”

Even as the BJP maintained silence, Mr. Owaisi retorted by drawing a parallel with the remark of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who in an election meeting in Jharkhand back in 2019 had alleged that the protesters (anti-CAA) could be recognised by their clothes. “When you have nothing to say then you start talking about our clothes... This is called dogwhistle politics, which is being done by the (Telangana) Congress President... I told you earlier that you (Revanth Reddy) have come from the RSS, your connection with the RSS is still there, Mohan Bhagwat is controlling you,” Mr. Owaisi said at a rally in Hyderabad.

The allegations against the AIMIM stem from Mr. Owaisi’s much-vaunted plans to go national by putting up candidates in States such as Gujarat, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. In Gujarat elections last year, the AIMIM contested 13 seats, mostly in Muslim-dominated areas. In Uttar Pradesh, the party, along with its junior allies, had put up 100 candidates in the 2022 Assembly election; 99 of them had lost their deposit. In Bihar, the AIMIM had contested 20 seats, largely in Seemanchal which has a significant Muslim population.

All this led to frequent allegations that Mr. Owaisi was trying to divide the anti-BJP vote or the so-called secular vote, thereby helping the BJP romp home. However, Mr. Owaisi had rubbished the claims pointing out that the victory margin of the BJP candidates in Bihar was usually more than the number of votes polled by his party. He said, “Where is the question of AIMIM eating into the so-called secular vote and enabling the NDA to win? It is a myth circulated to hide their failures.” However, in U.P., the main opposition party, the Samajwadi Party, did lose seats with wafer thin margin in the 2022 elections. For instance, in Kursi, the BJP candidate won by a little over 200 votes. Here, the AIMIM candidate got over 8,000 votes.

GROUND REPORT

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL/NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday kept the focus on viral video clips of Devendra Singh Tomar, son of Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, who is the BJP candidate for the Dimani Assembly in Madhya Pradesh, “discussing transactions” worth hundreds of crores of rupees with an alleged middleman.

He wanted to know when the Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation and Income Tax Department would be investigating the matter. He was speaking at an election rally in Vidisha in the State.

The first clip started do-

ing the rounds on social media on November 7 and the second clip landed on Monday. Several national and State BJP leaders held numerous rallies across Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday, including three rallies and a roadshow by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari held three rallies each. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan held more than 10 events, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held four. Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar too held five roadshows and rallies. The BJP leaders, however, did not touch on the controversy related to Mr. Tomar’s son.

On Monday, BJP State president V.D. Sharma said the video was “fake” and it was released because the Congress “did not have any



Topic of discussion: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi meeting party supporters during an election campaign for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, in Bhopal on Tuesday. ANI

issue left”. After the first video surfaced, Mr. Devendra called it “fake and doctored” and registered a complaint with the police.

Mr. Gandhi asked the participants in the Vidisha rally if they had seen Mr. Devendra’s videos. “He is counting hundreds of

crores of rupees just as how children count marbles. This is your money,” he said. He flagged the episode to underline what he

termed the BJP’s corruption. The BJP, he said, stole the mandate in 2018, because they want to steal money from the people of Madhya Pradesh. Mr. Gandhi said, “Prime Minister Narendra Modi said demonetisation will finish black money. I want to know what colour is the money that Mr. Tomar’s son is talking about?”

Mr. Gandhi raised the issue on Monday too in Bhopal and Neemuch.

Breaking his silence on the matter, Mr. Narendra termed the episode a “well-planned conspiracy” by the Opposition.

Taking to X, he said, “Today a fake video related to my son has gone viral on social media. This is part of a well-planned conspiracy being carried out by the Opposition at the time of elections with the aim of misleading the public.”

Digvijaya Singh, key Cong. backroom strategist who the BJP loves to target

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

It has been 20 years since the Digvijaya Singh-led Congress government lost power in Madhya Pradesh over the “BSP” factor – *bijli, sadak and pani* – but the BJP continues to train its guns on Mr. Singh and his 10-year-rule.

“The team of Kamal Nath-Digvijaya Singh ruled Madhya Pradesh for 10 years and Digvijayaji was the Chief Minister. What was the situation then in M.P.? They made it a BIMARU State,” Union Home Minister Amit Shah said at a public rally in Datia on Monday.

The acronym BIMARU, coined by demographer Ashish Bose, refers to the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh because of their poor economic and social development indices.

“The entire Chambal area, from Datia to Bhind-Morena, was full of outlaws, dacoits and gangs. People couldn’t step out of their homes in the evening. All those gangs have been eliminated now,” Mr. Shah added.

Beyond the law and order issues, Mr. Singh’s 10-year rule (1993-2003) became synonymous with acute power shortage, poor condition of roads and water scarcity. Though he took a self-imposed exile from electoral politics for 10 years after being ousted by the BJP in 2003, the party continues to target him over his controversial statements.

By 2018, the Congress had recalibrated its strate-



High Stakes: Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh at an election campaign in Bhopal. A.M. FARUQUI

In the battle for Madhya Pradesh, the Congress seems to have neatly divided the responsibilities between its two senior leaders

gy by projecting the collective leadership of Kamal Nath and Jyotiraditya Scindia (then with the Congress) and keeping Mr. Singh on the background. However, the former Chief Minister continues to be one of the biggest backroom strategists for the party in the State.

Plans and schemes

In November 2021, it was Mr. Singh who conceptualised the two-week-long Jan Jagran Abhigyan that involved travelling and staying over in rural areas, an aggressive campaign

public statements, Mr. Singh seems to be avoiding giving extensive media interviews; he has stuck to offering short sound bites to TV crews instead.

Insiders claimed that he [Mr. Singh] also gave specific instructions to party workers not to use his photographs on posters and banners, after which the Congress campaign has revolved around the party’s guarantees, with Kamal Nath as its face.

Though “Dijvijaya ke kapde fadho [tear Digvijaya’s clothes]” comment by Mr. Nath to a group of Congress supporters went viral on social media platforms, the latter denied any rivalry and clarified that the comment was made in jest.

“These are absolutely baseless charges,” Mr. Nath had told *The Hindu* earlier in an interview on his reported differences with Mr. Singh.

In the high-stakes battle for Madhya Pradesh, the Congress party seems to have neatly divided the responsibilities between its two senior leaders. Mr. Nath continues to be the face of party leadership, while Mr. Singh is tasked with ironing out the creases within the organisation, including reaching out to unsuccessful ticket aspirants and stopping them from becoming rebels.

It turns out that the stakes are personal too for Mr. Singh. “If we win these elections, it will help Digvijaya ji to firmly establish his son [Jaivardhan Singh] among the next-generation leaders,” said a functionary of the All India Congress Committee.

However, given the past controversies involving his

At campaign, Modi pushes ₹24,000-cr. tribal welfare scheme

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday that the Union government would launch a scheme with an outlay of ₹24,000 crore for the welfare of tribal people on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.

It is celebrated on November 15 to mark the birth anniversary of freedom fighter and tribal activist Birsu Munda.

“Tomorrow, the entire nation will celebrate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsu Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. And the Centre is going to kick-start a very important scheme of ₹24,000 crore for the empowerment of the tribal community,” Mr. Modi said at an election rally in the tribal district of Betul. Mr. Modi said he would visit Jharkhand on Wednesday to mark the occasion and launch the scheme.

Mr. Modi’s announcement holds significance in Madhya Pradesh, where nearly 21% of the population is tribal. The State is going to the polls on Friday.

BJP’s commitment

The Prime Minister also referred to the election of Droupadi Murmu as President as evidence of the BJP’s commitment towards the uplift of tribal people. “Did we ever write in any of our manifestoes that we will make an Adivasi *beti* (daughter) the President of the nation? We never wrote it anywhere but there’s a place for you in



Narendra Modi

our hearts. That’s why, when there is a chance, the BJP values tribal pride. This is why a tribal daughter, born in a poor family in a village, Droupadi Murmuji, is the President of India today and is leading the nation,” Mr. Modi said.

He accused the Congress of only “bagging the votes of the tribal community for decades by lying”. “But they always deprived the tribal people of basic amenities such as roads, electricity, water, schools, and hospitals,” he alleged, saying that the Congress never fulfilled its promises.

Mr. Modi also took a swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on Monday at a rally in Neemuch that people were using “made in China” mobile phones.

“What world do these people live in? Congress leaders have got a mental condition of not seeing the achievements of their own country,” the Prime Minister said without naming anyone. He said that India was currently the second largest manufacturer of mobile phones in the world.

FOR FULL COVERAGE OF ASSEMBLY POLLS
Please scan the QR code or visit <https://newstl.live/elections>

IN BRIEF



Indian woman, daughter evacuated from Gaza

An Indian woman from Kashmir who had sought immediate evacuation from the war-torn Hamas-ruled Gaza has safely reached Egypt with the help of Indian missions in the region, according to her husband. Lubna Nazir Shaboo and her daughter Karima crossed the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza on Monday evening. "They are in al-Arish (a city in Egypt). Tomorrow morning (Tuesday) they will move to Cairo," Lubna's husband Nedal Toman said in a text message sent from Gaza. In a telephonic conversation on Sunday, Ms. Lubna confirmed that her name was among the people who could leave Gaza. PTI

NIA attaches eight properties of two alleged LeT operatives

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday attached eight properties belonging to two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives for allegedly being part of a conspiracy to open fire at a Jammu and Kashmir police party in Srinagar in 2018. The operatives are Mohammed Shafi Wani and Mohammed Tikka Khan. The police team was escorting a terrorist, Naveed Jatt aka Abu Hanzla, for a medical examination on February 6, 2018. The assets have been attached under Section 33 (1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Jaishankar hopes FTA talks will find a 'landing point'

Indian and British interests 'converge very clearly' across a range of issues, and the more the countries work with each other, they find 'greater comfort' in doing so, says Minister

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

As India and the U.K. continue to negotiate a trade agreement — which was initially supposed to be ready by Deepavali of 2022 — External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar has said that he hoped the two countries will be able to find a mutually beneficial "landing point" for the deal.

"...And that [the Free Trade Agreement or FTA] is today very much the focus of what the Indian and British systems are negotiating, and where we hope that we will find a landing point which will work for both of us," Mr. Jaishankar told an audience at a Deepavali diaspora reception on Monday evening in London, where the EAM is on an official visit.

Reframing ties

Mr. Jaishankar said that the U.K. and India were trying to reframe their relationship, and highlighted 'Agenda 2030'. A 'Roadmap to 2023' was announced by Prime Minister



Strengthening relations: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressing the Indian community at the Deepavali reception in London on Monday. ANI

Narendra Modi and then U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson in May 2021 that seeks to elevate the partnership across multiple domains, including connectivity, defence, health, trade, and climate action. Mr. Jaishankar said Indian and British interests "converge very clearly" across a range of issues,

and the more the two countries work with each other, they find "greater comfort" in doing so. He gave credit to the U.K. (as he has done with the U.S.) for helping India conduct a successful G-20 Summit in September this year. Mr. Jaishankar also cited the example of India and

the U.K. working together on vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic. India's High Commissioner to the U.K. Vikram Doraiswami, and Tariq Ahmad, who is the Minister of State at the U.K. Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), were also present at Monday's gathering.

Sahara group chief Subrata Roy dies in Mumbai at 75

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sahara India group chief Subrata Roy, who had been battling multiple health issues, died in a hospital in Mumbai on Tuesday night. He was 75.

A business baron who started off with a chit fund business in the late 1970s, Mr. Roy, at the peak of his success, headed an empire that included an airline, Air Sahara, television channels, finance and real estate entities, including the ambitious Amby Valley project near Lonavala in Maharashtra.

The Sahara group was once considered India's second largest employer after the Indian Railways, with a professed employee base of around 1.2 million, but ran into trouble with financial sector regulators over the business model of its finance entity that involved raising deposits worth thousands of crores from small-ticket investors.

On his death, the Sahara India Pariwar said: "It is with profound sadness that Sahara India Pariwar [group] informs the demise of our Hon'ble 'Saharasri' Subrata Roy Sahara. Saharasri ji, an inspiration-



Subrata Roy

leader and visionary, passed away on 14th November due to cardiorespiratory arrest following an extended battle with complications arising from metastatic malignancy, hypertension, and diabetes."

While Air Sahara, which began operations in 1993, was eventually sold off to the erstwhile Jet Airways, troubles of the Sahara group's finance business with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had led to Mr. Roy spending time in prison before being released on parole. The group's battle with SEBI continues to fester.

Mr. Roy was admitted to Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital & Medical Research Institute on November 12, following "a decline in his health", the group's spokesperson said.

Army holds study to address suicides, fratricides in force

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

As part of measures to address stress and psychological issues and reduce the number of suicides and fratricides in the force, the Army launched a study in August 2023 in collaboration with the Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) to assess the mental health of troops and their families.

Another pilot project is being undertaken to gauge the mental well-being of military persons and their families, defence sources said.

On various measures undertaken regularly in this regard, sources said 30 officers are trained at DIPR every year and "religious teachers counsellor courses" are conducted for four weeks each at the Command Hospitals, Base Hospitals and Military Hospitals. Unit Psychological Counsellor Course is conducted for 12 weeks for Ju-



Esprit de corps: Army chief General Manoj Pande celebrates Deepavali with troops in Harsil sector of the Garhwal Himalayas. ANI

nior Commissioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers, a source said.

In addition, the Indian Army is also employing civilian counsellors in all major military stations to address the mental well-being of all ranks.

As per information given in Parliament in April 2022, there were two cases of fratricide each year from 2019 to 2021 and one case in 2021. In an older reply in the Rajya Sabha on sus-

pected suicide cases in the Army, the Government said that from 2016 to 2018, there were 104, 75 and 80 cases, respectively.

In the latest incident of fratricide in early October 2023 involving an officer, a Major of a Rashtriya Rifles Units deployed in Jammu and Kashmir lobbed grenades and opened fire on personnel of his unit. However, there were no fatalities and the officer was overpowered after several hours. An inquiry is on.

Rajnath to attend Defence Ministers' meet in Jakarta

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will pay an official visit to Jakarta on Thursday and Friday to attend the 10th Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) and will address the forum on regional and international security issues, the Ministry said on Tuesday.

Indonesia is hosting the meeting as the chair of ADMM-Plus. The meeting comes at a time of escalated fighting in Myanmar, with Myanmar refugees coming into Mizoram in India.

On the sidelines of the ADMM-Plus, Mr. Singh will hold bilateral meetings with the Defence Ministers of the participating countries and discuss defence cooperation matters to further strengthen mutual-

ly beneficial engagements, the Ministry said in a statement.

The ADMM is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN. The ADMM-Plus is a platform for the ASEAN member-states, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, and its eight dialogue partners, India, the U.S., China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, to strengthen security and defence cooperation. India became a dialogue partner of the ASEAN in 1992 and the inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in Hanoi, Vietnam, on October 12, 2010. Since 2017, the ADMM-Plus Ministers have been meeting annually to bolster the cooperation among the ASEAN and the Plus countries.

Inimical witnesses can't be dismissed as partisan: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held in a judgment that the evidence of interested or inimical witnesses cannot be discarded merely on the ground that they are partisan. Instead, such testimonies have to be scrutinised with care, a three-judge Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai observed.

"Merely because some of the witnesses are interested or inimical witnesses, their evidence cannot be totally discarded. The only requirement is that their evidence has to be scrutinised with greater care and circumspection," the court noted in the recent judgment.

The verdict came in a petition filed by a murder convict who sought the commutation of his death penalty to life imprisonment. The incident dates back to 2003 in Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh,



An inimical witness' evidence has to be scrutinised with great care and circumspection.

where three people were shot dead in an incident of indiscriminate firing. One of the accused persons, Madan, was sentenced to death and the Allahabad High Court had confirmed the capital punishment in 2017.

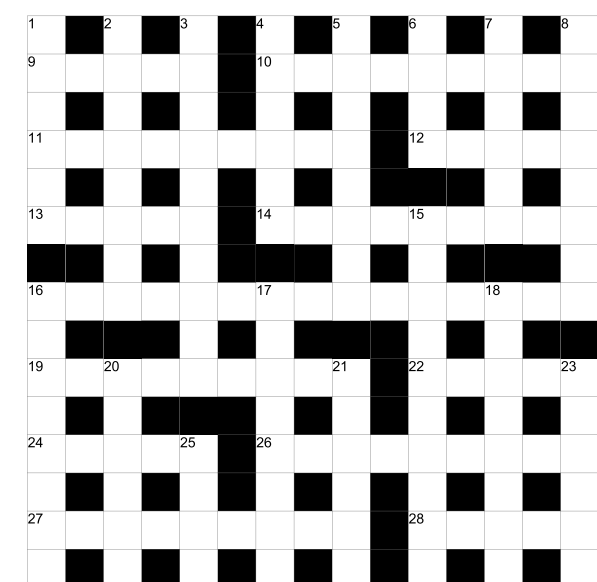
The Supreme Court commuted the death penalty to life imprisonment without remission for 20 years, referring to the advanced age of Madan and his good conduct in prison.

While confirming his guilt, the court reasoned that the prosecution had not produced any evidence to prove that Madan could not be rehabilitated, and deserved the death penalty awarded in crimes of the 'rarest of rare' category. The court also held that a past conviction cannot be held to show that the convict was beyond remorse and deserved the gallows. The Bench however dismissed the defence plea that the evidence in the case was inconclusive as the witnesses were villagers.

"Rustic witnesses cannot be expected to remember every minute detail unlike an educated witness... The basic principle of appreciation of evidence of a rustic witness who is not educated and comes from a poor strata of society is that the evidence of such a witness should be appreciated as a whole," the court said.

THE CROSSWORD+ 14020
(set by Vidwan)

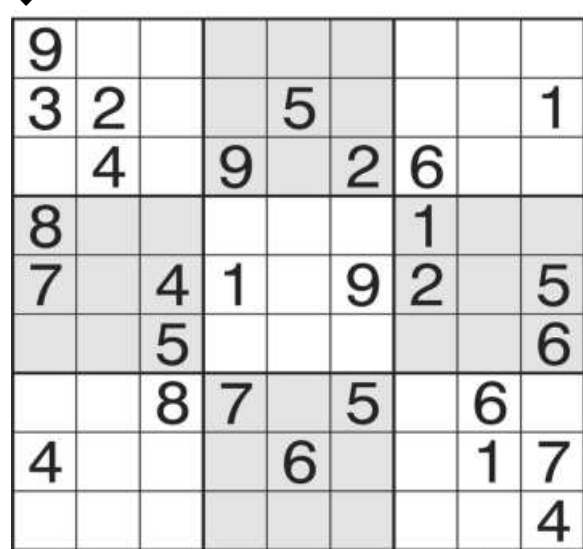
To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjpTn>



- 16 Black man can win essentially with fair race conditions (7-8)
 - 19 Princess with a good instinct had ultimately found out the problem (9)
 - 22 Spouse is corpulent not cold! (5)
 - 24 Instrument featured in retro-collections (5)
 - 26 Disregards small matters dogging a Princess (9)
 - 27 I've agents working for dark kind of films (9)
 - 28 Kind of inert compound (5)
- Down**
- 1 Fair gatecrashed by Australian composer (6)
 - 2 Courteous conflict that is often brutal (5,3)
 - 3 Pure cannibal, not a new liberal politician (10)
 - 4 What is to be summed up by nervous dad before resolution? (6)
 - 5 A cheap metal covered by very desirable metal (8)
 - 6 Evidence of trauma regularly seen in such aura (4)
 - 7 A Hebrew prophet, an unpleasant old lady and Goddess of Earth, scratching backside! (6)
 - 8 Pillowcases and sheets sort of blend in England (3,5)
 - 15 Spooner's bunk dog is on the way to the ground (10)
 - 16 Bandit can almost become one who gives up power (8)
 - 17 Left out of devil's one play that leads to rapid fall (8)
 - 18 Felines, on the outside, live around stylish dressers (8)
 - 20 Complete Egyptian-English state (6)
 - 21 Stop locals on time (6)
 - 23 Sure conclusion, mostly earlier one in time (6)
 - 25 Naked hate for Bond (4)

- Across**
- 9 Love experience of a fruit (5)
 - 10 Please move out without disturbing cat (9)
 - 11 Evil, vile nature's mostly not vile (9)
 - 12 King's honest, good at heart (5)
 - 13 We got buried in endless tax! It leaves us dry! (5)
 - 14 Blossom curiously idle and in use (9)

SUDOKU



Solution to previous puzzle

T	O	P	S	I	M	P	A	R
S	H	M	P	T	O	M	R	A
R	E	T	I	R	E	M	E	N
C	L	A	R	I	E	S	A	B
D	R	I	E	C	L	E	A	N
M	A	G	E	W	A	T	E	R
A	D	A	P	E	R	E	O	L
E	E	R	E	B	I	C	I	I
R	U	N	N	E	L	B	R	O

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

MADGALDEEP
Long lasting fragrances of devotion

FAITH
Everything to everyone

King Janaka was a karma yogi. The Lord decided to test Janaka's understanding of dharma, Velukkudi Krishnan said in a discourse.

He appeared before Janaka in the guise of a Brahmin, and asked him how he was able to treat his subjects without any discrimination. Janaka replied that just as a parent treats children impartially, just as brothers do not quarrel amongst themselves, just as acharyas never differentiate between their sishyas, just as people do not discriminate among their friends, so is Janaka towards his subjects.

But some parents are partial towards some of their children. Brothers have property disputes. A friend may also have a hierarchy between his acquaintances. So how could Janaka's words be seen as reasons for his impartiality?

Janaka then pointed out that everyone, Janaka included, had the Lord as his parent. The Lord can be seen as every one of our relations. He is a brother, a mother, a friend, an acharya to us. Just as He is all of these things to us, so is He to others. Once this is understood, where is the need for differentiation? Janaka had the jnana to know this. So he was a just king.

Once we realise that the Lord is everything to us and to everyone else, impartiality automatically comes to us.



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

ISLAMABAD

Afghanistan seeks release of containers from Pakistan port



Afghanistan asked Pakistan to release thousands of containers of imports it said were stuck at Karachi port since Islamabad clamped down on cargo. Pakistan said it lost millions in taxes because goods are being sent duty-free from its ports to land-locked Afghanistan, and then smuggled back across the border. AFP

LONDON

Two more persons come forward to complain about Russell Brand



The BBC said two more persons came forward to complain about Russell Brand. The BBC was giving an update to its investigation after British media outlets in September published claims by four women that they were sexually assaulted by the actor-comedian between 2006 and 2013, at the height of his fame. AP

HELSINKI

Finland mulls Russian border closure as migrant crossings rise



Finland said it is considering closing its border crossings with Russia, accusing Moscow of deliberately turning a blind eye to illegal migrants. Prime Minister Petteri Orpo said he believed Russia was allowing migrants to cross into Finland suggesting it was a tactic aimed at destabilising its neighbour. AFP

YEREVAN

Armenian leader snubs summit of Moscow-led security alliance



Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said he would not take part in next week's summit of the Russia-led Collective Treaty Security Organization. This is the latest in a series of moves suggesting a growing strain in relations between Armenia and its longtime ally Russia. The summit will be held in Belarus. AP

Countries slam Israel's remark about nuclear bomb

Associated Press
UNITED NATIONS

China, Iran and a multitude of Arab nations condemned an Israeli minister's statement that a nuclear bomb on the Gaza Strip was an option in the Israel-Hamas war, calling it a threat to the world.

At Monday's long-planned opening of a United Nations conference whose goal is to establish a nuclear-free zone in West Asia, many Ambassadors expressed condemnations and criticisms of comments by Israel's Heritage Minister Amihai Eliyahu, who later called his remarks in a radio interview on Sunday "metaphorical."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quickly disavowed the comments and suspended him from Cabinet meetings.

As fighting empties northern Gaza, humanitarian woes worsen in south

UN-run shelters in the south are severely overcrowded, with an average of one toilet for 160 people; in all, some 1.5 million Palestinians, more than two-thirds of Gaza's population, have fled their homes; UN agency says it may run out of fuel today

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

About 2,00,000 Palestinians have streamed out of northern Gaza toward worsening conditions in the south in recent days, a UN agency said on Tuesday, as Israeli troops battled militants around hospitals where patients, newborns and medics are stranded with no electricity and dwindling supplies.

Only one hospital in the north is now capable of receiving patients, according to the UN humanitarian office known as OCHA.

None of the others are able to function, including Gaza's largest, Shifa Hospital, which is surrounded by Israeli troops and where the lives of dozens of patients, including new-



Dire straits: People search through buildings, destroyed during Israeli strikes, in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

borns, are at risk.

The Health Ministry in the Hamas-run territory proposed on Tuesday that the facility be evacuated under the supervision of the Red Cross.

The war, now in its sixth week, was triggered by Ha-

mas' surprise attack into Israel, in which militants killed at least 1,400 people. Israel's attacks have killed over 11,000 Palestinians.

Israel has urged civilians to evacuate Gaza City and surrounding areas in the north, but the southern

part of the besieged territory is not much safer. Israel carries out frequent airstrikes throughout Gaza, hitting what it says are militant targets but often killing women and children.

Overcrowded shelters UN-run shelters in the south are severely overcrowded, with an average of one toilet for 160 people. In all, some 1.5 million Palestinians, more than two thirds of Gaza's population, have fled their homes.

People stand in line for hours for scarce bread and brackish water. Trash is piling up, sewage is flooding the streets and taps run dry because there is no fuel, which is required to produce the electricity that powers water systems. Israel has barred fuel im-

ports since the start of the war, saying Hamas would use it for military purposes.

The onset of rainy, cold weather added to the misery. At a tent camp outside a hospital in the central town of Deir al-Balah, people trudged through mud as they stretched plastic tarps over flimsy tents.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, which is struggling to provide basic services to over 600,000 people sheltering in schools and other facilities in the south, said it may run out of fuel by Wednesday, forcing it to halt most aid operations. It said it was unable to continue importing limited supplies of food and medicine through Egypt's Rafah crossing, Gaza's only link to the outside world.

Rajapaksa brothers violated public trust, rules Sri Lanka's SC

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Sri Lanka's top court ruled that Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Mahinda Rajapaksa, and Basil Rajapaksa and other top officials in their government "demonstrably contributed to" last year's economic crisis that shook the island nation, violating "public trust".

The three Rajapaksa brothers - who formerly held the positions of President, Prime Minister and Finance Minister respectively - helmed the country from 2019 until they were dislodged from power by a mass people's uprising in 2022. Citizens took to the streets in staggering numbers against the then ruling clan that they squarely blamed for the country's unprecedented economic crash.

Active contribution

"We are of the view that by the actions, omissions, decisions and conduct hereinbefore identified to have demonstrably contributed to the economic crisis," the Supreme Court said. The respondents "had violated the public trust reposed in them", it said and held that "they were in breach of the fundamental right to equal protection of the law". The top court gave the verdict after hearing two fundamental rights petitions from a group of persons, including academics and civil society members.

While the top court identified the role of the Rajapaksa administration in contributing to the grave economic crisis, it deemed

that "it would not be appropriate" to order the respondents to pay compensation to the petitioners.

"The petitioners...have invoked the fundamental rights jurisdiction of this Court in the interest of the public. We note that none of the petitioners are claiming any loss had impacted on the petitioners on an individual basis, but their assertion is as a result of the conduct of the respondents the entire citizenry had to undergo hardships which could have been avoided," it noted. "We order however that each petitioner in both applications would be entitled to [litigation] costs in sum of rupees [LKR] 1,50,000.00 each," the majority of the five-member Bench ruled.

As Sri Lanka witnessed its worst economic crisis and a historic people's uprising last year, Mr. Gotabaya fled the country. Months later, he returned to Sri Lanka and has been residing in Colombo since. While Mr. Mahinda resigned as Premier, he remains a member of parliament from the ruling party that backs President Ranil Wickremesinghe. Mr. Basil resigned from Parliament.

Pakistan High Court stays Imran Khan's jail trial in cipher case

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

A Pakistan High Court on Tuesday issued a stay order against the jail trial of former Prime Minister Imran Khan in the cipher case, seeking information about the "circumstances" that prompted the trial to be conducted in a high-security Rawalpindi prison.

The case pertains to Khan's alleged disclosure of a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington in March last year.

The 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman is currently detained in Adiala jail in Rawalpindi on judicial remand. Khan's close aide and former Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, 67, who was also arrested in the cipher case is imprisoned in the same jail. Khan and Qureshi have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

A two-member Bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat Iftiaz pronounced the judgement during the hearing of Khan's intra-court appeal against his trial in Adiala jail.

The appeal was filed against a single-member Bench of the same court which last month upheld the trial of Khan in Adiala Jail.

Justice Aurangzeb said the court would scrutinise the notification, questioning the "extraordinary circumstances" that led to the trial being conducted in its current manner. "We want



Imran Khan

to know the actual events; you have to inform us," the judge said.

The court also sought clarification on the reasons behind the federal Cabinet's approval of the jail trial. "The most important question lies in determining the status of court proceedings preceding the cabinet's approval," Justice Aurangzeb asked.

The IHC refused to grant a plea by Attorney General Mansoor Awan that instead of staying the trial, the court should fix the next hearing for Thursday and ordered to stop the proceeding.

Meanwhile, Khan was arrested by Pakistan's top anti-corruption office in the Al-Qadir Trust case and Toshakhana gifts case.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) arrested Khan on Monday after Accountability Court Judge Mohammad Bashir ratified the arrest warrants and directed the Adiala Jail superintendent to execute them, the Dawn newspaper reported.

World is severely off track to limit planet-heating emissions, says UN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

The world is "failing to get a grip" on climate change, the UN warned on Tuesday, as an assessment of current climate pledges shows only minor progress on reducing emissions this decade.

In a report released just weeks before high-stakes climate negotiations, the United Nations climate

change organisation said the world was failing to act with sufficient urgency to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

With temperatures soaring and 2023 expected to become the warmest year so far in human history, scientists say the pressure on world leaders to curb planet-heating greenhouse gas pollution has never been more urgent.

The UN found that com-

bined climate plans from nearly 200 nations would put the world on a path for 2030 carbon emissions just 2% below 2019 levels.

That is far short of the 43% fall that the UN's IPCC climate panel says are needed to limit warming to the Paris deal target of 1.5° C since the preindustrial era.

"Every fraction of a degree matters, but we are severely off track. COP-28 is

our time to change that," UN Climate Change chief Simon Stiell said.

Scientists have warned that humanity is dangerously close to blowing past the 1.5° C global heating limit.

"The world is failing to get a grip on the climate crisis," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, warning countries were not acting fast enough to avoid climate catastrophe.

YouTube takes aim at AI-generated imposters

Agence France-Presse
SAN FRANCISCO

YouTube on Tuesday said it will soon allow users to request that artificial intelligence-created imposters be removed from the platform, and will require labels on videos featuring realistic-looking "synthetic" content.

New rules aimed at AI-generated video material will go into force in the coming months as fears mount over the technology being abused to promote scams and misinformation. It is also feared that the technology can falsely depict people appearing in pornography.

In evaluating removal requests, the Alphabet-owned site will consider whether videos are parodies and whether the real people depicted can be identified.

Bharat Coking Coal Limited
A Mini Ratna Company
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCL www.bclweb.in, Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>. *This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

This information is also available on BCL website www.bclweb.in

Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority
Secretariat Campus, 04-Subhash Road, Dehradun-248001
No. 2008/USDMA- E-56921 (2023)
Dated 14 November, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that **Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA)** is organizing **6th World Congress on Disaster Management (6th WCDM)** at Dehradun from November 28 to December 1, 2023 in collaboration with Uttarakhand Council for Science and Technology (UCOST) and DMISC. **An exhibition of disaster risk reduction related technologies and products** is being organized at the conference venue as a part of the 6th WCDM. Parties interested in showcasing their products and technologies are invited to participate in this exhibition. For further details interested parties may contact the Convener, 6th WCDM (+91 78932 22289) or Dr. Pooja Rana, Planner, USDMA (+91 76006 73987) and e-mail the same at usdmaac@gmail.com.

Additional CEO (Operations)
USDMA

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI
Phone:-06842 254004 Email: sermbphulbani@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No.CCE_R and B_PLB_17 of 2023-24
No. 2542 Dated : 08/11/2023

1.	The Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for construction of the Road, Bridge & Building works as detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.
2.	Nature of work : Road, Bridge & Building Works.
3.	No. of tenders : Ten Nos
4.	Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/- (through online) only.
5.	Class of Contractor : B, A & Special Class
6.	Date & Time of sale & receipt of Bids : 10.00 AM of 24.11.2023 to 5.00 PM of 08.12.2023
7.	Date of Opening of Bid : 11.00 AM of 11.12.2023
8.	The Bidders shall 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 website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

B-1249: Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani. OIPR-34129/11/0018/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender Call Notice
Email: rbcirclekhorurda@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle - 28/2023-24
Memo No - 2337 Dt. 03.11.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building works as detailed in the table below:

1.	Nature of Work : Building Works
2.	No of Work : 2 Nos
3.	Tender Cost : Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
4.	Class of Contractor : B & A Class
5.	Available of Bid document : From 10.00 AM of Dt.16.11.2023 to 05.00 PM of Dt.30.11.2023 up to 5.00 PM
6.	Date of Opening of Bid : Dt 01.12.2023 at 11.30 AM
7.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

B-1292: Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha OIPR-34127/11/0037/2324

IN BRIEF



GST authorities said to search Aviva unit for alleged evasion

India's tax inspectors searched the office of U.K. insurance giant Aviva's life insurance unit near New Delhi last week and seized documents as part of an investigation into alleged tax evasion, sources familiar with the matter said. Officers of India's Directorate General of GST (Goods and Services Tax) Intelligence also seized laptops during their visit on November 7 and questioned some officials, including the India CEO Asit Rath and CFO Sonali Athalye, said the sources. REUTERS

Tata Tech IPO to open for subscription on November 22

Tata Technologies, which provides engineering and product-development digital services, said its initial public offering (IPO) will open for public subscription on November 22. The firm, a unit of Tata Motors, filed the red herring prospectus on November 13 with the Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra, Tata Motors said in a filing. The IPO would comprise up to 60,850,278 shares for cash, entailing 15% of the paid-up equity share capital of Tata Technologies, it added. PTI

Kalyan Jewellers Q2 net rises 27.3% to ₹134.87 crore

Kalyan Jewellers on Tuesday reported a 27.3% year-on-year growth in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) during the quarter ended September 30, to ₹134.87 crore. Revenue from operations grew 27.1% to ₹4,414.53 crore, the company said in a filing. Total revenue from West Asia operations grew 5% to ₹629 crore. Profit after tax dipped to ₹12 crore from ₹14 crore. The e-commerce division of the company, Candere, recorded a revenue of ₹31 crore (₹37 crore). PTI

Centre to invite bids for 20 critical mineral blocks

Centre to issue auction notices in the next two weeks for minerals such as lithium and graphite; a national strategy on mining and processing of critical minerals is to be framed after the auction

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government will invite bids for 20 critical mineral blocks, including lithium and graphite mines, in the next two weeks, Mines Secretary V.L. Kantha Rao told reporters here.

"We are almost ready to issue the auction notice and in two weeks' time we will be issuing a notice for auctioning about 20 blocks that are related to critical minerals like lithium and graphite," he said.

Critical auctions

Govt. kickstarts process for auction of critical minerals that will be crucial to India's net-zero ambitions



Only 10-12 players in India currently have the required technology to produce and process critical minerals

Centre had recently approved royalty rates of 3% for lithium and niobium and 1% for Rare Earth Elements (REEs). Critical minerals are also seen as vital for the nation's economic development and national security

The secretary said 10-12 players in the country have the technology to produce and process critical minerals. Post this auction notice, he said, stakeholders will be brought together and a national-level strategy

on mining and processing of critical minerals will be made.

Last month, the Centre had approved royalty rates of 3% each for lithium and niobium and 1% for Rare Earth Elements (REEs). Critical minerals have become important for the nation's economic development and national security.

Lithium and REEs have gained significance, keeping in mind India's commitment to energy transition and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

City Union Bank eyes ₹1,000 cr. net in FY24

N. Anand
CHENNAI

City Union Bank Ltd. (CUB) for the first time is likely to cross the ₹1,000 crore mark in its net profit during the current fiscal, managing director and chief executive officer N. Kamakodi said.

"We closed the first half with a net profit of ₹508 crore and hope to cross four-digit mark for the first time during this fiscal," he said during an interaction.

"The bank hopes to achieve this figure despite the headwinds in operating profit. This may be due



N. Kamakodi

to the positive contribution from the credit cost," he said.

According to Mr. Kamakodi, profit in the current quarter is the highest-ever the bank has declared in its 120-year history. During FY23, CUB had posted a net profit of ₹937 crore.

NMDC Q2 net rises 16% to ₹1,025 crore

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

State-owned NMDC reported an almost 16% year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit for the quarter ended September to ₹1,024.86 crore.

The higher net profit for the country's largest iron ore producer came on a more than 15% rise in total income to ₹4,335.02 crore.

During the quarter, iron ore production rose 25% to 8.86 million tonnes (MT) and sales 14% to 9.57 MT.

For the first half of the fiscal, the net profit was higher at ₹2,685.90 crore



Amitava Mukherjee

(₹2,356.89 crore), while total income increased to ₹10,023.89 crore (₹8,667.83 crore). "We registered stellar H1 and Q2 performances with remarkable growth and the figures give a fillip to our goal of achieving 50 MT by next fiscal," CMD Amitava Mukherjee said.

'India can be an alternative to China in manufacturing'

A choice has to be made whether to rely on local consumption or become a global manufacturing hub via openness, says DHL Group CEO

INTERVIEW

Tobias Meyer

Lalathendu Mishra



DHL Group's plans for India stay unchanged even as the country harbours the ambition to emerge as an alternative to China in global manufacturing, says DHL Group CEO. Excerpts:

How has business changed post COVID?

During COVID-19, for us, it was very busy time. After that, I would characterise it as three things. First, we are seeing normalisation of

freight rates, particularly ocean freight. Second, it is the impact of rising interest rates across major economies. The third element is e-commerce transition, which is fully intact.

India wants to capitalise on the China Plus 1 opportunity. Does it have the potential to be a viable alternative?

I think India has all the po-

tential. It has also the potential to become a manufacturing location. The Indian government has taken very positive steps in terms of investment in infrastructure which is conducive to business.

Now, if you want to be a player in global manufacturing, it needs openness to trade, the ability to import goods, because initially you can not localise the entire supply chain. So, a choice has to be made whether to rely on local consumption or to become a global manufacturing hub through openness.

For full interview, see: <https://shorturl.at/IC979> (This writer is in Hong Kong at the invitation of DHL Express)

Tata Steel to axe 800 jobs in Netherlands for profitability

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Tata Steel, which is seeking financial aid for Dutch operations, said it would cut 800 jobs in the Netherlands to ensure structural competitiveness and profitability.

In the Netherlands, the firm has a 7-million tonne per annum plant in IJmuiden. The decision is a difficult one, with potentially significant personal impacts on employees and their families, the company said.

The job reduction is expected to affect about 500 Tata Steel employees, primarily in management, staff, and support positions. The remaining 300 jobs concern the work of temporary workers and not filling vacancies.

'Biki', who took Indian hospitality to the world with luxury hotels, is dead

Mithun Dasgupta
KOLKATA



P.R.S. Oberoi

Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi, hailed globally as one of the greatest hoteliers, who died on Tuesday, leaves behind a legacy of refined luxury. He fostered compassion and excellence and was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan.

In an official statement, the Oberoi Group said, "It is with deep sadness that we inform the peaceful passing of P.R.S. Oberoi, Chairman Emeritus of the Oberoi Group, earlier today. Oberoi's legacy tran-

scends borders, leaving an indelible mark on the global landscape."

He was 94. He is survived by his son Vikramjit Singh, CEO and MD of EIH Ltd., the flagship of the Oberoi Group, and two daughters.

Popularly known as 'Biki', Mr. Oberoi was the Executive Chairman of EIH. He was also the Chairman of Oberoi Hotels, the major shareholder of EIH.

Son of the Late M.S. Oberoi, founder of the Oberoi Group, PRS is credited with placing Oberoi Hotels on the international luxury travellers' itinerary by opening several properties in top cities.

Luxury hotels 'Biki' was instrumental in pioneering the development of Oberoi Hotels and Resorts. He also provided

leadership for the management of luxury hotels in several countries. In 2008, PRS was conferred the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honour, in recognition of his services.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of PRS (Biki) Oberoi. He was easily among the greatest hoteliers the world has seen. His legacy of world-class excellence and refined luxury has left an indelible mark," said Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa, in a post on X. (The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, CENTRAL IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR e-Procurement Notice No. ACECIC-13 / 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, C.C. Bhubaneswar	PRD-09/2023-24	Protection to Kuakhai left Embankment from RD. 5.900 Km to 6.270 Km.	269.06	269100/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"B", "A" Class	16.11.2023 At 10.00 Hours	30.11.2023 At 17.00 Hours	01.12.2023 At 11.00 Hours	06 (Six Calendar Month)
	PID-11/2023-24	Renovation of Sukal Distributary from RD.0.00 Km to 5.00 Km of Sakhipogal Branch Canal System	791.90	791900/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" and "Special" Class	16.11.2023 At 10.00 Hours	30.11.2023 At 17.00 Hours	01.12.2023 At 11.00 Hours	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
OIPR-32160/110015/2324

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice	
Tender No : R-269 to 265/2023-24/SE/PHCM/PA, JIM - (269) CWS to Idukki - Konjikutu PI - Supply and laying CWP and GM and Storage reservoir cum pump house in Marayapuram PI - (261) WSS to Devikulam and Chinakkal PI - Supply and Laying Gravities, Construction of GLSR at various zones, Providing Distribution System and Providing FHTC to various zones (Seetha Devi Lake Zone) (262) JIM - WSS - to Santharpana-Construction of 8.25 MLD WTP (263) Providing Fhrc in Chinakkal (264) WSS to Manikulam Admi-Construction of GL Service Reservoirs, Supply and laying Clear waterpumping main and Gravity main, Supply and Laying Distribution lines to 6.31.13.15.16.17 and providing FHTC (Adimall PI) (265) PACKAGE - 5 - Construction of GL Service Reservoirs, Supply and laying Gravity main, Supply and Laying Distribution lines and providing FHTC from zone 5 and 6 (Manikulam PI) (266) Construction of 25 MLD water treatment plant - at Kumbi, EMD - Rs. 200000-500000. Tender fee - Rs. 11025-16540. Last Date for submitting Tender : 23-11-2023 04:00pm, Phone : 04852835637. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.tenders.kerala.gov.in	Superintending Engineer PH Circle, Muvattupuzha

KWA-JB-GL-6-1592-2023-24

जवाहरलाल न्यायकोत्तर आधुनिक शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH		
(An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India) फ़ाउन्डरि मन्त्र, पुदुच्चेरी / धानवन्तानि नगर, पुदुच्चेरी- 605 006 Phone: 0413-2296025 e-mail: facrect2023@gmail.com		
No. JIP/Adm. 4(FW)/1(11)/Rectt./2023-II	Date: 15.11.2023	
ADVERTISEMENT NOTIFICATION (Recruitment of faculty posts on regular basis)		
Applications are invited from eligible applicants for the post of Assistant Professor on regular basis in the following Specialities at JIPMER, Puducherry campus as below by 14.12.2023 (Thursday), 4:30 PM.		
Sr. No.	Specialities (Pay Level-12 as per 7th CPC)	No. of posts & reservation
1	Assistant Professor (Dermatopathology)*	1 (UR)
2	JIPMER International School of Public Health	
a)	Assistant Professor (Communicable Disease Surveillance)	1 (OBC)
b)	Assistant Professor (Environmental Health)	1 (OBC)
c)	Assistant Professor (Epidemiology)	2 (1 UR ; 1 OBC)
d)	Assistant Professor (Maternal & Child Health)	1 (SC)
e)	Assistant Professor (Non-Communicable Disease)	1 (UR)
f)	Assistant Professor (Public Health Nutrition)	1 (UR)
3	Assistant Professor (Preventive Oncology)	1 (UR)
Total		9

* will function in the Department of Pathology

Note:

- The above vacancies are provisional and subject to variation. Director, JIPMER reserves the right to vary the above vacancies as per requirements of the institute or otherwise.
- As per rules, 4% horizontal reservation are allotted for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities in the above vacancies.
- Closing date for submission of OFFLINE application is 14.12.2023 (Thursday) by 4:30 PM.
- For details regarding the eligibility criteria, age, general terms and conditions etc., application form and, all updates regarding the faculty recruitment, addendum/corrigendum (if any), refer to the institute's website (<https://www.jipmer.edu.in>).
- The applicant must submit the hard copy of the application and the scanned pdf copy (by email) along with all certificates/enclosures within the stipulated time as per the instructions mentioned in the detailed advertisement available on the institute's website.

DIRECTOR

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice	
Tender No : 208 - 226, Jalveeran mission - Malappuram Di - Pipe laying and providing FHTC in Punalloor, Vazhakkad, Edalur, Alparambal, Kuruvu, Thrikkalgode, Ponur, Pandikad, Tharuvu, Chingathara, Kaladi Panchayath road restoration work in Cheryamundam, Niramurathur, Thanakur, Vazhayur Panchayaths, Electro mechanical works in Karulai, Amarambalam, Moothadam, Chokkad and Construction of WTP for Wandoor, Thuvuvu, Kallikavu, Karuvarakundu, Edappatta, Chingathara, Pothukallu, Vazhikadavu, Edakkara and Orakkam pils. EMD : Rs. 20000 to 50000. Tender fee : Rs. 11025 to 16540. Last Date for submitting Tender : 04-12-2023 03:30pm, Phone : 0483274871.	Superintending Engineer PH Circle, Malappuram

KWA-JB-GL-6-1592-2023-24

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (Reg Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala) Corporation Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number-96461-22227)	
TENDER ENQUIRY NO. 74/CE/DISTRIBUTION PROJECTS/RDSS/2023-24 dated 09.11.2023. EIC/RE/ADPRP invites E-Tenders from reputed and experienced firms for Development of Distribution Infrastructure for 08 No. Packages (Package no. 4-Ludhiana 1, Package no. 5-Ludhiana 2, Package no. 6-Ludhiana 3, Package no. 7-Ludhiana 4, Package no. 8-Ludhiana 5, Package no. 9-Ludhiana 6, Package no. 10-Ludhiana 7, Package no. 37-Fatehgarh Sahib) of Punjab under Reforms-based and Results-Linked, Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme.	
For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to https://proc.punjab.gov.in from 09.11.2023.	
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://proc.punjab.gov.in	
C-808/23	76155/12/2398/2023/29756

SIDDHA REGIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CCRS, Ministry of Ayush, GoI) Kuyavarpalayam, Puducherry - 605013. Email: recruitments.sripdy@gmail.com, Phone: 0413 - 2245072		
Advt. No.: 06/2023	Date: 15.11.2023	
WALK-IN INTERVIEW Walk-in interviews for the below mentioned posts are to be held at Siddha Regional Research Institute, Puducherry on 06.12.2023 from 10.00 a.m onwards. Details of the projects, essential qualifications, eligibility criteria and application formats are available at the Central Council for Research in Siddha website www.siddhaCouncil.com . Interested candidates may walk-in along with their original certificates from 9.00 a.m on interview day.		
Sl.No.	Name of the post	No. of post/Project details
1.	SRF (Biochemistry / Biotechnology)	01 EMR
2.	JRF (Biochemistry)	01 IMR - SVK
Assistant Director (S) S IV & I/c		

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (Reg Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala) Corporation Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number-96461-22227)	
TENDER ENQUIRY NO. 75/CE/DISTRIBUTION PROJECTS/RDSS/2023-24 dated 10.11.2023 CE/Distribution Projects invites E-Tenders from reputed and experienced firms for Development of Distribution Infrastructure 12 No. Packages (Package-1-Amritsar-1, Package-2-Amritsar-2, Package-3-Amritsar-3, Package-11-Jalandhar-1, Package-12-Jalandhar-2, Package-13-Jalandhar-3, Package-14-Hoshiarpur-1, Package-15-Hoshiarpur-2, Package-16-Hoshiarpur-3, Package-17-Hoshiarpur-4, Package-38-Kapurthala, Package-39-Nawanshahr) of Punjab under Reforms-based and Results-Linked, Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme.	
For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to https://proc.punjab.gov.in from 10.11.2023.	
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://proc.punjab.gov.in	
C-812/23	76155/12/2399/2023/29757

MULTI-FACETED

Happy that the batters turned their arm over: Rohit



K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

India's four leading batters turned their arm over in the World Cup game against the Netherlands at Bengaluru. "Four of us bowled and I felt happy about that and the crowd loved it too," Rohit Sharma said. Virat Kohli, Rohit, Shubman Gill and Suryakumar Yadav had bowled with the first two grabbing a wicket each.

BOUNCING BACK

Rohit lauds Kuldeep's spell under pressure against New Zealand



K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Kuldeep Yadav has found his groove in this World Cup and Rohit Sharma lauded the bowler. "Against New Zealand he did come under some pressure and got hit but he came back well to get us the wickets. That is the beauty of spin, you can get hit but you got to come back and Kuldeep did that well."

LIVING IN THE PRESENT

Current players are only interested in self-improvement, says Rohit



EMMANUAL YOGINI

Rohit acknowledged that while the pressure has been there on his side to emulate the feat of the batches of 1983 and 2011, he said the current players are interested in self-improvement. "Half of the guys were not even born when we won the World Cup for the first time. Half of them weren't playing cricket when we won it the last time."

A LEGEND'S PRESENCE

Beckham to attend India-NZ World Cup semifinal



REUTERS

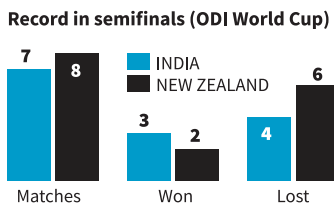
England football legend David Beckham will be among the dignitaries present during the first semifinal of the ongoing World Cup between India and New Zealand here on Wednesday. Beckham, who is already in the country as UNICEF's goodwill ambassador, is expected to travel to Mumbai on the day of the match.

Kiwis up for a tough scrap with roaring India

The Men in Blue, stepping in with five bowlers, run a risk if one of them gets injured or has an off-day; New Zealand will largely rely on Williamson, Ravindra and Santner

Battleground Wankhede

India and New Zealand will clash in the semifinal of the 50-over showpiece for the second successive time. The Kiwis won the duel in 2019, but the Indians prevailed in their recent meeting in the league stage on October 22, 2023



INDIA
1983: bt England by six wickets
1987: lost to England by 35 runs
1996: lost to Sri Lanka (by default)

NEW ZEALAND
1975: lost to West Indies by five wickets
1979: lost to England by nine runs
1992: lost to Pakistan by four wickets
1999: lost to Pakistan by nine wickets
2007: lost to Sri Lanka by 81 runs
2011: lost to Sri Lanka by five wickets
2015: bt South Africa by four wickets
2019: bt India by 18 runs

ROHIT SHARMA
We do understand the importance of this week, but I don't think we need to do anything different from what we have been doing

KANE WILLIAMSON
India has done it better than anybody so far in this competition. As a side, I think we have done some good stuff too

Captaincy record

	M	W	L	T	NR	Win/Loss
Rohit Sharma	43	33	9	0	1	3.66
Kane Williamson	90	46	39	1	4	1.18

ODIs at Wankhede

	M	W	L
India	21	12	9
New Zealand	3	2	1

EYE ON THE SKY

High 33°C
Low 24°C
Mainly clear
Source: IMD
Source: ESPNcricinfo

Men in Blue and the Black Caps have met only once in an ODI at the Wankhede, with the Kiwis winning by six wickets (in Oct. 2017)

ODI WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
MUMBAI

In a metro, with its soundscapes ranging from Arabian Sea whispers to local train rhythms, the maximum decibel levels will emanate from the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday. The World Cup semifinal, pitting India and New Zealand, features rivals with a recurring history of key ICC battles, be it the 2019 World Cup semifinal or the 2021 World Test Championship final.

Both clashes were held in England and the results were identical as New Zealand prevailed twice. Cut to the present, Rohit Sharma's men are enjoying a rich vein of form. Having defeated all its rivals in the league stage, including New Zealand at Dharamshala, India is primed to soar.

Rapid starts
Skipper Rohit has offered rapid starts and with Shubman Gill chipping in, while Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul and Suryakumar Yadav having collectively found their stride, India is a batting superpower. This is a set that blends aggression with aesthetics, and muscle with mayhem.

The bowling, led by Jasprit Bumrah, has been potent, running through sides, much akin to Sunil Gavaskar's men during the 1985 World Championship of Cricket in Australia. The pace trio and spin duo have combined well and so far Hardik Pandya has not been missed. Equally, all talk about the

absent Rishabh Pant has subsided. Such has been this team's performance.

But stepping in with five pure bowlers has its risks if one gets injured or has a low-key day. In the last game against the Netherlands in Bengaluru, Mohammed Siraj suffered an injury while missing up to a catch. Though he returned later for a second spell, Rohit employed Kohli, Gill, Suryakumar and himself briefly at the bowling crease. This part-time back-up has to be ready in knockout tussles.

New Zealand, a unit featuring men of quiet words, rainbow smiles, enormous patience and ever ready for a tough scrap on the turf, does step in as the trailing rival trying to catch up with a domineering host. But the Black Caps do know these last-mile skirmishes and the attendant pressures.

In Kane Williamson, the opposition has a pragmatic leader who can deal with malfunctioning microphones in press conferences, like it happened here on Tuesday, and fiery bowlers, with an equanimity and tongue-in-cheek humour that is endearing. Rachin Ravindra has been an excellent batter and the bowlers, seamers or spinners like Mitchell Santner, can test the very best.

World Cup semifinals are always tricky. The last time Mumbai conducted a semifinal, way back in 1987, England's Graham Gooch swept aside Indian spinners Maninder Singh and Ravi Shastri. New Zealand too can spring a few surprises while India eyes a 10th consecutive win and book its flight for Sunday's final in



Deja vu: Jadeja will look to replicate his fine knock in the 2019 semifinals, this time in a winning cause. EMMANUAL YOGINI

It is hard to predict the future of ODIs: Williamson



Mitchell... wondering how the pitch will play. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Kane Williamson does not want to predict the future of ODI cricket, but the New Zealand captain believes that it is important to strike a balance with the T20 format which has gained immense popularity with time.

Before this edition of the World Cup got underway, there were doubts over the road ahead for the format. "Playing in the tournament and being involved in world events are always special from a player's perspective and continuing to provide that context in the sport, whatever the format, is really important," Williamson said on Tuesday.

"It is hard to predict the future. But I think we see that when we do have world events, countries against countries, regardless of the format, there is something quite special about that. There will be a balance to strike with the T20 format which naturally is becoming more and more in the calendar. But that's a good thing too... it sort of speaks to what people want to watch and, ultimately, it's a positive thing for our game," he said.

We are open to the challenges of batting first or chasing, says Rohit

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
MUMBAI

Tuesday was all about relaxed skippers and expansive answers. After Kane Williamson handled queries with aplomb at the Wankhede Stadium in the afternoon, later in the evening it was Rohit Sharma's turn to keep the scribes in good spirits. He even said 'fortune favours the brave' and smiled on the eve of Wednesday's World Cup semifinal involving India and New Zealand.



In rapt attention: David and Rohit tune in as Agarkar makes a point. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Keeping the team relaxed has been the Indian captain's approach through this World Cup and he explained: "In India, pressure is always there, people will say win the match, score a 100, get a five-for. And when we

step inside there is performance-pressure too. So when you get a break, keep cricket away." "After the Dharamshala game against New Zealand, we stayed there for a few days and we even had a fashion show which you guys never knew, and obviously I can't tell who won. As for me, my family is with me and once I get back to the hotel, it helps

me to think beyond cricket."

Asked about New Zealand, the captain said: "They are a good side and have made most knockouts since 2015. They are smart cricketers and they all know how we play too. We did well in nine games, and hopefully we will do well in the next two games."

With talk veering towards the Wankhede surface and the probability of some assistance to bowlers in the initial hour, Rohit still felt that the toss will not be a factor. "I have played many games here and I don't want to explain what this surface is. We will look at game-day and try and play some good cricket. In this World Cup, we have chased, we have batted first too and we are open to these challenges," the skipper said.

Key battle could be in the middle overs



Sunil Gavaskar

There is no doubt that the four best sides are in the semifinals. If one has a look at the points, then one will see that there is a fair distance between the top four and the rest.

In 2019, India played New Zealand over two days in England but in conditions that were like back home for the Kiwis. The Indian team had already cut its nose to spite the face by some whimsical selection, exposing the No. 4 position. Rohit Sharma at the opening position and Virat Kohli at one drop had batted splendidly through, which meant that the No. 4 batter and there were a few tried by then - had only to go and swing his bat.

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In the semifinals, the Kiwi bowlers scythed through the openers and also got Kohli cheaply, leaving the No. 4 batter hold the fort and score as well. With little experience, it was a disaster waiting to happen and that's what transpired. This time around India's No. 4 batter Shreyas Iyer is in tremendous form, and in Indian conditions the Kiwi bowlers may not pose the same threat as they did in England. The Wankhede Stadium pitch does help the

ball to go through a lot quicker in the evening so it would be interesting to see what the captains decide after winning the toss. In a knockout game, scoreboard pressure can be telling, so with both teams having tremendous fast bowlers it won't be a surprise to see teams opting to bat first. For the Kiwis, the form of Devon Conway is a bit of a worry though it's balanced out nicely by the touch and power shown by Rachin Ravindra, Kane Wil-

liamson and Daryl Mitchell. The key battle could well be in the middle overs with New Zealand's Mitchell Santner bowling with guile and loop, and for India Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja combining brilliantly to choke the runs and take wickets. India have played superbly all round to win all the group matches but they know that the Kiwis are ready for battle too. (Professional Management Group)

'Will take a fresh approach because it starts again'

India is one of the best teams going around, but we know that on our day when we play our best cricket, it certainly gives us the best chance and come finals, anything can happen: Williamson

ODI WORLD CUP

Shavan Acharya
MUMBAI

The last time New Zealand featured in an ODI World Cup semifinal, in 2019, it came out victorious against a star-studded India. Four years later, as the two teams meet again in yet another semifinal – this time at the Wankhede Stadium – New Zealand captain Kane Williamson is comfortable with the 'underdog' tag attached to his side.

"I think every game in this tournament is a tricky one. As we have seen throughout, any team can beat anybody on the day. That's obviously the quality on both sides, but it's also about the changing conditions and how that has an impact. So, for us, it's great to have got to the final stages and then take a fresh approach because it does start again," Williamson said on Tuesday.

"The underdog thing, I don't think it has changed too much. But that's fine. India has been exceptional. One of the (best), if not the best team going around,



Dual role: Not just his wicketkeeping, Latham's batting is also crucial for New Zealand. EMMANUAL YOGINI

and playing cricket that matches that. But we know as well that on our day when we play our best cricket, it certainly gives us the best chance and come finals time, anything can happen..."

As the New Zealand captain's media interaction continued for about twenty minutes, Williamson had a smile on his face throughout and instead of being under pressure ahead of a marquee clash, he even cracked jokes at scribes

from New Zealand.

The build-up to the tournament wasn't perfect for him due to injury, but he did manage to put things together and find his mojo. "It was an interesting journey for sure... It was quite frustrating and testing but still feeling that it hadn't ruled me out so I still was grateful for that and it's nice to be fitter than perhaps I was yesterday and be sitting here," Williamson said.

It will be a challenge for both the teams to not think

about what happened four years earlier at the same stage in the tournament. But Williamson had a different take.

"The teams work hard to get to this stage, they have to play a lot of good cricket within the format or the structure of the tournament to get here over such a long period of time. It's a great occasion and it's on the day. Both teams are looking to play their best cricket and compete in the best way that they can..."

I think the ghosts of 2019 haunt fans more than players: Upton

Shavan Acharya
MUMBAI

Paddy Upton has had a special bond with Indian cricket. The noted mental conditioning coach was part of the support staff when the Men in Blue created history in 2011, with Mahendra Singh Dhoni leading the team to a World Cup title.

Although his short second stint was not as fulfilling in terms of results – with India bowing out of the semifinals of T20 World Cup last year – Upton helped a rather struggling Virat Kohli 'find perspective'.

As India gears up for yet another World Cup semifinal against New Zealand – this time at the Wankhede Stadium – Upton believes that the results of the 2019 semifinal, which was won by New Zealand, will have no bearing this time around.

"I think the ghosts of 2019 haunt fans more than players," Upton told *Sportstar*.

"The team has a different coach, some different players, and the players who played then are a lot more experienced by now. I don't think they have anything to worry about. Except the fact that they are going in as favourites, and New Zealand has nothing to lose. This does allow



Guiding force: Kohli said having constant conversations with Upton helped him get into a strong mental space. EMMANUAL YOGINI

New Zealand to play with a little more freedom..."

India has been the only unbeaten team so far in the tournament, and Upton expects Rohit Sharma's men to have a similar approach in the knockouts. "The current team is incredibly strong and in-form with both bat and ball. For the next two games, their main focus is fairly simple: stick to the basics, which specifically means, prepare well, which they would have done, and for each player

to play to their strengths (which means not trying to do anything clever or fancy)," Upton said.

While the Indian team has maintained dominance in bilateral series and in the Asia Cup, an ICC title has eluded the side for the last decade. But Upton believes that champion teams handle success and failure fairly similarly. "They do a thorough review, take whatever lessons are available, leave the past in the past, and

apply those lessons in the next game," he said.

"Knowing Rahul and Rohit very well, I know they would have prepared the team thoroughly for every opponent, every venue, and every situation they would encounter. When you combine excellent preparation with excellent skill, it's a great recipe for confidence," Upton, who has worked with Dravid in the Indian team and at IPL franchises, Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Daredevils, said.

"When confidence is expressed with composure, success most often follows. This current team has great preparation, great skill, and are playing with confidence and composure. This doesn't come as a surprise to me, when I look at the cricket brains and leadership qualities of the coach and captain."

Speaking to the host broadcaster recently, Kohli said having constant conversations with Upton helped him get into a strong mental space. Though Upton did not want to reveal the details of the conversation, he said that he is still in regular conversation with Kohli. "I've had extensive conversations with Virat and continue to remain in contact with him. The content of our conversations are confidential, however."

You need a bit of luck in knockout games, but you also need to play well: Sehwag

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Virender Sehwag, the dazzling opening batter, has stressed on the need for India to not carry the pressure of playing World Cup knockouts. He recalled how the team kept negative thoughts away during India's triumphant run in the 2011 World Cup.

"When we were chatting before the games, everyone was telling each other to give your best. Just go out there, give your best. No praising amongst each other," Sehwag said in a chat with Ian Bishop after being formally inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame here on Tuesday.

"Gary Kirsten (head coach) also ensured there was no negativity in the dressing room. He just told us to go out and play the best cricket that we can. That worked for us."

While interacting with mediapersons after his induction, Sehwag downplayed the luck factor, something that India captain Rohit Sharma had pointed out during the pre-match



The dazzlers: Sehwag, Edulji and Aravinda, the Class of 2023 in the ICC Hall of Fame. AMOL KARHADKAR

interaction with the media ahead of Wednesday's semifinal against New Zealand.

"You need a bit of luck in knockout games, but you also need to play well. I remember against Pakistan in 2011, we had only scored 260-odd. But our bowlers win the match for us," Sehwag said. "The

team is definitely playing good cricket. *Thoda luck bhi mil gaya to sone pe suhaga hoga* (a little bit of luck will be the icing on the cake)."

Sehwag was all praise for Rohit, the captain, for leading the aggressive way of batting. "He has been batting freely for a while. But now that he is the cap-

tain, he is taking more responsibility for good starts and a lot of runs. It's amazing how he is taking care of Shubman Gill too," Sehwag said.

Sehwag also narrated how Zaheer Khan suggested to Sourav Ganguly to promote him as an opener for India. He recalled a Duleep Trophy game bet-

ween North Zone and West Zone on a green top where he scored 180-plus. "It was a green top and they had Zaheer, Ajit Agarkar and Santosh Saxena as pacers. Once I scored, Zaheer told Sourav I should open for India... that's how I started opening in ODIs," Sehwag said.

"Later on in England, Ganguly told me I was batting so well in the middle-order, I should open in Tests. I told him why can't you or Sachin Tendulkar do it and I need written assurance about being made to bat in the middle-order should I fail. He wrote it on a paper and the rest is history."

Sehwag, former Sri Lanka captain Aravinda de Silva and former India women's captain Diana Edulji were inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame at a star-studded gathering. The event was attended by legends of the game, including Sir Vivian Richards, Ricky Ponting and Shaun Pollock. Also in attendance were Matthew Hayden, Shane Watson, and Mpumelelo Mbanga.

Sports Bureau

Former India skipper Sourav Ganguly congratulated Virender Sehwag for being inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.

"The ICC has absolutely chosen the right person to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. To me, and millions of others, you are a cricketering great.

What made you such a special player is the way you batted.

Your talent was special. You scored runs at such a fast pace, you were just exceptionally good, and you are probably the best opening batsman after Sunil Gavaskar.

What set you apart was the way you played and the way you approached the game. I remember when I told you that you should try opening, you were unsure because you had never done it.

Once you got going for the first time in a Test match at Lord's in 2002, From there, your confidence continued to grow.

It was a different era back then. In the early 2000s, you just completely



Huge compliment: Ganguly regards Sehwag as the best Indian opener after Gavaskar. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

changed the art of batting in Test matches.

An innings that proves that is your 293 against Sri Lanka in 2009. To score that many in a day of a Test against an attack including Muttiah Muralitharan just showed what you were capable of.

You enjoyed playing all the different formats and while you were good at one-day cricket, I think you were even better in Tests.

You could do it in all conditions and your triple hundred in Multan remains one of my favourite innings. You hit a six to get

to 200 and then did the same to get to 300 - and you had told us you were going to do it too!

I have so many fond memories of playing with you, from your hundred in Australia to your century in England on a green wicket early on in your career as an opener in Nottingham.

You had natural ability but that alone would not survive at the international level. You put in a lot of work and a lot of effort to become the player you did and you just kept getting better.

Congratulations on this fully deserved honour."

Neeraj makes 'World Athlete of the Year' award shortlist

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Olympic and World champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was on Tuesday shortlisted for men's 'World Athlete of the Year' award. The others in the final list are USA's Ryan Crouser (shot put), Sweden's Mondo Duplantis (pole vault), Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum (marathon) and USA's Noah Lyles (100m/200m).

The award will be announced on Dec. 11.

Tsitsipas quits with an injury; Medvedev has it easy; Bopanna-Ebden duo loses



Swinging away: Medvedev took out fellow Russian Rublev in straight sets. AP

ATP FINALS

Reuters
TURIN

Stefanos Tsitsipas retired with a back problem, while trailing 1-2, in his Green Group clash against Holger Rune at the ATP Finals on Tuesday, handing the Danish debutant his first victory in the event.

On Monday, Daniil Medvedev swept past Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-2 in their opening Red Group clash. "I felt really good and was able to get the upper

hand fast," said Medvedev.

In doubles, Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden lost to the defending champions Rajeev Ram of USA and Joe Salisbury of Great Britain 3-6, 4-6 in their first Red Group match.

The results: Green Group: Holger Rune bt Stefanos Tsitsipas 2-1 rettd. **Doubles:** Santiago Gonzalez & Edouard Roger-Vasselin bt Maximo Gonzalez & Andres Molteni 6-4, 6-4.

Red Group: Daniil Medvedev bt Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-2.

Doubles: Rajeev Ram & Joe Salisbury bt Rohan Bopanna & Matthew Ebden 6-3, 6-4.

THE HINDU
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1. Who scored his only ODI century at the age of 38 in a 1987 World Cup match against New Zealand?
2. Which bowler took 5 wickets for 44 runs thereby earning the man of the match award in the 1987 ODI World Cup semi-final against Pakistan?
3. Who has the unique record of being the captain of his country in both the 2011 and 2023 ODI World Cup editions?

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Answer to yesterday's quiz:

1. Inzamam-ul-haq
2. Robin Singh
3. 1992

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‘Corporates need to make their DE&I narratives more detailed’

A new study reveals that only 30% of the companies share the outcomes of the initiatives they have taken to create a level playing field for the various groups that constitute their workforce

Opportunities Desk

The question of women's participation in the workforce has now covered noticeable ground but there is still "halved ground" that is stubbornly impervious to the best DE&I efforts. In other words, the efforts might have somewhat "altered" the way the cubicles look, but not the cabins - that is how one can translate the numbers from a study carried out by global professional services firm Aon, in collaboration with National Association of Soft-

ware and Service Companies (NASSCOM).

A report based on this DE&I study (which sought responses from 220 organisations across 17 locations) notes: "Women's representation remains skewed at junior and middle management levels, with 70% of the organisations reporting less than 20% representation in senior management."

By comparison to a larger failing, the inadequate representation of women at the higher echelons of the workforce is just the Borneo pyg-

my elephant in the room. The other elephant, one of monstrous dimensions, that is parked in the same room is this: out of the organisations that track DE&I initiatives through relevant metrics, only 30% share the results publicly. The report further adds that 14% of the organisations are yet to get off the mark, as they still do not have defined metrics.

Other key findings

* Financial incentives give the much-needed push to the DE&I agenda; yet, less than half of the organisations sur-

veyed have taken a step in this direction.

* The representation of Persons with Disability and the LGBTQIA+ community is considerably low and are largely bucketed into non-core roles. The policies and benefits in place to address groups like PwD and LGBTQIA+ are mostly around awareness and sensitisation but do not go deep enough to address specific nuances relevant to the workplace. Policies and benefits for groups such as the neurodivergent or marginalised communities are underwhelming, the report

says.

* At 98%, gender diversity is the most commonly tracked metric by organisations. Inclusion initiatives that make a deeper impact, such as reimbursement of medical equipment for PwD (36%) or working parent support programmes (59%) are limited.

* For nearly 73% of the organisations, D&I agenda is driven by the CEO or business leaders and not the HR alone. When the CEO is directly accountable, women's representation is greater, and DE&I budgets are higher.



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INBRIEF



Gabriel nets two as Sreenidi holds Shillong Lajong

Rosenberg Gabriel (*in pic*) netted both the goals as Sreenidi Deccan FC held host Shillong Lajong to a 2-2 draw in their I-League football match in Shillong on Tuesday.

The results: Shillong Lajong 2 (Ronney Kharbudon 28, Takuto Miki 34) drew with Sreenidi Deccan FC 2 (Rosenberg Gabriel 7, 63). **Monday:** TRAU 0 lost to Gokulam Kerala 2 (Alex Sanchez 1, 16); Rajasthan FC 2 (Lalchungnunga Chhangte 5, Richardson Denzell 38) bt Churchill Brothers 0.

Satwik-Chirag lose in first round of Japan Masters

Asian Games gold medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty faltered in the opening round of the Japan Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here on Tuesday. They lost 16-21, 21-18, 21-16 to Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han of Chinese Taipei.



Ederson misses Brazil's World Cup qualifiers with foot injury

Manchester City goalkeeper Ederson has been ruled out of upcoming 2026 World Cup qualifiers against Colombia and Argentina with a foot injury, the Brazilian football federation announced on Monday.

AICF commits ₹2 crore aid to Vaishali, Prag and Vidit

CHESS

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

The triumphs in the Grand Swiss and tickets to the 2024 Candidates Tournament have brought Vidit Gujarathi and R. Vaishali the attention they so richly deserve.

"In spite of playing some quality chess so consistently, the desired results were not coming. Honestly, I was beginning to doubt my abilities. But this title reinforced my belief that persistence pays," said Vidit here on Tuesday.

On a day when the All India Chess Federation announced an aid of ₹2 crore to help the players' preparation for the Candidates, Vaishali said "in many tournaments, I prepared



Terrific trio: Vaishali, Praggnanandhaa, and Vidit with FIDE Advisory Board chairman Bharat Singh Chauhan and AICF president Sanjay Kapoor. RAKESH RAO

and played hard but the results were not to my liking. But to win the strongest tournament of my career and get a place in the Candidates is something I did not expect."

R. Praggnanandhaa, already a Candidate by virtue of being the World Cup runner-up, said of his sis-

ter. "I always believed that Vaishali could make it because of her playing strength. She has been consistently performing at Grandmaster's level so I was confident.

The 2024 Candidates Tournament is scheduled in Toronto from April 2 to 25.

Shashank-Thorben duo advances

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Shashank Theertha in partnership with Thorben Sannen of Belgium saved match points to beat Ivan Liutarevich and Artur Yurkevich 6-4, 5-7, [11-9] in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on Tuesday.

In another men's tournament in Kuching, Malaysia, third seed Rishab Agarwal went down fighting 5-7, 6-3, 4-6 to Woobin

Shin of Korea in the first round.

The results: \$25,000 ITF men, Hua Hin, Thailand: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Zhao Zhao & Zheng Baoluo (Chn) bt Rifqi Fitriadi (Ina) & Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-4, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Men: Shashank Theertha & Thorben Sannen (Bel) bt Ivan Liutarevich & Artur Yurkevich (Blr) 6-4, 5-7, [11-9].

Women: Kim Yujin (Kor) & Maria Mikhailova bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi & Fang An Lin (Tpe) 6-2, 5-7, [10-6].

\$15,000 ITF men, Kuching, Malaysia: Singles (first round): Woobin Shin (Kor) bt Rishab Agarwal 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

Italy up against the wall again

Albania and Slovenia on the verge of qualifying; 12 teams will secure advancement in the next week; eight already made the grade last month



Hard at work: England's players at a training session on Tuesday. AFP

EURO QUALIFIERS

Associated Press
GENEVA

The final rounds of European Championship qualifiers sees defending champion Italy needing a strong finish to clinch a spot at the tournament, while Albania and Slovenia can secure surprising group victories.

Romania is another unlikely team controlling its own Euro 2024 destiny, although Israel still has an outside chance to secure direct advancement from that group.

Slovenia tops Group H ahead of Denmark, but could still be overtaken by an even lower-ranked team – Kazakhstan.

Twelve teams will secure advancement in the next week to the tournament hosted by Germany. Eight teams already qualified last month: France, England, Spain, Belgium,

Portugal, Austria, Scotland and Turkey.

The Netherlands, Hungary and Serbia are best placed to confirm their qualification.

Three more teams will advance from a 12-team playoffs in March.

Among those in danger of not qualifying directly are Croatia, a finalist and semifinalist at the past two World Cups, and Italy, which failed to reach either of those tournaments.

High stakes

Italy faces a high-stakes game against Ukraine on Monday, likely for second place behind England in Group C.

Ukraine will host Italy in Germany – at the stadium of Bundesliga leader Bayer Leverkusen – because it cannot play international games at home for security reasons.

Italy is three points behind Ukraine but with a game in hand, and hosts North Macedonia on Fri-

day – a fixture that could revive bad memories for the Italians. Italy's second straight failure to reach the World Cup came in a home loss to North Macedonia in a playoff semifinal in March 2022.

Albania has ridden its strong home form – three wins and no goals conceded – to currently top a group that includes the Czech Republic and Poland.

Coached by former Brazil, Arsenal and Barcelona left-back Sylvinho, Albania only needs a draw on Friday at Moldova to advance. Albania finishes Monday at home to the Faeroe Islands.

Poland, which fired veteran Portugal coach Fernando Santos after just a few months, needs a win at home against the Czechs on Friday to maintain any chance of advancing directly, but captain Robert Lewandowski's team seems headed to the playoffs.

Australian third division bowler takes six in an over!

CRICKET

Associated Press
GOLD COAST

An Australian third-division cricketer has taken an incredible six wickets in six balls to lead his team to victory on the Gold Coast south of Brisbane. Gareth Morgan was captain of the Mudgeeraba Nerang and Districts Cricket Club against Surfers Paradise in the Gold Coast's Premier League division three when he achieved the feat in the final over of the match.

Surfers Paradise had scored 174 runs for the loss of four wickets and needed five runs to win at the Carrera Community Centre venue on Saturday.

Off the first ball, he had opener Jake Garland



What an achievement! Mudgeeraba Nerang Club's captain Gareth Morgan, centre, took six wickets when the opposition needed five runs to win off the final over. X@FOXCRICKET

caught at midwicket. Next up, Connor Matheson and Surfers captain Michael Curtin were caught on the leg side to give Morgan a hat-trick. "I remember thinking after I got the hat trick, I don't want to lose this game now," Morgan told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Wade McDougall was caught at point and Riley Eckersley and Brodie Phelan were bowled, leaving the non-striker stranded at the other end.

"When I saw the stumps go back on the last ball I couldn't believe it – I've never seen anything like it," Morgan said."

Healy in Australia squad for India tour next month

Press Trust of India
MELBOURNE

Star wicketkeeper-batter Alyssa Healy and left-arm pacer Lauren Cheatle were on Tuesday named in Australia women's squad for tour of India next month. Cricket Australia did not announce the captain in the wake of Meg Lanning's retirement, and the leader will only be picked ahead of the team's departure.

The tour includes a Test, three ODIs and three T20Is

in Mumbai between January 9 and 21.

The squad: Darcie Brown, Lauren Cheatle (Test only), Heather Graham, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Grace Harris (T20 only), Alyssa Healy, Jess Jonassen, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Wareham.

The schedule: Test: December 21-24 (9.30 a.m. start); ODIs: Dec. 28, 30 and Jan. 2 (1.30 p.m. start, Test and ODIs at Wankhede Stadium); T20Is: Jan. 5, 7 and 9 (7 p.m. start, all at DY Patil Stadium).



Healy, AP

Advani, Shrikrishna enter World snooker knockouts

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani has qualified for the knockouts of the IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship in Doha. Advani is seeded third in the competition.

In the other half of the draw is compatriot and defending champion S. Shrikrishna and former world champion Amir Sarkhosh from Iran.

Advani topped his group with 4-1 and 4-0 wins while Shrikrishna dropped one frame, making him play one additional round in the knockout stage.

Advani got a bye and is directly in the last-16.

Pathak does the star turn for Vimal Arion Achievers

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Abhimanyu Pathak smashed seven goals to help Vimal Arion Achievers to a 7-5 victory over 61st Cavalry/Royal Enfield in a league match of the Girdhari Singh Cup polo tournament at the Army Equestrian Centre, Delhi Cantonment, on Tuesday.

In another match, Jindal Panther beat Delta Foundation 8-6.

The results: Jindal Panther 8 (Siddhant Sharma 3, Naveen

Jindal 3, Simran Shergill, Dino Dhankar) bt Delta Foundation 6 (Salim Azmi 3, Padmanabh Singh 2, Benjamin Uloth). Vimal Arion Achievers 7 (Abhimanyu Pathak 7) bt 61st Cavalry/Royal Enfield 5 (Dhruvpal Godara 5).

LIVE TELECAST

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

Tennis: ATP Finals, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.30, 7, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)

European Qualifiers: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.15 a.m. (Thursday)

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AMFI

'I need to get better technically and mentally for Paris 2024'

The first Indian archer to secure an Olympic spot, the 22-year-old Dhiraj has performed well this year, winning six medals; he feels that the experience and exposure of competing in big events has helped him take a giant leap and look ahead with confidence



PTI



Travis Head.GETTY IMAGES

Head ready to throw hat into IPL auction

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Busy mastering red-ball cricket for some time, Australia opener Travis Head said he is now keen to explore the world of slam-bang T20 cricket and will throw his hat into the IPL auction in December.

The 29-year-old, who has featured in 42 Tests and 62 ODIs, has played just 20 T20Is in his career, scoring 460 runs with 91 being the highest score, which came against South Africa in the three-match T20I series in August-September.

"I will be in," Head told reporters when asked if he will put his name in the IPL auction next year.

"I was restricted a little bit on time last year with getting married. I will put myself in this year and hopefully get picked up and get an opportunity. It was nice to be involved in it a long time ago." Head had a brief stint in IPL, having played 10 games in the 2016-2017 season for Royal Challengers Bangalore.

"I feel like the game has evolved now and, next year, we have a massive block out, where I can play a fair bit of white-ball cricket if I get picked up or find myself in some teams around the world, so this is a path that I wanna try to explore.

"Having put all the eggs in the red-ball basket for a period of time now and I feel like I am really in good space mentally in my game and if I can transfer through formats well then I am eager to explore what those opportunities are and get more experience and learn." T20 cricket will take precedence with the T20 World Cup scheduled to be held in the West Indies and United States next year.

Returning to action after recovering from a hand injury, Head smashed 109 from 67 balls to help Australia to a five-run win over New Zealand to keep it in the semifinal race.

"It's just making sure I try and get that right. It was nice to contribute in the first game, and it's been a bit lean in the last couple," said Head ahead of its semifinal clash against South Africa.

"I feel like I try and give myself the best chance to score off balls that I feel like I can and respect the ones in between. I think you have to do that. It's international cricket, so I don't think it's all guns blazing every time.

"You hope you're in good positions to score and put the bowlers under pressure, but if they bowl well you've got to be able to get through it. I feel like I'm in a good mindset to give myself the best chance to be as positive as I can be." Head missed the first five World Cup games after suffering a fracture in his hand while facing pacer Gerald Coetzee in the fourth ODI against South Africa in September.

Asked if he had thought about the fact that it was the South Africans that broke his hand, Head said, "No, I'm sure he didn't mean to hit me in the hand. It was probably aimed a little bit higher than that. But that's all part of the game. I take a relaxed approach to all that sort of stuff whether it's performance or injuries."

Blessing in disguise

"He did me a favour, I got four weeks at home with the family, so I got refreshed to come back. And, hopefully, I can be refreshed and energised and can perform at the back end of the tournament. It might be a blessing in disguise." The five-time champions have to get over South Africa to inch closer to its record sixth World Cup title.

"I'm sure everyone has thought about that. It hasn't really been spoken about as a group, but we know what's at the end of this tournament and what's up for grabs," Head said.

"You've got to make the semis to give yourself a chance and if we do things right in a couple of days' time we find ourselves in a final. That's in the future, but geez, we've put in a lot of hard work over the last couple of months to get to this stage, so we want to make the most of it."

INTERVIEW

B. Dhiraj

Y.B. Sarangi

The year 2023 has been a breakthrough season for the 22-year-old B. Dhiraj, who secured the country's first quota place in archery for the 2024 Paris Olympics. The Vijaywada archer displayed his potential, securing six medals (individual and team events) apart from winning a slot in the Games. He is raring to prove his worth in the French capital in less than a year's time.

Hailing from a humble background, Dhiraj, who took up archery in 2006 after being guided by his father Shrawan Kumar (who later worked as a technical official with the Archery Association of India) and learnt the basics of the sport at the Chekuri Volga Academy before switching to the Army Sports Institute (Pune) in 2017, has taken his time to develop into a world-class archer and is waiting to make a mark.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, Dhiraj, supported by Olympic Gold Quest, looked back at the fruitful year and the challenges ahead.

Q: It must have been a proud moment to earn the first quota place for the country in archery. You have been very consistent in 2023. How do you look back at it?

A: Yes, I have performed consistently well this year even though there were some ups and downs. I got to learn a lot of things throughout the year. I am happy that I have achieved the main target of winning a quota place for the country, but at the same time, I am a bit upset that I lost in the quarterfinals of the Asian Games. In the Asian championships, we lost by one point (in a shoot-off) to Kazakhstan (in the men's team event quarterfinals). But the quota place makes up for everything and underlines the hard work.

Q: You said you learnt a lot this year. What have you learnt from your experience and how will this help you work on your game and improve it?

A: A lot, actually. So far, all that I had learnt till the start of this year was one side of it and this year, I learnt the other side. I learnt several things – technically and mentally. I beat a few tough guys (including World and Olympic medallist Brady Ellison) and lost some matches closely. There are several small things

which I learnt and when I put everything together it turns out to be a big learning curve. All this has helped me upgrade my game.

Q: There were a lot of tournaments and exposure trips, including several domestic events and trials, this year. Have they helped?

A: Yes, the exposure and experience of competing in big events helps. I competed in World Cups and won medals (one individual and three men's team medals, including a silver). Such competitions, in high-quality fields, push you to do better. But every exposure is not important because you also need rest in between.

Q: Talking about the 2023 season, you witnessed the shocking incident of two of your arrows missing the target altogether during the Asian Games (individual quarterfinal clash against Kazakhstan's Ilfat Abdullin). How did you recover from that?

A: I began with a perfect 30 in the first set and I was blank when my first arrow missed the target in the second. It had never happened to me even during training. I realised something went wrong just a fraction of a second before the release and it was too late by then. But I thought all was not lost and I would fight from here. I blocked all emotions and thought practically. But it happened for a second time (in the fourth set) but I held myself up and fought (before losing 6-5, via a 10-9 shoot-off). After the competition, I broke down. I was

frustrated and emotionally drained. I tried to gather myself, but it happened five-six times and I thought of quitting archery altogether. But Atanu (Das) bhैया – my idol along with Tarundeep Rai – supported me.

When I interacted with archers of other countries, including another role model of mine (World and Olympic champion Kim Woo-jin), they consoled me saying such things do happen. My teammates also backed me. I tried my best to be ready for the team event which happened two days later. But I did not have the courage to do my usual role of opening a set. So I asked my two fellow archers whether I could be the last man to shoot (even though it was always a pressure job)... Atanu and Tushar (Shelke) agreed immediately. When I scored a 10 with my first arrow, I regained a lot of confidence. And we landed a team medal after 13 years.

In a way, the manner in which I bounced back helped me develop a strong mindset. I thought nothing could be worse than this and if I could fight back from such a situation, I could only do better. As I look at Paris, I have no apprehensions.

Q: Even though compound archers have been producing eye-catching results in top-level events, including the World Championships, what is the reason behind the recurve archers' below par showing in elite competitions such as the World Championships and Olympics?

A: We have to understand that our



What India can expect from the 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar' awards

As India revamps the way it recognises good science, the country must also ensure the new system represents both the aspirations of scientists and the nature of contemporary science practice, and ensures that the challenges that beset the older crop of awards aren't carried forward

Karishma Kaushik

Recently, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research announced the winners of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards for 2022. The announcement was highly anticipated not only due to the nearly year-long delay in declaring the results, but also because it came amid the government's plans for a major revamp of the structure of science and medicine awards.

In September 2022, the Ministry of Science and Technology discontinued nearly 300 existing science awards - with the exception of the SSB awards - while reports emerged of a draft plan to replace them with a smaller set of "highly deserving" awards.

A new system of awards

The new system, called the 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar' (RVP), includes a bouquet of awards: Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Vigyan Team, and Vigyan Ratna. The government has expressed an intention to keep the RVP at par with the Padma and other national awards.

The new awards will be open to an expanded group of "scientists, technologists and innovators (or teams) working in government, private sector organisations or individuals working outside any organisation". The RVP will be given across 13 scientific domains, including basic sciences, applied sciences, medicine, and engineering. The award announcement stated that "representation from each domain/field, including gender parity will be ensured".

Like the Padma awards, the RVP awards will invite nominations for some time, and be evaluated by a RVP Committee comprising "the Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India and ... Secretaries of Science Departments, members of Science and Engineering Academies" and noted science/technology scholars.

Differences from older awards

The newly proposed RVP structure is significant for many reasons. In a welcome step to move beyond recognitions largely restricted to scientists with regular positions in academia, the new awards are also open to innovators and technologists, including those in industry, and with diverse, non-regular affiliations.

The new awards will also have expanded eligibility criteria, including technology-led innovations or products,



The newly proposed Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar awards' structure is significant for many reasons. KONSTANTIN KOLOSOV/PIXABAY

in addition to discovery-based research. The RVP also includes a set of team awards (Vigyan Team), to acknowledge the increasingly collaborative, cross-disciplinary, translational and intersectional nature of scientific research.

Importantly, with the exception of the Vigyan Yuva-SSB award - for scientists up to the age of 45 years - the other RVP awards don't have an age limit, while explicitly committing to ensure equitable gender representation.

This is notable vis-à-vis long-term conversations calling for reforms of the ageism and gender bias pervading science in India.

The RVP awards will also be open to Persons of Indian Origin abroad, which is relevant given India's large and accomplished scientific, engineering, and technology diaspora, and the increasingly global footprint of modern science.

Finally, the new award system has eliminated cash prizes, and will instead include certificates and medals.

Intent and processes

As India revamps the way it recognises good science, it is an opportune time to reflect on the intent, the implementation, and the selection and evaluation processes. This is so that the new system represents both the aspirations of



In September 2022, the Ministry of Science and Technology discontinued 300 awards, but left the SSB awards in place. Reports then emerged of a plan to replace them with a smaller set of 'highly deserving' awards

scientists and the nature of contemporary science practice in India and ensures that the challenges that beset the older crop of awards aren't carried forward.

First: to ensure that the RVP system recognises only truly "notable and inspiring contributions", the awards' descriptions must include a statement that the contributions are over and above the standard job description of a scientist/technologist, not merely incremental work or work integral to their appointment.

Second: since the awards are national recognitions for exemplary work, dedicated citations for teaching, mentoring, science communication, public engagement and outreach, and leadership and administration are conspicuous by absence. (Some of these awards were previously conferred by the science academies.) Scientists engaged in

these initiatives often do so in addition to their primary responsibilities, so these contributions must be included in the new award structure - preferably as separate categories or at least weighed upon at the time of selection.

Third: The age limit of 45 years for the Vigyan Yuva-SSB for young scientists is a serious challenge to the new system's own commitment to ensure gender parity. In their erstwhile version (with the same age limit), the SSB awards were notorious for their lack of gender representation, and the age limit - which works against women with relocation, childcare responsibilities, and career breaks - was a big reason why.

So, the Vigyan Yuva-SSB award's definition of a 'young scientist' must be reconsidered based on, say, the number of years since a candidate held an independent position or it must offer eligibility extensions based on personal considerations (as the EMBO Gold Medal does). Otherwise, it could erect its own systemic barriers to ensuring gender parity.

A potential blueprint

Fourth: When the RVP award process is implemented, the selection process must adhere to the predetermined timelines, provide a public list of shortlisted applicants, and include gender-balanced and diverse selection committees, international jury members, and a non-partisan jury member - a non-scientist, preferably - to make sure the selection is fair.

Fifth: The new award system must pledge to consciously seek to ensure, in addition to gender parity, the proper socioeconomic and demographic representation among awardees, and account for contributions made in the face of serious systemic social challenges and/or constraints and considerations related to the workplace.

Finally: While some have questioned the need for awards for scientists at all, we in India lack the data to make this decision. In any case, continuously evaluating the impact of the new award system on subsequent scientific work, the growth of topics and fields, the effects of role models on diversity and inclusivity in science in India, and scientific temper of the country at large will be useful.

With these aspects in place, this is an opportunity for the RVP awards to become a blueprint for an expansive, inclusive, and transparent award system that can be adopted by scientific ecosystems in other countries as well. (Karishma Kaushik is the Executive Director of IndiaBioscience.)

THE GIST

The new awards will be open to an expanded group of 'scientists, technologists and innovators (or teams) working in government, private sector organisations or individuals working outside any organisation'. The RVP will be given across 13 scientific domains.

The new award system has eliminated cash prizes, and will instead include certificates and medals

The age limit of 45 years for the Vigyan Yuva-SSB for young scientists appears to work against women's representation because they bear the burden of relocation, childcare, and have to deal with career breaks

BIG SHOT



The Delhi government launched 50 mobile 'anti-smog guns' in response to the national capital's dreadful air quality, on Tuesday. The guns spray nebulised water to absorb dust and contaminants from the air, but their efficacy is unproven. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

QUESTION CORNER

Yawn one, yawn all

Shanmuganathan J.G.

Q: Why is a yawn contagious?

A: Yawning is considered as a form of expression indicating boredom or a break in our train of thought. For many, it is relaxing or may occur in response to seeing someone else yawn. Nobody knows why one person yawning can cause others to yawn.

Scientists say that the question can also be asked of our primate relatives. They have presented evidence that yawns are contagious among monkeys, particularly with individuals of similar age and social status. This contagion is interpreted as a synchronisation of activities "due to the imposition of wake-sleep rhythms on different individuals and to the attention they devote to each other".

A yawn should be in the process of decreasing arousal, according to them. If observed by other animals and if the observer's arousal level becomes synchronised, the observers will also yawn as a result. Accordingly, the yawn should be a sufficient but not a necessary condition to elicit yawns from other group members.

Watching somebody taking a nap, in other words, might also induce a state of declining arousal and trigger yawns. One would expect observed yawns to be a more powerful stimulus, because another's yawns might precipitate the observer attending to muscular tension in



Yawning is contagious. We don't quite know why yet. GETTY IMAGES

the facial muscles that can be dissipated by the yawn's stretch. In addition, one might expect observed stretches in general to be contagious.

Yawns may thus be a particularly obvious example of the general behavioural synchrony of interactants. (Ganga Medical Centre for Hospitals)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'