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The Vision

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## IN BRIEF



### Kejriwal gives L-G report against Delhi Chief Secy.

**NEW DELHI**  
Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday sent a report submitted by the Vigilance Minister, which recommends the removal of the Chief Secretary, to the Lieutenant-Governor. » [Page 2](#)

### Tribal body calls for 'self-rule' in Manipur districts

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) representing the Kuki-Zo people in Manipur has announced "self-rule" in the districts dominated by the community members. The tribal community will have a separate chief minister, an ITLF leader said. » [Page 10](#)



**Incisive spells:** Mohammed Shami's 7 for 57 helped India beat New Zealand by 70 runs. EMMANUAL YOGINI

## India storms into the final

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**  
MUMBAI

India will play the World Cup final in Ahmedabad on Sunday after registering its 10th consecutive win in the tournament with a 70-run victory over New Zealand in the semifinal at the Wankhede Stadium here on Wednesday. This will be

India's fourth appearance in a World Cup final.

In 1983 and 2011, India became champions, and in the 2003 edition, ended as the second-best. Rohit Sharma's men are hoping to extend their winning momentum into Sunday's final. The host's victory was fashioned on the runs contributed by Virat Kohli

(117) and Shreyas Iyer (105), with the former striking his 50th ODI ton to go past Sachin Tendulkar's 49. Mohammed Shami grabbed seven wickets as New Zealand faltered while chasing 397 for four despite Daryl Mitchell's heroic 134.

**MORE REPORTS**  
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## 39 killed as bus falls into deep gorge in J&K's Doda

17 injured in the accident as vehicle veers off road at Trungal Assar in Chenab Valley; police start probe; PM expresses grief and sanctions ex gratia; J&K parties slam administration over laxity

**The Hindu Bureau**  
JAMMU

**T**hirty-nine passengers were killed and 17 injured when a bus rolled down into a deep gorge in Doda district of the Chenab Valley on Wednesday.

The accident took place around 11.50 a.m. when the bus, travelling from Kishtwar to Jammu, fell off the road at Trungal Assar on the highway. A major rescue operation was launched by the police and the administration.

"Fifty-six people were travelling on the bus. Four seriously injured persons were airlifted to Jammu. Most of the bodies have been identified," Harvinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Doda, said. While two more persons



**The wreckage:** Security personnel and rescue workers gather at the crash site in Doda on Wednesday. AFP

later died of their injuries at the Government Medical College, Jammu, the condition of another is critical, said officials.

Mr. Singh said an inquiry had been ordered into the cause of the accident. "The bus even ran over the recently erected crash bar-

and announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of each of the dead, and ₹50,000 to those injured.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha approved ex gratia of ₹5 lakh to kin of each of the dead and ₹1 lakh to the injured.

Parties in Jammu and Kashmir expressed shock over the frequent accidents and deaths on the highways in the Chenab Valley, and accused the administration of laxity.

Expressing shock over the accident, CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tarigami said the recurring accidents in the region demand immediate attention. Senior Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir slammed the government for failing to contain such incidents.

## Hundreds trapped in Gaza hospital after Israeli raids

**Associated Press**  
KHAN YOUNIS

Israeli forces on Wednesday raided Gaza's largest hospital, a beleaguered facility filled with hundreds of patients, including newborns.

Israel says Shifa Hospital is a Hamas command post nestled under civilians. Hamas and Gaza health officials, however, deny militants operate in Shifa.

Munir al-Boursh, a senior official with Gaza's Health Ministry, said Israeli forces had ransacked the basement and other buildings at Shifa.

The Israeli military said it was carrying out a "precise and targeted opera-



**Seeking safety:** A Palestinian woman rushes with her child into a hospital following Israeli attack of Khan Younis on Wednesday. AFP

tion against Hamas in a specified area in the hospital".

The Health Ministry said 40 patients, including three babies, have died since Shifa's emergency generator ran out of fuel

on Saturday. Another 36 babies are at risk of dying because there is no power for incubators, according to the Ministry.

**WAVE OF CONDEMNATION**  
» [PAGE 13](#)

## Modi launches mission for most backward of the Scheduled Tribes

**Abhinay Lakshman**  
NEW DELHI

"Today, we are reaching 75 PVTGs [Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups] of the country who have been deprived of even basic amenities so far. All previous governments did was count them and classify them. I don't want to just add up numbers. I want to bring people together," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday as he launched the ₹24,000-crore PM-PVTG Development Mission and a Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra focused on government scheme saturation to the last mile in tribal districts. In addition to launching



PM Narendra Modi pays tribute to freedom fighter Birsa Munda on his birth anniversary in Jharkhand's Khunti on Wednesday. ANI

these schemes, the Prime Minister released the 15th instalment of the PM-Kisan payout to farmers, and dedicated a host of projects worth over ₹7,000 crore to the nation, includ-

ing a campus of the IIM in Ranchi, and projects in the coal, railways, roads, petroleum and natural gas sectors in Jharkhand.

Mr. Modi's remarks, while celebrating the birth

anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda in his birthplace in Jharkhand, came hours before election campaigning came to a close for the Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, where large numbers of farmers reside and the Model Code of Conduct is in place.

The PM's jibe at previous governments prioritising counting populations comes even as the Congress and other Opposition parties have made it a point to drum up the urgency of a countrywide caste census in the past few weeks.

**SEE ALSO**  
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## India sees 6.2% rise in goods exports in October

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

India's goods exports grew 6.2% in October, only the second such uptick this year, but imports jumped 12.3% to a record high of \$65.03 billion, fuelled largely by higher imports of gold, which rose 95.4%, and oil.

The monthly goods trade deficit widened to an all-time high of \$31.46 billion. Despite the headline growth, October's out-bound shipments' value of \$33.6 billion was the lowest since last November.

**FULL REPORT**  
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## TUNNEL COLLAPSE Heavy drilling equipment brought in

NEWS » [PAGE 10](#)

## GAZA WAR Waiting for the other shoe to drop

India should keep its ear close to the ground

EDITORIAL » [PAGE 6](#)

## AAP reiterates INDIA bloc unity as Congress flays Centre, Delhi govt. over air pollution

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday lashed out at the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi for failing to find a lasting solution to high pollution levels in the Capital, only to be reminded by its INDIA bloc partner not to indulge in such criticism and keep the Opposition unity intact.

The Congress criticism came as it held a "shadow Cabinet" meeting of former Delhi Ministers on Delhi air, a day after former party president Sonia Gandhi left for Jaipur on a personal visit to "avoid high pollution levels in the Capital".

The party accused AAP and the Centre of only indulging in a "blame game"



Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely said the Centre and Delhi government failed to tackle the toxic smog. FILE PHOTO

over air pollution in Delhi. Both the Congress and AAP are part of the 28-party INDIA bloc, which will be taking on the BJP-led NDA in the Lok Sabha poll next year.

At the Congress meeting, party leaders passed two resolutions. They demanded that Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena and

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal call an all-party meet to discuss the problem and a high-powered monitoring committee headed by a Supreme Court judge be formed to find long-lasting solutions.

Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely told the media that they were forced to convene the meeting as the Centre and Delhi government "failed to draw a road map" to tackle the toxic smog.

"Neither did the Central government convene a session of Parliament nor the Delhi government an Assembly session as required in a democracy to discuss the toxic air. They are only busy campaigning (for elections) in other States," Mr. Lovely said. "It is the

duty of the Delhi Congress, as a responsible Opposition party, to awake the BJP and AAP governments from their slumber."

Responding to Mr. Lovely's statement, AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha said the Congress should not forget the idea behind the formation of the INDIA alliance and refrain from such attacks.

"We should keep the unity of the bloc intact. When the alliance was formed, we gave an alternative to people and they are looking at us with hope. These kinds of attacks shatter the hope of an alternative," Mr. Chadha said.

The AAP leader said the bloc needs to fight together against dictatorship, inflation, and unemployment.

## High-decibel campaign concludes in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The high-voltage campaign for elections to the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly and 70 seats of the 90-member Chhattisgarh Assembly came to a close on Wednesday ahead of voting on Friday.

While M.P. will vote in a single phase on November 17, voting in 20 seats of Chhattisgarh took place on November 7 in the first phase of polling in the State.

On the last day of campaigning, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to X to appeal to voters in M.P. to elect the BJP for the State's development, and said

that people were very angry with the "dynastic and negative" politics of the Congress. In a separate post, Mr. Modi said the Congress was headed for a rout in Chhattisgarh.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra led the charge against the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government in M.P., while Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president J.P. Nadda, and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi were the star campaigners in Chhattisgarh.

**CHHATTISGARH HIGHLIGHTS**  
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**RIVALRY FACE OFF IN M.P.**  
» [PAGE 11](#)



# CM sends probe report seeking removal of Chief Secretary, Divisional Commissioner to Saxena

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday sent a preliminary report submitted by Vigilance Minister Atishi, recommending the immediate removal of Chief Secretary Naresh Ku-

mar and Divisional Commissioner Ashwani Kumar in connection with an alleged land scam, to the Lieutenant-Governor, AAP sources said.

The Chief Secretary had last week described the action against him as "vendetta". The Divisional

Commissioner had accused Ms. Atishi of "colluding with wrongdoers" and termed the allegations against the Chief Secretary "baseless".

The case pertains to the acquisition of a 19-acre land parcel, acquired in south-west Delhi's Bannoli

village by the National Highways Authority of India for the Dwarka Expressway project.

The land deal allegedly 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.

# Day after EC notice, AAP says will file complaint against BJP's campaign against Kejriwal

AAP leader Raghav Chadha says 'defamatory' video uploaded against party chief on November 5, hopes that EC will send notice over 'objectionable' post on X; wrong to hold us responsible: BJP

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

A day after receiving the Election Commission (EC) show-cause notice over "disparaging" remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday said it will file a complaint against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with the poll panel for the "character assassination" of its chief Arvind Kejriwal.

At a press conference, senior AAP leader Raghav Chadha said the BJP has been running a "derogatory and defamatory vilification campaign" against Mr. Kejriwal on social media, which includes a video which was posted on X (formerly Twitter) on November 5.

The video showed clips of Mr. Kejriwal with a voice-over referring to a 'typical day' in his life, including snide references to his constant attacks on Mr. Modi, the alleged expenditure on the CM's official re-



Raghav Chadha said the BJP is running a 'vilification campaign' against Arvind Kejriwal on social media. FILE PHOTO

sidence, and the Delhi government's now-shelved excise policy.

Mr. Chadha said AAP's November 8 post on X — which was flagged by the EC — was in response to this video.

AAP's video showed clips of Mr. Modi in a similar vein, a 'typical day' in his life, and included references to his equation with industrialist Gautam Adani, his *Mann ki Baat* speeches, and his multiple pre-poll promises ahead of Assembly elections in five States, among others.

"We hope that a notice will also be sent to the BJP

for the post on November 5," Mr. Chadha said, adding that AAP's legal cell will respond to the EC notice.

'AAP dug its own grave' Hitting back, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said it is wrong to hold his party responsible for Mr. Kejriwal's image loss as the AAP government in the city has dug its own grave.

"Mr. Kejriwal ran an anti-corruption campaign, but today his government is known for scams, such as the auto permit scam of 2015 and the liquor scam," he said.

## 'Determined to fight against dictatorial Central govt'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh, in a letter released on Wednesday, said every day spent in jail strengthens his resolve to fight against the "dictatorial" Centre.

He alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "tried every move to crush AAP but failed". "Allegations against me will also be proven false," he said.

Mr. Singh said he was arrested to silence his voice "against the injustice and corruption of the autocratic rulers and their friends' blatant loot of the country's resources". Mr. Singh was held in an excise policy case, in which former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia is also in custody.

## Apollo Hospitals celebrates 25 years of first liver transplant

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Apollo Hospitals Group celebrated the completion of 25 years of paediatric liver transplant programme at an event here on Wednesday.

The first liver transplant patient, Sanjay Kandasamy was 20 months old when the maiden operation was performed in 1998 and he is now a doctor, it said in a release. Though India has made substantial progress since the inception of such operations, a considerable gap remains unaddressed, said Apollo Hospitals Group vice-chairperson Preetha Reddy.

Each year, nearly 1,800 liver transplants are done and over 20,000 individuals request the procedure on themselves. The Apollo Institutes of Transplantation have done over 4,300 liver transplants.

## City all decked up for Chhath; BJP says AAP against festivities

**Satvika Mahajan**  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday slammed Delhi's AAP government over the presence of toxic white froth in the Yamuna ahead of Chhath Puja and accused it of hurting people's sentiments.

A layer of white froth over the Yamuna water has hurt the sentiments of Purvanchali people, said Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva.

Mr. Sachdeva and BJP MP Manoj Tiwari on Wednesday inspected the Kalindi Kunj ghat and claimed that the AAP government was against the celebrations.

The Delhi BJP chief alleged that AAP had submitted an affidavit in court stating that the Chhath celebrations lead to pollution in the Yamuna and that permission should not be given for it.



Birds flying over the Yamuna on a smog-filled morning on Wednesday. RV. MOORTHY

"The people of Delhi are still trying to understand why Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is so keen on disrupting the great festival of Chhath," Mr. Tiwari alleged.

"We oppose Mr. Kejriwal's anti-Hindu policy and the BJP will not tolerate it if the Arvind Kejriwal government continues to play with the faith of Hindus," he added.

Delhi BJP Purvanchal Morcha president Neeraj

Tiwari said that the money released by the government for the festival is being used to put up photos of Mr. Kejriwal.

Meanwhile, Mayor Shelly Oberoi said temporary ghats have been built in over 100 wards of Delhi and their construction in other wards will be completed by Thursday.

She said about ₹40,000 has been released by the Delhi government for arrangements of lights at each ghat and fogging has been carried out to control mosquitoes.

The Chhath celebrations will be held from November 17 to 20. The festival is predominantly celebrated by Purvanchalis, the Bhojipuri-speaking people from eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and parts of Jharkhand.

A large number of them have settled in Delhi, making them one of the largest voter bases in the Capital.

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Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of President of India invites tenders on web portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for the following work:  
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Before the Hon'ble President, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission-II, at VISAKHAPATNAM C.C.No.170/2022  
Between:- Shankar Saran ...Complainant And Director, Blue Rose Publishers Pvt. Ltd., # 4233/1, Main Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi-110002 ... Opposite Party  
**NOTICE**  
To: Director, Blue Rose Publishers Pvt. Ltd., # 4233/1, Main Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi-110002  
Please take Note that the above Complaint is filed in C.C.No.170/2022 against you and stands posted to 8 December 2023. On that day you personally or through an Advocate attend before the Court of Hon'ble District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission-II at 10:30 am in person or as duly instructed by Advocate, failing which the matter will be heard and determined in your absence ex-parte as per the law.  
S.SARAN, Complainant (in person), Flat No.305, Hema Twin Bliss Melodica, Birla Jn., Murali Nagar, Visakhapatnam-530007, Andhra Pradesh, Cell: 7874880862

### LEGAL NOTICE

FORM NO. 11 IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE CHAIRMAN (MACT)-CUM PRL. DISTRICT AND SESSION JUDGE AT: ASIFABAD MVOP No. 70/2022  
Between: Pambala Kamala & Other ... Petitioner AND Mubin & Others ... Respondents.  
To: Mubin, S/o. Roje Khan, Age: 34 years. Occ: Lorry Driver of the Veh.B.No. TS01UC 2509, R/o. Dhena (V), Dist. Mewat, State Haryana.  
Whereas the above named petitioners filed petition against the Respondent for the compensation under Section 166 of M.V. Act: 1988. You are required to appear in this court on: 23rd day of November 2023, at 10-30 A.M. in person or by pleader duly instructed able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings.  
Also take notice that in default of your appearance on the aforesaid day this issues will be settled and the petitioner heard and determined in your absence. You shall also bring with you or send by your pleader an documents on which intend to replay in support or defense.  
You are required to appear along with the Counter in the Court before the 23rd day of November, 2023 (By Order NAZIR)

### TENDERS

**Hockey India**  
(Recognized by MYS Govt. of India)  
Proposals Ref. No.  
(1) HI/FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifier Ranchi 2024/102/2023 Dated 16 November 2023.  
(2) HI/93 Pro League (Men & Women) 2023-2024 Dated 16 November 2023. (Re-Issuing).  
The President, Hockey India, New Delhi invites bids for "Engagement of Vendor(s) for FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifier Ranchi 2024" and "Re-issuing RFP for Engagement of Vendor(s) for FIH Hockey Pro League (Men & Women) 2023-24". Future details & RFPs documents are available at Hockey India website [www.hockeyindia.org/tenders](http://www.hockeyindia.org/tenders). Last date and Time for Submission of Proposals is 06 December 2023 by 15:00 Hours & Proposals Opening date is 07 December 2023 at 11:00 Hours  
President

# HISTORY S. BALIYAN

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### LEGAL NOTICE

FORM NO. 11 IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE CHAIRMAN (MACT)-CUM PRL. DISTRICT AND SESSION JUDGE AT: ASIFABAD MVOP No. 79/2022  
Between: Pambala Kamala & Other ... Petitioner AND Mubin & Others ... Respondents.  
To: Mubin, S/o. Roje Khan, Age: 34 years. Occ: Lorry Driver of the Veh.B.No. TS01UC 2509, R/o. Dhena (V), Dist. Mewat, State Haryana.  
Whereas the above named petitioners filed petition against the Respondent for the compensation under Section 166 of M.V. Act: 1988. You are required to appear in this court on: 23rd day of November 2023, at 10-30 A.M. in person or by pleader duly instructed able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings.  
Also take notice that in default of your appearance on the aforesaid day this issues will be settled and the petitioner heard and determined in your absence. You shall also bring with you or send by your pleader an documents on which intend to replay in support or defense.  
You are required to appear along with the Counter in the Court before the 23rd day of November, 2023 (By Order NAZIR)



# 'Coalition politics to take centre stage after LS polls'

The strength of both BJP and Congress will diminish after 2024 election, says Telangana Chief Minister Chandrashekhar Rao; asks people to support BRS in the Assembly and general elections

The Hindu Bureau  
HYDERABAD

Coalition politics would assume the centre stage in the country after the 2024 elections to the Lok Sabha as the strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress would diminish, Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) president and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao said, addressing an election rally in Nizamabad on Wednesday.

He alleged that the two national parties were practising the politics of vendetta in the matter of development by denying



Power point: BRS president K. Chandrashekhar Rao at an election rally at Bodhan on Wednesday. K.V. RAMANA

programmes, schemes and institutions.

Citing the example of Telangana, he stated that the BJP government at the Centre had not given even

one medical college to the State out of 157 sanctioned to States from 2014.

Asking the people to support BRS not only in the Assembly elections but

also in Lok Sabha elections in April-May next, he said winning all seats would give the party the bargaining capacity to protect the State's interests better.

Turning to the Congress, he explained that it was the party which had forcibly merged Telangana with Andhra against the wishes of people.

He also accused the Congress of deceiving the Muslim community all along and said the party had used the community only as a vote bank.

Speaking at Bodhan earlier, he urged the people to compare how their villages and towns were till 2014 and how they were now.

# Ghats cleaned as Hyderabad gears up for Chhath Puja amid election

Siddharth Kumar Singh  
HYDERABAD

The Deepavali festivities may have concluded but the joy continues for the Bihari community residing in Hyderabad as they are set to celebrate Chhath Puja over the weekend.

The Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department of the State government has designated 70 locations within the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits where worshippers can perform puja.

Chhath, a four-day Hindu festival dedicated to worshipping the Sun God, is observed six days after Diwali, specifically on the sixth day of the Kartik month, according to the Hindu almanac. The festival is celebrated mostly in Bihar, Jharkhand, and certain parts of Uttar Pradesh.



Devotees offering prayers to Sun god on the occasion of Chhath Puja, on the banks of Hussainsagar, in Hyderabad. FILE PHOTO

The puja this year is scheduled from November 17 to 20.

'Amenities for devotees' In response to representations submitted by two associations, the Jan Seva Sangh and the Bihar Association, both based in Hyderabad, the MA&UD has taken measures to facilitate amenities and necessary arrangements for devotees

participating in the puja.

Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar, acting on these representations, wrote a letter to GHMC Commissioner Ronald Rose, urging the provision of essential infrastructure such as water supply, lighting, tents, stages, public address system, and the cleaning of ghats.

Speaking to The Hindu, Mr. Kumar said: The Jan Se-

va Sangh provided a list of 24 Chhath puja ghats, and the Bihar Association submitted a list of 21 locations. Additionally, the department has identified approximately 20 more locations within the GHMC limits, especially near lakes, where space will be made available for devotees to perform puja.

He further informed that all organisers have been instructed to refrain from inviting politicians as chief guests or displaying photos on banners, in compliance with the model code of conduct in force in the State.

"The cleaning of all ghats is already underway and is expected to conclude within a day or two. We are thankful to the government of Telangana for supporting us," said Nageshwar Rao, president of Miyapur Bihar Association.

# Two 'fake' doctors among four held from Delhi clinic

Alisha Dutta  
NEW DELHI

The police have arrested four persons associated with a clinic, including two doctors, after multiple complaints against them alleged the death of several patients due to their negligence.

Those arrested were identified as Dr. Jaspreet Singh; Greater Kailash's Agarwal Medical Centre owner Dr. Neeraj Agarwal; his wife Ms. Pooja and Mahender Singh, a former lab technician.

According to the police, Ms. Pooja and Mahender Singh treated patients without holding the qualification of a doctor at the clinic.

The police said the action was taken after the wife of the late Asgar Ali, a resident of Sangam Vihar, filed a complaint, alleging that her husband died following a gall bladder stone removal surgery at the clinic.

She said her husband was taken to Safdarjung Hospital after he complained of severe pain following the surgery. He was declared brought dead there. She said the surgery was performed by Dr. Neeraj, Ms. Pooja, and Mr. Mahender.

# The complainant alleged that Ali died due to the negligence of doctors present during the surgery

The complainant added that Dr. Neeraj had earlier told the family that the patient would be operated on by "renowned surgeon" Dr. Jaspreet. On the day of the surgery, they were informed that due to an emergency, the operation would be conducted by Mr. Mahender. She alleged that Ali died due to the negligence of the doctors present during the surgery, and she learned only later that Mr. Mahender and Ms. Pooja were fake doctors.

It was found by a medical board constituted to probe the case that Ali had died due to a haemorrhagic shock stemming from a complication of laparoscopic cholecystectomy, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Chandan Chowdhary.

While probing the allegations, the police found that seven other complaints, some of them dating back to 2016, had been filed at the Delhi Medical Council, which also alleged death due to negligence by staff members at the clinic.

# Violence influencing Bengal politics, says Governor

Shiv Sahay Singh  
KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on Wednesday asserted that strong action will be taken against the perpetrators of violence in Joynagar in South 24 Parganas district and pointed out that violence was affecting the politics of the State.

A local Trinamool Congress leader Saifuddin Laskar was shot dead at Joynagar on November 13 and one of the accused was lynched to death by locals. The family members of the deceased TMC leader and local party leadership had blamed a local leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) for being involved in the murder. Hours after the incident, the houses of CPI(M) supporters were ransacked and set on fire.

"Law will take its course. We will certainly take strong action against the culprits. Strict action should be taken against violence. It requires not only legal action but also social measures," the Governor said on the sidelines of a programme at the Raj Bhavan.

Mr. Bose also added that violence is influencing the politics of Bengal and this culture must stop.

# Pawar family keeps tradition despite NCP split; Sharad, Sule celebrate at Ajit's farmhouse

Shoumojit Banerjee  
PUNE

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and 'rebel' Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar hosted the Pawar family reunion which saw the attendance of NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar as well as his daughter, and Member of Parliament, Supriya Sule on the occasion of bhau beej (a festival celebrated adjunct to Deepavali) at the Deputy CM's farmhouse in Katewadi in Baramati district.

Every year the Pawar family, led by octogenarian Sharad Pawar, congregates during Deepavali celebrations. While the bhau beej programme usually takes place at Mr. Sharad Pawar's Govindbaug residence in Baramati, this time it was held at his nephew's residence in the nearby Katewadi village.

Present on the occasion were Mr. Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra Pawar, and their



Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar with Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule and other family members. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

children.

On July 2 this year, Mr. Ajit Pawar had split the NCP founded by Mr. Sharad in order to join the ruling Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJP government, while challenging his uncle for control of the party machine. However, family members, including Ms. Sule have repeatedly stressed upon the Pawar clan's ethos of keeping politics and personal relations separate.

In an Instagram post after the programme, Ms. Sule posted photos of the

family get together with the caption: "Blessed! Embracing the beauty of our traditions with pride...Baramati."

On Tuesday, Mr. Ajit Pawar had skipped the morning events on occasion of the Deepavali 'Padwa Day' at his uncle's Govindbaug residence, triggering speculation that the mercurial nephew wanted to avoid being seen with his uncle and his cousin. While Mr. Ajit Pawar stayed away from this, he was present at the family dinner hosted by Mr. Sharad Pawar.

# Secretariat writes to Guv. for proroguing House budget session

Press Trust of India  
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Assembly Secretariat on Wednesday wrote to Governor Banwarilal Purohit for proroguing the budget session which was held in March.

The development comes days after the Supreme Court had questioned the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government for repeatedly adjourning the session sine die instead of proroguing it. The State government had moved the apex court against the Governor for not giving assent to Bills passed by the State Assembly.

An official said that the Vidhan Sabha Secretariat on Wednesday wrote to the Governor for proroguing the budget session after the State government gave a go

ahead to get the session prorogued.

Under the rules, an Assembly session is adjourned sine die (without setting a date for the next sitting) by the Speaker. This is usually followed by prorogation of the session by the Governor.

On November 10, the top court pulled up the Governor for "indefinitely sitting over" some Bills passed by the Assembly saying "you are playing with fire".



Governor Banwarilal Purohit

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

## Medical Counselling Committee (MCC)

### Directorate General of Health Services Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of India

All the NEET PG 2023 eligible candidates are hereby informed that to prevent wastage of precious medical seats, MoHFW has decided to conduct a **Special Stray Vacancy Round** for the vacant MD/MS/MDS and DNB Seats of AIQ and State Quota which will be the last round for post graduate courses for this academic year i.e 2023. The details of the vacant AIQ seats are available on MCC website ([www.mcc.nic.in](http://www.mcc.nic.in)). Candidates may contact state counselling authorities for vacant state quota seats.

**The salient points for Special Stray Vacancy Round to be conducted by MCC may be noted as under:**

- The Security Deposit of candidates who do not join their allotted seat in Special Stray Vacancy Round will be forfeited and such candidates will be debarred from taking NEET exam for the next year.
- Candidates who are not holding any seat either in All India Quota or State Quota are eligible to participate in Special Stray Vacancy Round. However, candidates who did not join their seats allotted through MCC Round-3 onwards are 'Not Eligible' to participate.
- The data of allotted Candidates of special stray vacancy round conducted by MCC will be shared with states and candidates who are allotted seats by MCC will be debarred from taking admission in state counselling.
- Details regarding schedule/scheme and eligibility for Special Stray Vacancy Round of MCC will be made available at [www.mcc.nic.in](http://www.mcc.nic.in). Kindly stay in touch with website for latest updates.

**Office of MCC**

# Actor Suresh Gopi before investigation officer

The Hindu Bureau  
KOZHIKODE

Actor and former MP Suresh Gopi on Wednesday appeared before the investigation officer in a case related to alleged misbehaviour with a woman

journalist here on October 27.

Mr. Gopi reached the police station in Kozhikode accompanied by BJP activists. He alleged that the case against him was part of a conspiracy hatched by politically vested groups.

## APPOINTMENT

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For detailed Advertisement, log on to HAL website, [www.hal-india.co.in](http://www.hal-india.co.in) (Home Page -> Careers). Last date of receipt of filled in applications is 15.12.2023.  
Date & Day of Publication: 16.11.2023 (Thursday) **CHIEF MANAGER (HR)**

## CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department  
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar,  
Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : [crmd@cityunionbank.in](mailto:crmd@cityunionbank.in),  
Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

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

The following property/ies mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs.1,22,28,765/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Two Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Five only) as on 03-05-2023 together with further interest to be charged from 04-05-2023 onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the Borrowers / Guarantors No.1) M/s. Parul Synthetics, 1455/1, Ground Floor, Shri Ram Market, Gali Chhipyan, Chandni Chowk, New Delhi - 110006. Also At, M/S. Parul Synthetics, Flat No.1524, Second Floor, Tala Gang CGHS Ltd., Neelkanth Apartment, Sector 13, Rohini Delhi - 110085. No.2) Mr. Subhash Chand Jain, S/o. Bhagwan Das Jain, Plot No.12 & 13, Ground Floor, Pocket - 2, Block - F, Sector - 11, Rohini, New Delhi - 110085. No.3) Mrs. Sushila Devi Jain, W/o. Subhash Chand Jain, Plot No.12 & 13, Ground Floor, Pocket - 2, Block - F, Sector - 11, Rohini, New Delhi - 110085.

Note : That our 244-New Delhi-Rohini Branch has also extended Financial Assistance (CUB OSFI SPECIAL-BR - 501812080090767) dated 06-07-2022 requested by No.1 of you represented by No.2 of you as Proprietor for which No.3 of you stood as Co-obligant for the facility for a total amount of Rs. 2,50,000/- at a ROI of 16%. The same has been also classified as NPA on 26-09-2022 and the outstanding balance as on 03-05-2023 is Rs.2,88,938/- plus further interest and penal interest of 2.00% with monthly rests to be charged from 04-05-2023 till the date of realization.

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**Reserve Price : Rs.1,10,00,000/-**  
(Rupees One Crore Ten Lakh only)

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
11-12-2023	City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-Rohini Branch, C-9/115, Sector-8, Rohini, New Delhi, Delhi-110085. Telephone No.011-27941336, Cell No.9350011173.

**Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:**  
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-Rohini Branch, C-9/115, Sector-8, Rohini, New Delhi, Delhi - 110085. (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact : Telephone No.011-27941336, Cell No.9350011173. (5) The properties/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at 02.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conducted on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges / fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 14-11-2023 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001. CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287.  
Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : [www.cityunionbank.com](http://www.cityunionbank.com)



## INBRIEF



## 3 coaches damaged as fire breaks out in train in U.P.

Three coaches of the New Delhi-Darbhanga Special Express were damaged after a fire broke out in the train near Etawah in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday, according to officials. Four persons suffered minor injuries. According to preliminary information, they are not burn injuries, Etawah Superintendent of Police (SP) Sanjai Kumar said. The cause of the fire was not known immediately. Plumes of black smoke were seen billowing out from the coaches. Himanshu Upadhyay, Chief Public Relations Officer of North Central Railways, said the guard at Sarai Bhopat junction near Etawah was the first to notice smoke coming out from the train's coach number S1. PTI

## 5-year-old boy mauled to death by stray dogs in Bareilly

A five-year-old boy was mauled to death by stray dogs in Bareilly, a district administration official said on Wednesday. Additional District Magistrate Dinesh Mishra identified the victim as Daksh and said the incident took place in the Baheri area. "He succumbed to injuries after being bitten by stray dogs in Baheri. The incident took place on Tuesday," he said. The child was rushed to a private hospital after the incident where doctors declared him dead, the ADM said. PTI

## Rashmika deepfake video case: Bihar youth questioned

The Delhi Police has questioned a 19-year-old youth from Bihar in connection with a deepfake video of actor Rashmika Mandanna that was widely circulated on social media recently, an officer said on Wednesday. The police suspect that the youth had first uploaded the video on his social media platform and later shared it widely on other platforms. He was given notice to join the probe as the video was first uploaded on social media from his account, the officer said. The police said no arrest has been made in connection with the case so far. PTI

## Rajasthan's culture is in danger: Modi

Morale of terrorists and rioters has soared under the Congress, they have become bold with the support of the ruling party; people's livelihood lost in the violence, shops were burnt and looted, says Prime Minister while calling upon voters to defeat the party in the upcoming Assembly election

Mohammed Iqbal  
JAIPUR

Reiterating his allegation that the ruling Congress in Rajasthan sympathises with terrorists, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the party's "appeasement policy" was taking the State to a direction where its culture and traditions would be in danger. Mr. Modi said slogans supporting terrorists were heard everywhere in the State.

"The morale of terrorists and rioters has soared in the Congress rule. They have become bold with the support of the ruling par-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks at an election rally at Baytu in Barmer district of Rajasthan on Wednesday. PTI

ty," Mr. Modi said at an election rally at Baytu in Balotra district. He had made a similar charge at a rally in Udaipur last week, when he said tailor Kanhai-

ya Lal's murder took place because of the Congress, sympathetic to terrorists, being in power.

The Prime Minister said the people in Rajasthan

could not celebrate any of their festivals peacefully during the last five years because of recurring riots, curfews and stone pelting incidents.

"Congress has hurt the State's pride... People's livelihood was lost in the violence. Shops were burnt and looted," he said, while calling upon the voters to remove the Congress from power in the coming Assembly election.

**Return of law and order** "Press the lotus button as you are hanging them," Mr. Modi said, while affirming that the Assembly polls were not just meant for electing MLAs, but they

could ensure the return of law and order and protect the culture and traditions.

The Prime Minister said Rajasthan had a pride of place in the country, as the stones quarried from the State were being used in the grand Ram temple, being constructed after hundreds of years, in Ayodhya. He said bringing the BJP to power in the State was necessary to stop corruption, reduce crimes against women, ensure social security and bring empowerment to the underprivileged people.

Affirming that entire Rajasthan was saying that the Congress was on its way out, Mr. Modi accused the

party of indulging in corruption in the Jal Jeevan Mission's implementation and not taking steps to protect women, Dalits and other vulnerable sections.

## 'Red diary' reference

Mr. Modi also made a reference to the "red diary" allegedly containing the details of illegal transactions of the Congress leaders, saying the voters should pose a question to the ruling party's candidates about it. "It is my guarantee that the BJP, after forming the government, will conduct a probe into all misdeeds of the Congress leaders and bring them to justice," he said.

## Bail petition of TDP leader in skill case adjourned

The Hindu Bureau  
VIJAYAWADA

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's regular bail petition in the High Court in the skill development scam case was adjourned by Justice T. Mallikarjuna Rao to Thursday.

Mr. Naidu's advocates submitted his health report to the court while making a mention of the fact that he is out on medical bail till November 28. They said that Mr. Naidu underwent an eye surgery and has other health conditions for which he was taking treatment. The HC had granted medical bail to Mr. Naidu on October 31.

## BJP expels former Rajasthan Speaker Kailash Meghwal for contesting as an Independent

The Hindu Bureau  
JAIPUR

The Opposition BJP in Rajasthan on Wednesday expelled senior MLA and former Assembly Speaker Kailash Meghwal from the party's primary membership. The action against Mr. Meghwal was taken on disciplinary grounds for contesting the upcoming Assembly election against the officially declared BJP candidate at Shahpura seat in Bhilwara district.

BJP State Disciplinary Committee chief Onkar Singh Lakhawat announced the decision here after Mr. Meghwal, 89, refused to withdraw his can-

## The six-time MLA had sought the party ticket from Shahpura but was denied

didature. The six-time octogenarian MLA had sought a ticket from the reserved constituency of Shahpura and later filed the nomination papers as an Independent when the party did not field him.

Mr. Lakhawat said Mr. Meghwal's act had been treated as a "breach of discipline". The BJP has fielded Lalaram Bairwa as its official candidate from the Shahpura seat. Mr. Meghwal, considered a heavy-weight leader from former

Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje's camp, was in the eye of a storm ever since he levelled corruption charges against Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal earlier this year.

Mr. Meghwal had called the Union Minister "corrupt number one" at a public meeting and alleged that he had taken bribes worth crores of rupees as an officer in Churu district before he entered politics.

Meanwhile, the ruling Congress on Wednesday expelled as many as 49 leaders for six years for their refusal to withdraw candidature as Independents despite warning having been issued to them.

## Tripura Health Dept. interns to get regular stipend after protests

Syed Sajjad Ali  
AGARTALA

The Tripura government's Health & Family Welfare Department has assured medical interns in an attempt to end protests that their stipend will be paid on a monthly basis.

The interns, who were assigned to different departments in the State's oldest Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, had claimed that they had not received their stipend for five consecutive months.

The recent protest, which saw a turnout of over 20 placard-bearing doctors, was seen as an embarrassment to the BJP-led State government, which

has claimed to have made unprecedented development in Tripura's healthcare sector.

"There would be an immediate disbursement of stipends to the interns. We will make sure they [interns] and those working in other hospitals get their stipends regularly," said a Health Department official on Wednesday, adding that officials from the department have met a delegation of the interns to sort out the issues. The interns working in the hospital belong to states across India.

Meanwhile, the Health Department has announced a decision to recruit 226 doctors and 100 nursing staff.

## Veteran Marxist N. Sankaraiah is no more

B. Kolappan  
CHENNAI

N. Sankaraiah, freedom fighter, senior-most Communist leader in the country, and one of the founding members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), died at a private hospital in Chennai on Wednesday. He was 101, and is survived by two sons and a daughter.

The veteran leader was not keeping good health for a couple of days, and was admitted to hospital on November 13. He had been active even until 10 days ago. He had sent his greetings in a recorded message to the party on November 7 when the sta-

tue of late leader P. Ramamurti was unveiled and a hall, named after former State secretary M.R. Venkataraman, was opened.

Born on July 15, 1922, Sankaraiah was among the 32 national council members of the Communist Party of India (CPI) who quit the party over ideological differences. This led to the formation of the CPI (M) in 1964. Another surviving member is V.S. Achuthanandan, former Chief Minister of Kerala. Sankaraiah, a three-time MLA, had also served as the State secretary of the CPI(M).

Sankaraiah was first arrested in 1941 while being a student of the American



N. Sankaraiah

1922-2023

College in Madurai. He organised a protest in support of students of Annamalai University in Chidambaram at the instance of late Communist

leader A.K. Gopalan, who was hiding in Madurai then. When the police searched the students' hostel, they found pamphlets written by Sankaraiah, and he was arrested. This put an end to his education.

He could not complete his degree as he was lodged in prison 15 days before the final examinations. His first jail term lasted 18 months.

It was this incident that had, some months ago, prompted Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to announce his government's decision to confer an honorary doctorate on Sankaraiah, and Madurai Kamaraj University decided to do it. Howev-

er, Higher Education Minister K. Ponnudiyil subsequently stated that Governor R.N. Ravi refused to give his assent to the university's proposal. Mr. Ravi, as the Governor, is the Chancellor of the university.

In 2021, Sankaraiah was honoured with the *Thagaisal Thamizhar* Award by Mr. Stalin. The veteran Marxist, however, donated the prize money of ₹10 lakh to the government for COVID-19 relief work.

Sankaraiah had also actively participated in the Quit India movement. During his long political career, he had spent eight years in prison before and after Independence.

## Uncertainty over Tharoor presence at pro-Palestine rally of Congress

The Hindu Bureau  
KOZHIKODE

As the Congress is all set to make its public rally on the Kozhikode beach on November 23 to extend support to the Palestinian people a grand event, speculation is rife if Congress Working Committee member and MP Shashi Tharoor will attend it.

Mr. Tharoor had stirred up a controversy on October 26 at another pro-Palestine rally organised by party ally Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) when he referred to the October 7 attack on Israel as a "terrorist attack" that

led to a "disproportionate response". It was interpreted as a statement favouring Israel and portraying the Palestinian resistance in a bad light.

Though M.K. Muneer, MLA, and M.P. Abdussamad Samadani, MP, countered Mr. Tharoor on the same stage, it became a controversy with a section within the CPI(M) and K.T. Jaleel, Left Independent MLA, targeting the IUML and the Congress MP.

Subsequently, even after Mr. Tharoor came up with a clarification that he had always stood with the Palestinian people, the damage had been done.

The ruling party organised a public rally in support of Palestine in Kozhikode on November 11. Eventually, the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee announced that it would also hold a public rally at Kozhikode on November 23 upholding the Palestinian cause.

However, it is still not clear if Mr. Tharoor will make it to the event.

According to reports, the MP has expressed his inconvenience as he has to attend a family wedding. Some Congress leaders do not want him on the stage as it could hurt the feelings of the IUML.

## Looking into complaints of discriminatory recruitment practices, says IIT Kanpur

Abhinav Lakshman  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur on Wednesday said that it is looking into complaints that companies recruiting from the campus this year were discriminating against Reserved Category (Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes) students by making it mandatory to reveal their entrance test ranks – thus putting them at risk of having to disclose their caste and/or socio-economic category.

The complaints come against the grim backdrop of a string of student suicides in IITs across the country this year, most of

whom were from marginalised backgrounds. Several of the students allegedly took their own lives due to not being able to adjust to the curriculum pressure or exclusionary practices.

IIT Kanpur's Students' Placement Office had received a complaint regarding such recruitment practices from an IIT Kanpur alumnus, Dheeraj Singh, who has, for the last few months, been counselling SC/ST students across IITs to help get them better job opportunities.

Mr. Singh said that he was made aware of this practice while running the mentorship programme for SC/ST students. After gathering more informa-

**According to the complaint, several private recruitment firms were making it mandatory for students to disclose their ranks.**

tion, he sent in the complaint on Tuesday to the institute, the Education Ministry, the Social Justice Ministry, and the National Commissions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes.

According to the complaint, several private companies were making it mandatory for students to disclose their "General" ranks for JEE-Mains and

JEE-Advanced in the application forms posted on the IIT Kanpur placements portal.

Notably, the institute has, for some time now, prohibited the asking of entrance test ranks of students – in the fear that it may identify students of reserved categories – thereby putting them at risk of exclusion and discrimination.

Responding to the complainant, the Chairperson of the Students' Placement Office at IIT Kanpur said on Wednesday, "We pride ourselves on maintaining a non-interventionist approach during the selection procedures conducted by companies. With regards to your communi-

cation, we will look into this and take necessary steps accordingly."

The Chairperson, Professor Raju Kumar Gupta, added that the institute's placement office was committed to "ensuring equal career opportunities for all students, devoid of any discrimination".

## 'Common practice'

After having sent the complaint, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu* that this has been a common practice at IITs. "While we were counselling the students, we learnt that these companies employ similar recruitment practices at other IITs too," he added.

Mr. Singh said that, ideally, the SC/ST Cells,

mandated by the University Grants Commission, should have been apprised of these practices and run interference. "But that has not happened," he said.

Mr. Singh, along with a network of SC/ST alumnus of IITs, started running a mentorship programme for SC/ST students at the premier institute this year. The group, called Global IIT SC/ST Alumni Support Group, started the initiative in a bid to give targeted counselling to SC/ST students – something that their campuses were not able to provide.

While it is not the first time that IITs have been accused of discrimination, the problem was thrown into sharper focus with the

first of the suicides in February – that of Dalit first-year student at IIT-Bombay, Darshan Solanki – following which SC/ST/OBC students from IITs all over India started coming out with their experiences of caste-based discrimination on campus.

In the last few months, several internal surveys conducted at IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi have been leaked, which point to widespread caste-based discrimination within the institute – both explicit and implicit – from faculty and students.

The IIT-Bombay survey, conducted in 2022, had revealed that over 37% of Reserved Category students were asked about their en-

trance test ranks, and around 26% of them said they were asked to reveal their surnames by someone with the intention of wanting to know their caste backgrounds.

## IIT-Delhi survey

The IIT-Delhi survey, conducted in 2019-20, had further revealed that 59% of General Category students were either neutral to or agreed with casteist remarks – with 41% respondents across categories reporting casteist remarks being made in their presence. Additionally, both surveys had revealed a wide gap between what General category students and reserved category students perceive as casteist.



**TRIPURA POWER GENERATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of Tripura Enterprise)  
**PRESS NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (NIEO)**  
NIEO No. GM (TECH)/TPGL/AGT/EIO/2023-24/01 Dated 10/11/2023  
General Manager (Technical), TPGL, Agartala, Tripura invites Expression of Interest (EOI) on behalf of TPGL from reputed and enlisted consultants/firms through electronic bidding (e-bidding) for the work, "Consultancy Services for conducting feasibility study for development of Small Hydro Power Plants on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis by Private Sector in Tripura".  
Details of the Notice Inviting EOI and the bid document will be available for downloading in the website <https://tripuratenders.gov.in> w.e.f. 14/11/2023 under Tender Id: 2023\_TPGLG\_43894\_1  
**Sd/-**  
**General Manager (Technical)**  
Tripura Power Generation Limited  
Agartala, Tripura

**अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान भोपाल**  
**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL**  
(An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India)  
संकेत नम्बर, भोपाल (म.प्र.)-462020, [www.aiimshbhopal.edu.in](http://www.aiimshbhopal.edu.in)  
Advt. No.: AIIMS, Bhopal/JR (Non-Acad.)/2023/34 Dated 15/11/2023  
**Advertisement for recruitment of Junior Residents (Non-Academic) at AIIMS Bhopal**  
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of Junior Residents (Non-Academic) on contractual basis at AIIMS Bhopal. The detailed advertisement, eligibility, total No. of posts, terms & conditions and other criteria are available on Institute website: [www.aiimshbhopal.edu.in](http://www.aiimshbhopal.edu.in). The Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal reserves the right to cancel/vary or not to fill-up any or a particular vacancy/post without assigning any reason thereof.  
The aspiring candidates are advised to visit AIIMS, Bhopal website [www.aiimshbhopal.edu.in](http://www.aiimshbhopal.edu.in) regularly for update(s) in this regard.  
**Dean (Academics)**

**SEARCH OF MISSING**  
General public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Manju Tomar, W/o Ashok Singh Tomar, R/o H.No. B61, Gali No. 9, Fouji Colony Part-2, Mukund Pur, Delhi. Aged: 35 years** has been missing from her house since 09.11.2023. In this regard a **DD No 11-A, Dated 10.11.2023, has been lodged at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi.** Her physical description is as under: **Manju Tomar**  
**Height: 4'11" Feet, Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue Colour Saree & Slipper in Feet.** Any person is having any information/clue about this missing female, may inform to the following at **E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641**  
**S.H.O**  
**P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi**  
**Ph: 7065036328**  
DP/13061/ON/2023

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-Tender Notice**

The Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Tender from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways:-  
**Tender Notice No.:** TC-173-2023-SPJ  
**Name of work:** Construction of Light ROB near LC no. 26 in Darbhanga Yard, **Tender Value (In Rs.):** 94456466.40, **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 622300.00, **Completion period of the work:** 06 Months  
**1. Last Date & time for receiving of Tender in E-Tender mode on IREPS web portal:** 04/12/2023 upto 12.00 hours.  
**2. Opening Date & time for E-Tender:** 04/12/2023 after 12.00 hours.  
**3. Website particulars where complete details of tender & tender document can be seen on Website:** [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Amendments / modifications if any shall not be published in the newspapers but the same shall be uploaded in the website.  
**Sr. Divisional Engineer / Co-ord E.C. Railway / Samastipur**  
PR/01650/SPJ/ENGG/T/23-24/36

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE NO-09 Dt.-10/11/23**  
Email: [dycmmgkpd@gmail.com](mailto:dycmmgkpd@gmail.com), Website: [www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in) & [www.tenders.gov.in](http://www.tenders.gov.in)  
**Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system**  
By Chief Material Manager/North Eastern Railway/Gorakhpur and on behalf of the President of India, invites Tender through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on [www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in) & [www.tenders.gov.in](http://www.tenders.gov.in)  
Sr. No., Tender No. & Due Date, Brief Description of stores, Qty Required, Earnest Money (Rs.)  
1. 10237832 dt. 11.12.23 Coil Spring Scragging Load Deflection Testing Machine etc. 01 Nos 231520/-  
2. 10237145A dt. 26.12.23 Middle Boxing to Drg. No. RDSO/CG/DRG/21009 etc. 280 Nos 271200/-  
3. 10237833 dt. 19.12.23 Combined Airless Centrifugal Shot Blasting And Shot Finishing etc. 01 Nos 261800/-  
4. 10238307 dt. 28.11.23 Primary Painting Plant For Rail Coach Spring etc. 01 Nos 778000/-  
5. 10238115 dt. 04.12.23 Supply And Installation of LAV, Window With Louvre etc. 1600 No 237890/-  
6. 10238217 dt. 05.12.23 OES Lab Spectrometer as per Attached Technical etc. 01 No 139100/-  
1-Above Tenders are available on IREPS site <http://www.ireps.gov.in> the firm desirous in participating against e-tender are advised to electronically regd. Themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class-III digital certificate (if already not obtain) from certifying agencies authorized under govt. of India IT Act, 2000. Manual offers will not be accepted. 2-Advised tender and bulletin tenders of Dy.CMM/Depot Office/NER are being opened through EPS(E-Procurement system) only. Firms desiring to participate in Dy.CMM/Depot. Tenders should obtain necessary digital certificate and get themselves registered with CRIS/New Delhi. Necessary details in this regard can be obtained from the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 3- In case of difference between English and Hindi version of the Tender notice the English version shall prevail. 4-Head of allocation towards, SD Money in 00844517 & Earnest Money is 00084506. 5-The tender cost & EMD will be accepted through On-Line payment on IREPS Portal only for the tender published on or after 01.09.2016, against all the Dy.CMM/Depot/NER/GKP tenders except Global Tender. CPRO/S-91  
**Di. Chief Material Manager/Depot, Gorakhpur**  
**Never travel on roof and foot boards.**

**झारखण्ड सरकार पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग**  
**ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना (शुद्धि पत्र)**  
इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित ई निविदा सूचना संख्या - (तेनुघाट) 05/2023-24 (प्रथम आमंत्रण) दिनांक - 25.10.2023 जिसका PR No. 309828 है अपरिहार्य कारणवश आंशिक संशोधन किया जाता है जो निम्न प्रकार है।  
1 Name of the Work :- Strengthening of Source by Construction of Intakewell, Gangway supplying & Laying Raw Water Rising main from Konar River to Existing WTP for Gomia Rural Water Supply scheme under D.W.&S. Division Tenughat for the year 2023-24  
2 प्राकृतिक राशि 431.24713 लाख  
3 अग्रघन की राशि 4.32 लाख  
4 परिमाण विपन्न का मूल्य 10000.00  
5 कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि 06 माह  
6 वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 16-11-2023 समय 02.00 बजे अपराह्न तक  
7 श्री बीड निर्दिष्ट की तिथि 22.11.2023 समय 12.30 बजे अपराह्न तक  
8 निविदा प्राप्त (ऑन लाईन बिडिंग) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 02.12.2023 समय 05.00 बजे अपराह्न तक  
9 तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 04.12.2023 समय 04.00 बजे अपराह्न तक  
10 तकनीकी बिड खोलने का स्थान अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल, धनबाद।  
11 निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम/पदनाम :- कार्यपालक अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट।  
12 निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का टेलिफोन नं० 9430153040, 7541938775  
13 ई- प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्प लाईन नं० 0651-2480345  
नोट - (1) केवल ई निविदा ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे।  
(2) प्राकृतिक राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है, तदनुसार परिमाण विपन्न में अंकित प्राकृतिक राशि के आधार पर अग्रघन की राशि एवं परिमाण विपन्न का मूल्य मान्य होगा।  
(3) निविदा अन्तर्गत परिमाण विपन्न का मूल्य एवं अग्रघन की राशि ई-गवर्नेंस विभाग झारखण्ड मंत्रालय धुवर्ष, राँची के आदेश ज्ञापक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 द्वारा निर्गत आदेश के अनुरूप प्राप्त की जाएगी।  
अधिक जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट <http://jharkhandtender.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।  
कार्यपालक अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट  
PR311287 (Drinking Water and Sanitation)23-24\*D

**Government of Himachal Pradesh**  
**Jal Shakti Department**  
**SHORT TERM "NOTICE INVITING TENDER"**

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Keylong (H.P) invites tender on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works through Offline Process:-  
Job No., Name of work, Estimated Cost, Earnest Money, Time of completion  
1. Providing flood protection work Nursery in GP Sissu Dist.Lahaul & Spiti (HP) (SH- Consultancy service for survey, investigation and preparation of detailed project report). 4,97,639/- 9,953 Three Month  
2. Restoration of rain damages to WSS Tandi in GP Tandi and Dist.L&S (HP) (SH- C/o Retaining wall for protection of existing Pump House Rd 0to 9 Mtr) Job-II 3,70,317/- 7,406/- Three Month  
3. Restoration of rain damages to FIS Haripur in GP Darcha, Tehsil Keylong Dist.L&S (HP) (SH- C/o Retaining wall at RD 60to 70 and C/o breast wall at RD 30 to 40 in RR Masonry) Job-II 4,98,006/- 9,960/- Three Month  
4. Restoration of rain damages to various WSS under JSV Section Kirting and Sub Division Udaipur (SH-Providing and Supplying of MS Tank 270 Ltr Capacity ) Job-II (DC Deposit). 4,80,719/- 9,614/- One Month  
5. Tapping additional source for WSS Bihadi in GP Tilkoth Dist.L&S (HP) (SH- Providing and Fixing of MS Tank =1 No and laying Jointing and Testing of HDPE Pipe 50 mm Dia at Rd 0 to 1300 =1300 Rmt). 4,93,798/- 9,876/- Six Month  
6. Restoration of rain damages to WSS Tandi in GP Tindi Dist.L&S (HP) (SH-Providing & fixing of MS tank 270 Ltrs capacity, C/o wire crate at head of the spring source). 3,89,579/- 7,792/- Six Month  
7. Providing Flood Protection work Thothing Jispa in Dist.L&S (SH- Consultancy service for survey investigation and preparation of detail project report). 2,64,381/- 5,288/- Three Month  
8. Restoration of rain damages to FIS Baror in GP Tindi Dist.L&S (HP) (SH- C/o R/Wall at Rd 1320 to 1332.5 and RD 1366 to 1383 =29.5). 4,20,581/- 8,412/- Six Month  
9. Restoration of rain damages to WSS Challing in GP Tingret Dist.L&S (HP) (SH- C/o protection wall (with wire crate) Job-I). 4,52,125/- 9,043/- One Month  
10. C/o Lift Water Supply Scheme Udaipur in GP Udaipur Dist.Lahaul & Spiti (SH- Supplying of Cast Steel sluice valves of various dia & PVC pipe 65mm dia). 4,86,660/- 9,733/- Three Month  
11. Restoration of rain damages to FIS Baror in GP Tindi Dist.L&S (HP) (SH- C/o wire crate at head). 4,99,239/- 9,985/- Six Month  
12. Restoration of rain damages to WSS Tandi in GP Tandi and Dist.L&S (HP) (SH- Repair of existing masonry storage tank at village Tandi) Job-I. 4,52,837/- 9,057/- Three Month  
13. Restoration of rain/snow damages to FIS Darcha from Milling Nallah in Dist.Lahaul & Spiti (SH-Providing CC Lining at RD 300 to 340 =40 Rmt and C/o R/Wall at RD 300 to 315 =15 Rmt). 4,86,923/- 9,738/- Three Month  
14. Restoration of rain damages to FIS Baror in GP Tindi Dist.L&S (HP) (SH- C/o R/Wall at Rd 910 to 932, 1300 to 1309 =31 Mtrs). 4,42,197/- 8,844/- Six Month  
15. Restoration of rain damages to various WSS Under JSV Section Kirting and Sub Division Udaipur (SH-Providing and Supplying of MS Tank 270 Ltr Capacity) Job-I DC Deposit. 4,80,719/- 9,614/- One Month  
16. Restoration of snow damages to WSS Talzon Dist.L&S (SH-Providing Laying Jointing & Testing of HDPE pipe 25mm dia at RD 1800 to 3600 Rmt). 4,88,647/- 9,773/- Three Month  
17. Restoration of rain damages to WSS Challing in GP Tingret Dist.L&S (HP) (SH- Providing & fixing MS Tank 270 Ltr =1 No. Providing , laying jointing & testing of HDPE pipe at various dia) Job-I. 4,37,530/- 8,751/- Six Month  
18. Consultancy service for survey investigation and preparation of detail project report for channelization work of Jahalma Nallah in Tehsil Keylong Dist.L&S (HP). 4,02,866/- 8,057/- Three Month  
19. Repair & restoration of snow damages to FIS Panch Kuhl in GP Goushal Dist. L&S (HP) (SH- C/o wire crate at Rd 30 to 60 =30 Mtr) Job-II. 4,06,597/- 8,132/- Three Month  
20. Restoration of rain damages to WSS Bara Agar in GP Tindi Dist.L&S (HP) (SH- Providing & fixing MS Tank 270 Ltr capacity =1 No, C/o wire crate at head spring source & providing laying jointing of HDPE pipe at various dia). 4,52,390/- 9,048/- Six Month  
21. Tapping additional source for WSS Bihadi in GP Tilkoth Dist.L&S (HP) (SH- C/o RCC sector water storage Tank, and C/o Public Stand Post =4 Nos. 4,53,817/- 9,076/- Six Month  
22. Restoration of snow damages to WSS Talzon Dist.L&S (SH-Providing laying jointing & Testing of HDPE pie 25mm dia at RD 0to 1800 Rmt). 4,88,641/- 9,773/- Three Month  
23. Restoration of rain/snow damages to FIS Darcha from Milling Nallah in Dist.L&S (SH-Providing CC Lining at RD 190 to 300 =110 Rmt). 3,27,745/- 6,555/- Three Month  
Last date of sale of tender form from divisional office:- 20.11.2023 upto 11.00 AM  
Last date of submission of tender:- 20.11.2023 upto 02.30 PM  
The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website [www.hpihp.org](http://www.hpihp.org) or can be had from the office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Keylong upto 11.00 AM 20.11.2023.  
**Sd/-**  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**Jal Shakti Division Keylong**  
HP / 3819/23-24 **HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

**Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.**  
Board Secretariat  
Corporate Headquaters  
M. A. Road, Srinagar - 190 001  
Tel: (0194) 2481930-35 ; Fax: (0194) 2481928  
Visit us at: [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com)  
Email: [sharedept\\_gc@jkbank.com](mailto:sharedept_gc@jkbank.com)  
CIN: L65110JK1938S5C000048  
**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that the certificates in respect of the under - mentioned shares of J&K Bank have been lost/misplaced and the holders of the said shares have applied to J&K Bank Ltd/ M/s KFin Technologies Ltd. (Share Transfer Agent) for issue of Duplicate Share Certificates.  
S. No Name of the Shareholder Folio No. Certificate No. Distinctive No.'s No of Shares Address  
1. Nafizullah Dar JKBO15375 506162 11744731-11745730 1000 R/o Parigam, P/o Turigam, Yarpura, Dist. Anantnag, Teh Kulgam-192232  
2. Nusrat Jabeen JKBO37414 505150 9831041-9834040 3000 Gulshan Abad, Sarnal, Anantnag-192101  
3. Misra Maryam JKBO37523 505604 10563801-10566800 3000 R/o Rathsuna, Tral, Dist Pulwama-192123  
The Public is hereby warned against purchasing or dealing in any way with above share Certificate(s). Any Person(s) who has/have any claim(s)/objection in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim(s)/objection with the Bank at the Corporate Headquaters, M. A. Road, Srinagar/Share Transfer Agent at the address given below, within fifteen days from the date of Publication of this notice, after which no claim(s) will be entertained and the Bank/Share Transfer Agent will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates.  
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Serilingampally Mandal,  
Hyderabad 500 032  
**For Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.**  
Ref. No.: 11/2023-24  
Place: Srinagar  
Date: 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2023  
**Sd/-**  
**(Mohammad Shafi Mir)**  
Company Secretary

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD (R&B)**  
**NORTH CIRCLE JAMMU**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
e-NIT No.SENJ/06 of 2023-24 dated 11-11-2023  
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited on **percentage rate basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with **Union Territory of J&K/ CPWD / BRO/ Railways/ MES and other State/ Central Government** for the work mentioned below:-  
S. No Name of Work Name of Division Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs) Cost of document (in Rs.) Earnest Money (In Rs.) Time Allowed for completion Time and date of opening of tender Class of Contractor  
1. Construction of Proposed NIA Court at Jammu. PWD (R&B) Project Div. I Jammu 279.23 6000/- 558460/- (2% of the Advertised Cost) 12 Months (1200 Hrs) on or after 05-12-2023 "A" Class  
Position of AAA = Accorded  
Position of Tech. sanction = Accorded  
The Bidding documents consist of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:-  
1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice 11.11.2023  
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents From 12.11.2023 to 04.12.2023, 1800 Hrs  
3. Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting 20.11.2023 at 1400 hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) NORTH Circle, Jammu  
4. Bid submission Start Date 12.11.2023 From 0900 Hrs  
5. Bid Submission End Date 04.12.2023 up to 1800 Hrs  
6. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) 05.12.2023 at 1400 hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) NORTH Circle, Jammu  
7. Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed  
1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of challan through Treasury indicating the name of work and e-NIT No. favouring Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) NORTH Circle, Jammu by crediting to 0059-PWD (Revenue) issued after issuance of e-NIT No. & Date uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt issued after the advertisement of e-NIT. The date on challan should be between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date.  
No:SENJ/DB/1817-24  
Dated:-11-11-2023  
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PWD (R&B) Circle North Jammu

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## Food flux

Amid the cooler headline inflation, food price pressures pose a risk

In October, India's consumer price inflation eased to a four-month low of 4.87%, while wholesale prices declined year-on-year for the seventh successive month by a minor 0.5%. Although only marginally lower than the 5% retail inflation in September, October's price rise pace – which is exactly the same as that in June – surely represents some relief for the third successive month from July's 15-month high pace of over 7.4%. Rural consumers still face a higher inflation of 5.1%, though. Core inflation, which excludes energy and food costs, has eased further and household services inflation dropped below 4% after several months above. The rise in prices of vegetables, which had surged over 37% in July, eased to 2.7% in October. However, the overall uptick in food costs for households stayed firm at 6.6%, virtually unchanged from September, as other essential edibles saw faster price hikes or remained at elevated levels. Some of these – like pulses (up 18.8%) and cereals (10.7%) – may be attributed to worries about the *kharif* output and uncertain *rabi* prospects as well as hikes in minimum support prices for crops. Pulses prices were up 19.4% at the wholesale level, signalling that more pass-through to retail prices is likely.

The Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India, which meets early December for its next review, will not be too swayed by the October tidings. As per its 5.6% average inflation projection for this quarter, down from 6.4% in the previous quarter, November and December may well see an average inflation of 5.95%, fractionally short of the central bank's upper tolerance threshold. Excluding edible oils, whose 13.7% year-on-year drop in prices played a key role in moderating the Consumer Price Index, would have meant a 5.6% rise in prices. Base effects from last year, when the Ukraine conflict had spiked edible oil prices, will start to dissipate in coming months. Similarly, while the 6.8% inflation recorded in October 2022 helped cool price rise last month, those base effects will surely ebb this month. Retail inflation had eased to 5.88% last November, with the food price index rising just 4.7%, from 7% in the previous month. The perceived retreat of inflation last month thus may only be fleeting. Households that seem to have adjusted to the continuous recent rise in living costs, by pulling back on discretionary spends and downsizing essential consumption as per industrial output trends, are likely to remain cautious rather than loosen their purse strings anytime soon. For an economy whose resilience relies on its domestic demand buffer against global shocks, reluctant or budget-cramped consumers are the biggest headwind for policymakers to strive to address.

## Life over death

Abolition of death penalty should form the core of any reform in justice system

It is disappointing that the parliamentary committee that examined the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the proposed criminal statute likely to replace the IPC, has not made a recommendation to abolish the death penalty. Instead, the standing committee on Home Affairs, despite submissions from experts and jurists on abolition, chose to make a bland recommendation "that the matter may be left for the government to consider". Its observation is limited to a remark that it "has understood that the reason for a passionate argument against the death penalty is that the judicial system can be fallible and to prevent an innocent person from being wrongly sentenced to death". However, domain experts had made some persuasive submissions before the panel: that instances of trial courts awarding death were on the rise, whereas statistical trends showed that the Supreme Court of India was leaning away from capital punishment; that social scientists had demonstrated it had no deterrent effect and that global opinion was in favour of its abolition. The Court awarded the death penalty to only seven people from 2007 to 2022, while all death sentences were either set aside or commuted to life in 2023, as they did not fall under the "rarest of rare cases".

Members who added notes of dissent to the report also highlighted the argument that capital punishment has been shown to be no deterrent; that imprisonment for the remainder of the convict's natural life will be a more rigorous punishment and provide scope for reform; and that most of those on death row came from underprivileged backgrounds. They have also made the point that the three Bills proposing a new body of criminal law are substantially the same as the existing IPC, Code of Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act. If at all, Parliament moves to enact the draft Bills, with changes suggested by the parliamentary panel, it will be in the fitness of things if it is used as an occasion to reconsider the need to retain the death penalty. The BNS has defined 'life imprisonment' as a term for the remainder of one's natural life, and this should be the default alternative to death sentences. The case for abolition will gain strength if the trend of seeking premature release of life convicts on political grounds is arrested and life terms without remission become more common. Remission should be a humanitarian act and never a source of political controversy. Removing capital punishment from the statute book and introducing a rational and universal remission policy will be a substantive reform in the justice system.

# As Gaza war rages, waiting for the other shoe to drop

The Israel-Hamas war is now in its sixth week. Like the proverbial landlord, West Asians and much of the world, are currently in suspended animation wondering when and where the "second shoe" will drop and how big a crater it would cause on regional and global geopolitics and the economy.

While West Asia is no stranger to such shoe falls, several aspects of the current scrimmage are familiar, although some are new. We need to dwell on them briefly before making any prognosis of the crisis. It has been just over 50 years since the 19-day Yom Kippur War of 1973, 41 years since Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 and 17 years since a 33-day inconclusive war between Hezbollah and Israel in 2006.

Israel was forced to leave Gaza in 2005, largely due to Palestinian resistance after a 38-year-long occupation. Since then, it has launched several military campaigns against Gaza: 2008 (lasting 22 days); 2012 (eight days); 2014 (50 days); and 2021 (11 days). Almost all Gaza conflicts involved Hamas firing rockets and the Israel Defense Forces making extensive air raids and missile attacks with occasional forays by armour-tipped infantry. Their ceasefires were always mediated by Egypt, the only Arab country that has a border with Gaza. Of late, Qatar has developed some proximity with Hamas and the Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ), a sister militancy in Gaza, through financial support and sheltering their leaders.

### Landing a blow on Israel

Counting the differences, this ongoing conflict has proven to be far bloodier and more destructive than all its predecessors. It has already lasted longer than any – except the conflict in 2014. It has been the first time that Israel has suffered a major intelligence and security failure since 1973, denting its fabled impenetrable security and omniscient intelligence set-up. It has resulted in Israel suffering the largest number of war deaths and hostage-taking in a single day. Unlike previous instances of Israel fighting a non-state actor, this time it has had to contemplate the real possibility of a combination of Hamas, the PIJ, Hezbollah and the Houthis with Iran-allied Shia groups harassing the American military presence in Iraq and Syria in tandem. Further, following the "Abraham Accords" and recent progress towards normalisation with Saudi Arabia, the regional geopolitics has shifted from an Arab-Israeli binary set-up to a more complex arrangement now. A prolonged and wider conflagration could risk a reversal of these hard-won diplomatic gains. In addition, it could draw in Iran which has become a more potent existential threat. At the same time, Israel's abject failures on October 7 have dimmed its role as the possible anchor of a



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regional anti-Iran security alliance. While the Israel-Hamas conflict has hogged attention, other distractions such as the Ukraine-Russia war, China-United States frictions and global economic fragility are lurking around.

### A re-enforcement of regional tenets

All these weighty new factors notwithstanding, the Israel-Hamas conflict has re-enforced some long-forgotten regional tenets. First, it has dramatically re-established the centrality of the "Palestine Cause", demonstrating that 35 years of U.S.-sponsored peace-making has failed to bury it. An Israeli military solution at huge humanitarian costs could delay and complicate the situation, but may not take it to status quo ante October 6 2023. Second, the conflict has demonstrated that despite all talk of West Asia's growing multipolarity, the U.S. remains the ultimate arbiter of the region's security and stability. Third, thanks to its hydrocarbon assets, trade choke points and the existence of potent non-state terror actors, West Asia's geo-economic importance remains undiminished. Even as West Asian events are often counter-intuitive, the Israel-Hamas war seems to be moving towards a denouement. Israel has gone for broke by besieging the major Gazan hospitals by alleging that Hamas uses them as human shields. It is a high-risk gambit: if the information is correct and the siege succeeds, Israel would achieve its twin objectives of breaking the back of Hamas and releasing the hostages. Otherwise, it would have to eat a humble pie at home and face a public relations disaster abroad.

For several reasons, Israel does not have time on its side after six weeks of tumult. According to an Israeli newspaper, even if war remains confined to Gaza, it could be financially ruinous, with cost estimates running to \$51 billion, or a tenth of the national annual GDP. A rough Indian equivalence could be a war costing \$350 billion. Israeli rulers are already on notice domestically, in abeyance due to the national crisis, for their various lapses. If the Gaza conflict goes awry or expands into a "forever" regional war, public support for the "national" government could easily evaporate. Israel's iron fist pursuit of its war aims may be popular at home, but the serious collateral damage is a hard sell abroad, particularly to Arabs and Muslims. In recent days, the tide of global sympathy has perceptibly shifted away from the Israelis' anguish after the October 7 outrage towards the suffering of the Gazan civilians. Most Arab regimes have no love lost for Hamas – long shunned by them as part of "political Islam" that could stir up the masses. However, by waging a protracted, no-holds-barred asymmetric conflict, Israel is pushing the Arab regimes towards Hamas, much

With the Israel-Hamas war dragging on, the world wonders how big a crater it would cause on global geopolitics and the economy

to their chagrin. Arab regimes' evident failure to prevent mass death and destruction in Gaza discredits them in the eyes of the putative Arab street. Thus, Israel's single-minded pursuit of a military solution has a huge accompanying cost for the moderate Arab regimes – and they do not like it. Even the U.S., Tel Aviv's ultimate protector, has gone beyond the usual "bad cop, good cop" routine and publicly distanced itself from Israel by calling for a "two-state" solution and "humanitarian pauses" in Gaza.

It is still too early to predict the eventual outcome of the conflict. In the worst-case scenario, it could be a Greek tragedy involving the killing of the hostages, conflict expanding to envelop first the non-state actors and, eventually, Iran. The World Bank predicted on October 31 that in the war's worst-case scenario, oil prices could rise to \$157 a barrel. Many Wall Street honchos foresee such eventuality upending the fragile post-COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery into a global recession. Further, Israel still seems to be thinking about its exit strategy, abjuring the adage, "The longer you stay, the more chaotic the exit". It appears to have no good options to extricate itself from the messy aftermath of October 7.

### For India

India needs to be on its toes watching the Israel-Hamas conflict, which could do considerable harm given our huge exposure to West Asia. Resultant high oil prices would be bad for our economy. The current account deficit and inflation would surge. If global growth is impacted, our exports and investment inflows may suffer. The geopolitical instability may pose a threat to the security of our nine million-strong diaspora in West Asia, and raise questions about the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor launched with great fanfare in September. With both Russia and Israel, India's two most important defence suppliers, being currently mired in wars, our defence procurement may face uncertainty. A protracted conflict may also fan international terrorism. On the positive side, high oil income may raise prospects for higher investment and remittances from the Gulf countries. India would need to be careful to leverage putative job openings in Israel, lest it put its citizens in harm's way. Besides, replacing Palestinian workers with Indians may further stereotype India. The conflict has already subjected Indian diplomacy to some inelegant shifts, although we quickly regained our traditional balance. All in all, New Delhi should keep its ear close to the ground and wait for the second shoe of the Gaza conflict to drop, hopefully, without any further seismic convulsions.

# The Nobel in economics as a need to course correct

As we celebrate Claudia Goldin's well-deserved Nobel Prize win in Economic Sciences, for her pioneering research on the gender dynamics of labour markets, we are left pondering over this question. Why did it take over half a century for the Nobel committee to recognise economic research addressing gender inequalities in the economy?

A simplistic response is to blame economics being a male-dominated discipline, which in turn sidelines questions of gender inequality and fails to give them due importance. While the under-representation of women in economics – and even here it is only the work of only a few women that is acknowledged – is cause for concern, one has to refrain from making a superficial assumption that women economists think differently than men or have different interests.

### Drop the androcentric biases

Feminist economists have argued for the need to revisit economic theory to overcome the limitations posed by its masculine nature. The critique of feminist economists is not to strip economics away from its objectivity but to push for an economic theory free of its androcentric biases. Here, androcentric bias refers to the economic theories that fail to question the hierarchy of gender relations, take it as a given, and form assumptions that facilitate the existing hierarchies. This is illustrated by the duality of an economic man in the assumptions of economic theory, one who is self-interested in the marketplace and an altruist in the household. It is as if his self-interest is seemingly set aside at the doorstep, allowing an 'altruistic' man to know what is best for everyone in the family.

In both instances, the economic man is a rational being, who is both all-knowing and detached from his emotional self. The prototypical individual is attached to a world of one's own without the ability to be empathetic to another. The power wielded by a patriarch to solely make decisions for other individuals is subsumed under an assumption of altruism, setting the foundation for most economic theories concerning the household.



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Much like an economic man, economics as a discipline has remained detached from the gendered experiences of individuals. A survey of economic models of the labour market tells us that these theories are not only ignorant of gendered experiences but also go on to invisibilise them. These models fail to account for the contributions of women as unpaid workers, who reproduce labour for the firms. If we were to examine upper-class households in India that employ domestic workers, we would find that these workers, trapped in 'hire and fire' verbal agreements, bear the brunt of extending their care work to multiple households, including their own. In such cases, these households effectively transform into a distinct labour market, that is complicated by the role of caste networks and migration. Economic theories perceive non-markets spaces such as the household similar to firms or markets. As such it fails to accommodate individuals occupying multiple social identities. For example, the well-being of domestic workers remains understudied in economics.

Julie Nelson and other feminist economists have documented how social meanings associated with gender influence the building blocks of economic theory. While it is reasonable to associate masculine bias with the prominence of male economists, feminist economists argue that the direction of causality runs opposite. That is, there is something well within the nature of economics as a discipline that excludes individuals with lived experiences that fail to fit into its theories. It is partly the failure of economics to correct for its theoretical limitations that exclude non-male economists.

### Effect of biases

Biases inherent in economic theory can affect even the most sophisticated statistical methods. Empirical results may either reflect unrealistic assumptions of economic theory or remain unexplained by them. Even when most credible methodologies are employed, it is economic theory that provides the framework for interpreting empirical findings. The primacy of economic rationality, in theory, overlooks social

mechanisms that may drive certain empirical findings.

Consider the example of women's employment and its relation to spousal violence. Economic theories regarding households suggest a negative correlation, as a wife's employment, especially when she earns more, means more income for the household. It is assumed to put the husband in a better position than without the wife's income, thus reducing the occurrence of spousal violence. However, evidence from recent studies in India directly contradicts this theory. These studies show that employed women, particularly those earning more than their husbands, are at a higher risk of experiencing spousal violence. In sociology literature, this phenomenon is known as the presence of "male backlash", wherein the challenge posed to traditional gender roles by women's employment is sometimes reasserted by husbands through the use of violence.

### Rethink the discipline

The masculinity of economics as a discipline is further strengthened by the importance given to causal methods of inference over other methods of empirical analysis. Though the former can offer better precision in identifying specific effects, relying solely on empirical data without considering the social context can lead to a misinterpretation of results. In particular, unique social dynamics tied to caste and gender norms often go unnoticed due to the lack of data to empirically investigate them. To overcome these limitations, economists can adopt a mixed methods approach, by finding a balance between different ways of doing research and giving due attention to findings of other disciplines.

What is ahead for economists and economics is to contextualise economic theory to make it truly reflective of reality. The tools of objectivity in economics only go so far as they can account for the existing lived realities of individuals in society. Taking Professor Goldin's win as a move in the right direction, economics needs to pave the path for accommodation, be it among economists, their method, and, most importantly, in economic theories.

Recognition of Claudia Goldin's work points to the need for accommodation in economics and economic theories

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### In deflation zone

Deflation (Page 1, November 15) is more dangerous than inflation as the first discourages private business investment, leading to fall in employment, income and output in the economy. That, in October, India's

Wholesale Price Index reflected an inflation of -0.52% is indeed a wake-up call for economic policymakers. Having said that, it must be remembered that the Reserve Bank of India has been following dear money policy (say, raising the repo

rate to 6.5%, for instance) for quite some time now, to control, perhaps, retail inflation. India is a unique country in many respects. **S. Ramakrishnasayee,** Chennai

**Fragile Himalayas** 'Development' in the

Himalayas needs to be reviewed as there seem to be a number of accidents, most related to infrastructure, occurring in the region, the latest being the collapse of an under-construction tunnel in Uttarakhand (Inside pages, November 15).

The Himalayan region is sensitive. During the winter season, many temples in the region close, also giving the hills a chance to recover. But an all-weather road has the potential to upset this balance. Residents here understand the importance of the

environment and their voice needs to be heard. **Sanjay Daga,** Hatod, Indore, Madhya Pradesh



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## A grave error in the law

In a long-awaited judgment in *Supriyo*, on October 17, the Supreme Court held that same-sex couples do not have the right to marry under the Special Marriage Act. In doing so, the court not only laid down a fundamentally wrong interpretation of the Constitution but also overlooked its own precedents.

### The right to equality

The petitioner's argument on right to equality was simply this. Article 14 guarantees equality and equal protection of the law and Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds including sex. The court has held in *Navtej* (2018) while decriminalising homosexuality that 'sex' under Article 15 takes in 'sexual orientation'. When the state refuses to recognise marriages of homosexual couples, solely on this ground, it violates the constitutional guarantee of non-discrimination.

The majority judgment justifies the exclusion of the Special Marriage Act by saying that the object of the statute was not to discriminate against same-sex persons. Further, it is stated that absence of a law (to regulate same-sex marriages) does not amount to discrimination.

Both these arguments are misplaced. The doctrine of indirect discrimination, which simply means that the discriminator cannot escape the constitutional obligation by relying on the intent or object, has been now well established in Indian jurisprudence. Instead, the court must look at the impact of the law on a particular group (*Col. Nitisha v. Union of India*, 2021). Also, to say that mere absence of a law is not sufficient to claim discrimination misconceives the core of the issue raised by the petitioners. The claim is not that there is a right for the petitioners to have a law enacted by the state in the abstract. The argument is that the state has chosen to refuse to recognise one set of marriages on the ground of sexual



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In not finding room for same-sex marriages in the Special Marriage Act, the Supreme Court misinterpreted the Constitution and failed to look at its own precedents

orientation alone – and this is not pointedly met by the Bench.

### Separation of powers

The minority judgment, in fact, does not address the issue at all by holding that "this Court cannot either strike down the constitutional validity of SMA or read words into the SMA because of its institutional limitations". This simply puts the cart before the horse. It is precisely the institutional purpose of a constitutional court to examine whether the legislation in question is constitutional. Now to say that it will refuse to undertake this exercise because the exercise is complicated runs counter to the established system of constitutional adjudication. This position of law, fortunately not accepted by the majority, is dangerous since this might simply mean the Parliament can avoid constitutional scrutiny by drafting laws in a way that requires the court to undertake a complex interpretive exercise.

This is, of course, not to say that the court must exceed its institutional role of that of an adjudicator. However, to conceive the issue of equal rights associated with marriage as entirely that of policy is problematic.

It is also curious to have this observation come from a court that has, in the past, issued guidelines and, in fact, resorted to judicial legislation. In *Visakha v. State of Rajasthan* (1997), the court, in the absence of a law, laid down detailed guidelines for how institutions must deal with complaints of sexual harassment. In *NALSA* (2014), the court directed recognition of the rights of 'third gender persons' and issued elaborate directions for their protection. Therefore, to stop short of constitutional examination does not fit well in our constitutional history.

Moreover, reading the Special Marriage Act so as to take in marriages of queer persons did not require the court to legislate. A creative interpretation of the law

would have allowed the court to locate the right of marriage in the law. Various interpretive techniques and solutions were suggested to the court which simply went overlooked.

### A mediating court

Constitutional courts are significant in any democracy for they hold the executive and the legislature accountable. Their chief role is not to make suggestions to Parliament but to adjudicate instances of rights violations. In one of the directions of the judgment, the court records the submission by the Union government that a committee be chaired by the Cabinet Secretary to decide the entitlements of queer persons. This delegation is where the court simply abdicates its role. When a complaint of fundamental rights violation is brought before the judiciary, referring the question back to the alleged discriminator is simply irrational. It turns a question of rights into one of benevolence.

In *Baker v. Nelson* (1971), the United States Supreme Court, while declining to hold that same-sex marriage is protected under the Constitution, said: "This historic institution manifestly is more deeply founded than the asserted contemporary concept of marriage and societal interests for which petitioners contend. The due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment is not a charter for restructuring it by judicial legislation." Then, 44 years later, the court remedied the mistake in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015), where it repelled the argument and said: "It is of no moment whether advocates of same-sex marriage now enjoy or lack momentum in the democratic process. The issue before the Court here is the legal question whether the Constitution protects the right of same-sex couples to marry." This is precisely what our Supreme Court got categorically wrong in *Supriyo*. Now, India needs to desperately wait for its *Obergefell* moment.

## Tamil Nadu prepares for a third front

Once again, there is room for an alliance beyond the Dravidian majors

### STATE OF PLAY

**T. Ramakrishnan**  
ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

Tamil Nadu, a State known for its duopoly in politics, seems to be heading towards hosting a third front in the Lok Sabha election, slated for April-May next year. This seems more likely with the AIADMK walking out of its four-year-old alliance with the BJP.

In the past 45 and odd years, there were non-DMK, non-AIADMK formations in the fray whose performance had, invariably, turned out to be a damp squib. Only once – in 2014 – a coalition independent of the two Dravidian majors could bag two Lok Sabha seats out of 38 with a vote share of 18.6%. Yet, with the BJP's State president K. Annamalai making a serious attempt to acquire a strong electoral presence for his party in Tamil Nadu, the situation has become more curious this time than in the past.

As of now, allies of the DMK such as the Congress, two Left parties, Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and Manithaneyya Makkal Katchi (MMK) have reiterated their support to the ruling party. What is still not known is the decision of other parties, including Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar), Puthiya Tamilagam, New Justice Party and Tamizhaga Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (TMMK), all of which had faced the 2019 Lok Sabha poll or the 2021 Assembly election or both in the company of the AIADMK. Though these smaller parties know they stand better chance



of victory if they partner with the AIADMK, they are also not oblivious to the possibility of the BJP forming a government in New Delhi yet again, as a result of which they are unwilling to make any definitive move at this juncture.

One probability is the breakaway group of the AIADMK, led by former coordinator O. Panneerselvam, and its present ally, Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) of T.T.V. Dhinakaran, becoming allies of the BJP. So far, the two have not openly associated themselves with the national party. It is expected in certain political quarters that the AIADMK's former interim general secretary, V.K. Sasikala would also lend her support to the formation that may consist of the BJP, Mr. Panneerselvam's camp and the AMMK.

One common feature discernible among the camps of Mr. Panneerselvam, Mr. Dhinakaran and Ms. Sasikala is that no harsh words are expressed openly about the BJP at the Centre or its policies. The same quality can be attributed even now to the AIADMK and its general secretary, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, but Mr. Panneerselvam does not want to lose an opportunity in demonstrating his affinity towards Mr. Modi and Union Minister Amit Shah, which could be seen in his message of greetings to

them for Deepavali. For now, the former coordinator of the AIADMK, who held the post of Chief Minister in three spells during 2001-2017, is involved in a key legal battle in the Madras High Court where he has challenged a single judge's order of restraining him from using the party flag, symbol and letterhead.

The presence of a third front in the fray will always be viewed by principal players only as a spoiler. Under the given circumstances wherein the DMK-led front seems to be better placed than others, the AIADMK can be at the receiving end, thanks to such a front. However, such a possibility is being discounted both by the principal Opposition party and admirers of the BJP. As far as the AIADMK is concerned, the factor of anti-incumbency, which is brewing against the DMK regime in the State, is expected to give it a fillip without causing any split in the anti-DMK votes. As for the national party, friendly poll pundits are forecasting a "tremendous improvement" in its showing this time.

One more factor that cannot be glossed over is the role that Naam Tamilar Katchi, a Tamil nationalist party headed by film director-turned-politician, Seeman, can play. In the last Assembly election, the party had secured a vote share of about 6.6%, even though it did not win a single seat. Mr. Seeman, who recently admitted that he was being approached by the AIADMK, has been saying time and again that he will go it alone. Also, the entry of another film personality, Vijay, to politics, if materialised, can alter the present calculations of established players.

In the end, a lack of clarity continues to prevail over the politics of Tamil Nadu.

## Rajasthan lags behind in women empowerment

While the election-bound State has recorded poor performance in economic indicators, it has made significant progress in some social measures

### DATA POINT

**Vignesh Radhakrishnan**  
**Rebecca Rose Varghese**  
CHENNAI

The Rajasthan Assembly elections are scheduled to take place on November 25. A comparison of the economic, social, and environmental indicators of the poll-bound State with the indicators of other States shows that Rajasthan improved its rankings significantly between 2015-16 and 2019-21 in some social measures, while continuing to lag behind in many others.

**Table 1** lists Rajasthan's rank in social indicators and its actual score in an indicator in 2019-21, 2015-16, and 2005-06. It also shows the change in rank in 2019-21 from 2015-16. The performance of the top three States in the indicator are also given for comparison. For instance, Rajasthan had 16.8% wasted children (low weight-for-height) in 2019-21, and ranked 13 out of 30 States. The three best-performing States that year were Punjab (10.6%), Haryana (11.5%), and Uttarakhand (13.2%). In this indicator, Rajasthan's ranking improved by eleven spots in 2019-21 from 2015-16, the year when the State was placed 24th out of the 30 States.

Across some social indicators, there has been notable improvement in rankings in the past few years. For instance, the share of households with any member covered under a health insurance/financing scheme improved from 18.7% in 2015-16 to 87.8% in 2019-21, pole-vaulting into the first rank from the 18th rank in the period. Rajasthan's Infant Mortality rate rankings improved from 24th to 17th out of 30 States and its ranking in share of stunted children improved from 25th to 16th in the period.

However, it still lags behind in many other measures such as the share of the female population

aged 6 years and above who ever attended school is only 63.5% – ranked 28th of 30 States. And over 25% of women aged 20-24 years were married before 18 years of age – ranked 24th of the 40 States.

A comparison with data from 2005-06 shows that the State's rankings in women empowerment indicators have hardly improved since. In educating girl children, the State was ranked among the bottom two in all three periods (2015-16 and 2019-21 as well). Given the progress in some social indicators, the State's rankings in Human Development Index (HDI) improved by 7 spots from 27th to 20th between 1990 and 2021 as shown in **Table 2**.

Rajasthan's economic performance is middling. Its ranking improved slightly by two spots – 20th to 18th – between 1993-94 and 2021-22 as shown in **Table 3**. Over 40% of the population in the State belongs to the lowest two wealth quintiles (**Table 4**).

Rajasthan's manufacturing sector employed around only 10% of the State's workforce and the sector's share in total Gross Value Added was only about 7.5%. The State ranks at the bottom half of the table in both measures (**Table 5**).

In educational indicators, the State shows mixed progress. In two measures – average annual dropout rate at secondary level (Class 9-10) and Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher secondary (Class 11-12) – the State ranked in the top half. While in other two measures – Adjusted Net Enrolment Ratio in elementary education (Class 1-8) and Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education (18-23 years) – they featured in the bottom half of the rankings as shown in **Table 6**.

The State also showed mixed progress in environment-related indicators (**Table 7**). The State generated a relatively lower amount of plastic waste and featured at the top half of the State lists, while generating a relatively higher amount of hazardous waste ranking at the bottom half.

## Rajasthan's report card

The data for the charts were sourced from the National Family Health Surveys, Global Data Lab and NITI Aayog. In indicators that measure women empowerment, the State still lags behind

Table 1	2019-21				2015-16		2005-06		
	Indicator	Value	Rajasthan's rank	Top major States	Change from 2015-16	Value	Rajasthan's rank	Value	Rajasthan's rank
	Women who ever attended school (%)	63.5	28 of 30	Kerala: 95.5; Himachal: 81; T.N.: 80.4	1	57.2	29 of 30	43.9	27 of 28
	Women aged 20-24 years married before 18 years of age (%)	25.4	24 of 30	Himachal: 5.4; Kerala: 6.3; Punjab: 8.7	3	35.4	27 of 30	65.2	28 of 28
	Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	30.3	17 of 30	Kerala: 4.4; Tamil Nadu: 18.6; West Bengal: 22	7	41.3	24 of 30	65	23 of 28
	Stunted children % (low height-for-age)	31.8	16 of 30	Kerala: 23.4; Punjab: 24.5; Tamil Nadu: 25	9	39.1	25 of 30	43.7	15 of 28
	Wasted children % (low weight-for-height)	16.8	13 of 30	Punjab: 10.6; Haryana: 11.5; Uttarakhand: 13.2	11	23	24 of 30	20.4	22 of 28
	Underweight children % (low weight-for-age)	27.6	17 of 30	Punjab: 16.9; Kerala: 19.7; Uttarakhand: 21	7	36.7	24 of 30	39.9	20 of 28
	Households with any member having a health insurance (%)	87.8	1 of 30	Rajasthan: 87.8; Chhattisgarh: 71.4; Andhra: 70.2	17	18.7	18 of 30	4.5	18 of 28
	Population that use an improved sanitation facility (%)	71.1	22 of 30	Kerala: 98.7; Punjab: 86.6; Haryana: 85	2	46.1	24 of 30	-	-

Table 2   HDI			Table 3   Per capita NSDP (₹)			
Value	Rajasthan's rank	Top major States	Value	Rajasthan's rank	Value	Rajasthan's rank
0.638	20 of 30	Kerala, Himachal, Punjab	0.401	27 of 30	1,35,962	18 of 27
					Karnataka, Haryana, Gujarat	6,182
						20 of 27

Table 4   % population in the lowest two wealth quintiles (2020)			Table 6   Education-related indicators			
Value	Rajasthan's rank	Top major States	Indicator (2020)	Value	Rajasthan's rank	Top major States
41.7	18 of 30	Kerala, Punjab	ANER* in elementary education (Class 1-8)	83.3	23 of 30	Karnataka, Himachal, Uttarakhand
			Average annual dropout rate at secondary level (Class 9-10)	12.7	8 of 30	Himachal, Kerala, Odisha
			GER* in higher secondary (Class 11-12)	56.5	11 of 30	Himachal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu
			GER* in higher education (18-23 years)	23	20 of 30	T.N., Himachal, Uttarakhand

Table 5   Indicators related to manufacturing			
Indicator (2020)	Value	Rajasthan's rank	Top major States
Manufacturing GVA* as a % of total	10.4	19 of 30	Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh
Manufacturing employment as a % of total	7.5	21 of 30	Gujarat, Punjab, Tamil Nadu

GVA\*: Gross Value Added, ANER\*: Adjusted Net Enrolment Ratio, GER\*: Gross Enrolment Ratio  
vignesh.r@thehindu.co.in  
rebecca.varghese@thehindu.co.in

Table 7   Environment-related indicators			
Indicator	Value	Rajasthan's rank	Top major States
Average hazardous waste generated (per 1,000 population in metric tonnes in 2018)	8.15	19 of 28	Bihar, U.P.
Average plastic waste generated (per 1,000 population in tonnes, 2018-19)	1.37	13 of 30	Chhattisgarh, Himachal

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

The **Hindu**

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 16, 1973

## India Objects to Bhutto's Speeches

New Delhi, Nov. 15: The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh, told the Lok Sabha that the recent speeches of Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Bhutto, during his visit to occupied Kashmir were not in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla agreement. However, he did not see how these speeches could interfere with the repatriation now in progress under the Delhi agreement. So long as they were not in keeping with the Simla agreement, he would urge members to ignore them. He said India had asked Mr. Bhutto to desist from making such speeches.

Answering questions, the Minister said the pace of repatriation had somewhat slowed down because of delays in Pakistan clearing its nationals in Bangladesh.

### Some POWs Wanted to Stay Back

A few of the 13,000 odd Pakistan POWs repatriated so far were not inclined to return to their country, the Lok Sabha was informed to-day in a written answer. This revealing information was given by the Defence Minister, Mr. Jagjivan ram, in reply to Mr. Shankar Dayal Singh and Mr. Hukamchand Kachwai, while reviewing the progress of repatriation under the Delhi Agreement.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 16, 1923

## Woes of Indians.

Mombasa, Nov. 15: A drastic immigration bill will be introduced by the end of December. The Governor, adjourning the Council stated both the Legislative Council Amendment Bill and Immigration and Employment Bill will jointly be introduced. The full terms of the Immigration Bill is being sent to the Colonial Office for discussion with the India Office. The draft bill is expected shortly. The Defence Force Bill has been sent to the Select Committee. Therein service outside the Colony is also included. The Indian member protested against the non-inclusion of Indians. Mr. Varma asked in the Council to remove the segregation bar from railway carriage, hospitals etc. but the Colonial Secretary replied in the negative. Under the guise of Law and Order, Indians are severely penalised, making the position acute daily. Economic boycott is gradually increasing.



# Text & Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

**The number of ODI hundreds for Virat Kohli**

**50** Virat Kohli became the first to score 50 ODI hundreds. Before the match against New Zealand in the World Cup semi-finals, Kohli was on par with Sachin Tendulkar with 49 hundreds. AGENCIES

**Increase in India's imports from Russia between April and Oct.**

**64** in percentage. India's imports from Russia rose to \$36.27 billion from April to October this fiscal on higher shipments of crude oil and fertilizer. The imports were \$22.13 billion in the year-ago period. PTI

**Share of Railway passengers travelling in non-AC classes**

**95.3** in percentage. Of the 390.2 crore railway passengers who travelled through railways between April to October, only 4.7% travelled in AC coaches. PTI

**Healthy productive land affected by sand and dust storms**

**4.2** in million square kilometres. This is equivalent to the combined size of all five ex-Soviet Central Asian countries. The UN said that sand and dust storms are increasing dramatically. AFP

**Manchester City's revenues for last season**

**890** in \$ million. The English football club also announced record profits of \$100 million — an increase from the previous year's \$52 million. AP  
COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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# The price of persistent federal frictions

In recent years, the frequency and intensity of disputes between the Union government and the States have increased. The economic costs of such abrasions arising out of the homogenisation of social sector policies, functioning of regulatory institutions and extended powers of central agencies are long lasting

## ECONOMIC NOTES

M. Suresh Babu

Disputes between the Centre and States regarding economic policies have a long history in India. However, in recent years the frequency and intensity of such disputes have increased and assumed the character of 'persistent frictions' in the federal system.

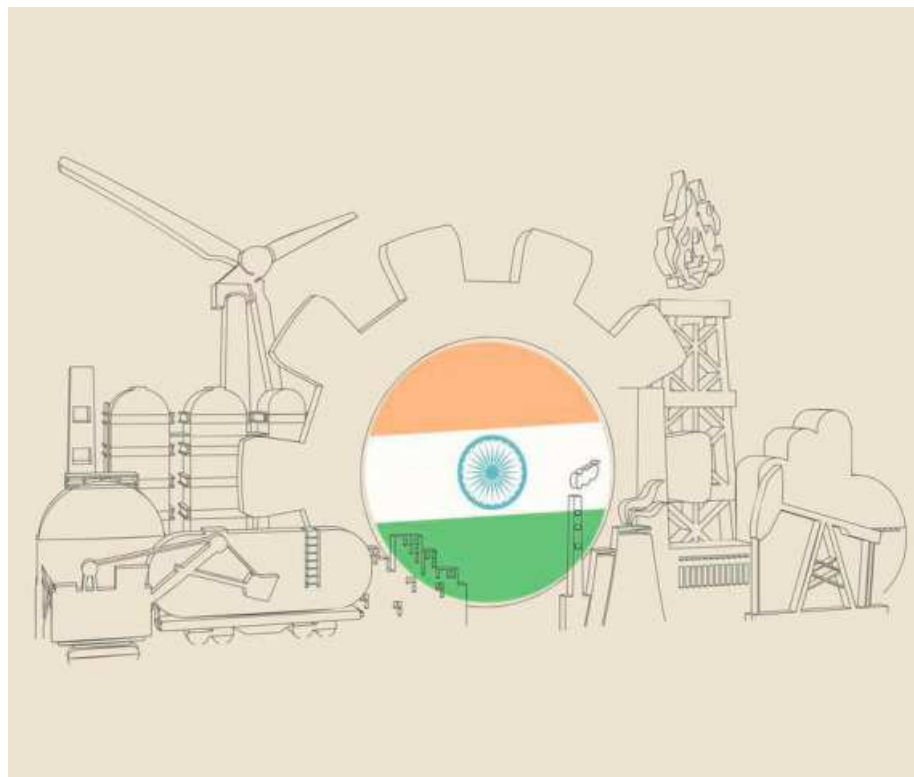
### The impact on the economy

The current context of economic relations between the Centre and States is very different from the 1980s and 1990s. Continuing economic reforms since 1991 has led to the relaxation of many controls on investments, giving some room to States, but the autonomy regarding public expenditure policies is not absolute as State governments depend on the Centre for their revenue receipts. Several States have recently pushed back as a result of which the 'give and take' equation between the Centre and the States has given way to a more hardened stand by both, leaving little room to negotiate. The increasingly fractious Centre-State ties have chipped away at the edifice of cooperative federalism.

Apart from issues around resource sharing, there are other areas that have emerged as sites of conflict. These include the homogenisation of social sector policies, functioning of regulatory institutions and the powers of central agencies. Ideally bulk of the policies in these spheres should be at the discretion of States, with an apex central body overseeing the process of resource allocation. However, the apex bodies have often attempted to increase their influence and push States in directions that are amenable to the Centre.

### When the Centre has the upper hand

There are three important economic consequences of these incursions. First, the spread of the Centre's span of activities leads to a situation where the



ISTOCKPHOTO

Centre starts crowding out the States in terms of investments. An interesting case is that of infrastructure development in recent years. The Centre launched the PM Gati Shakti, a digital platform, to incorporate schemes of various Ministries and State governments to achieve integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects. All States and UTs had to prepare and operationalise a State master plan in line with the national master plan for seamless implementation. However, the flexibility of States in formulating their master plan is curtailed by the centralisation of planning and implementation of the national master plan. This leads to underinvestment by States as is evident from the fact that the combined capital expenditure (capex) of the 16 large States, which account for 80% of the country's gross domestic product, on roads and bridges fell to 0.58% of the

gross state domestic product. At the same time in absolute terms, the centre's capex on roads increased at a compound annual growth rate of 32.3% since 2015-16, whereas the growth in States has just been 11.2%. Furthermore, spending has become more concentrated within the three largest States of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat, accounting for nearly half of the expenditure by 16 States between 2021-22 and 2023-24. Data for 25 States shows that a total of ₹7.49 lakh crore was budgeted for by these States but they spent only ₹5.71 lakh crore which is 76.2% of the total. Investment by these States is important in terms of their impact on regional economies as they induce more local level linkages while national infrastructure projects forge more linkages with the global economy.

The second outcome has been a peculiar form of fiscal competition between the Centre and States. In a

federal system, fiscal competition manifests between different regions/States. However, in a scenario of frictions with the Centre, State governments will engage in competition with other States and with the Centre. Welfare provisioning is one such area. The Centre with enhanced fiscal space has more spending power, while States' revenues, especially non-tax revenues, remain flat as possibilities of raising non-taxes are confined to a smaller sphere due to the direct provisioning of many utilities and services by the Centre.

The third important outcome is the inefficiencies associated with 'parallel policies'. Federal abrasions lead to either the Centre or the States duplicating the other's policies. The case of pension reforms is one such example of parallel policies developed by the States. The National Pension System (NPS) changed the architecture of the pension system in India from a defined benefit scheme to a defined contribution scheme. The scheme, mandatory for all central government employees, enlarged its scope and coverage with most of the States joining at different points of time. Though States joined the NPS initially, some States have started to roll back to the old pension scheme as the fiscal cost of reverting would be visible only after 2034 when most of the newly joined employees retire. The emergence of such parallel schemes is mainly due to the trust deficit prevailing in the federal system, the fiscal costs of which have long run consequences on the economy.

### Inevitable interdependence

For securing the implementation of many of its laws and policies, the Centre depends on the States, particularly in the concurrent spheres. The States also entrust their executive functions, with the consent of the Centre, to the government or agencies of the Centre (Article 258A). Such interdependence is inevitable, especially in a large, diverse, developing society and needs to be preserved. *The writer is professor of economics at IIT Madras. Views expressed are personal.*

## THE GIST

Continuing economic reforms since 1991 has led to the relaxation of many controls on investments, giving some room to States, but the autonomy regarding public expenditure policies is not absolute as State governments depend on the Centre for their revenue receipts.

The spread of the Centre's span of activities leads to a situation where the Centre starts crowding out the States in terms of investments.

Additionally, federal abrasions lead to either the Centre or the States duplicating the other's policies. The case of pension reforms is one such example of parallel policies developed by the States.

# Why are IAS coaching centres being probed by the CCPA?

Which are the coaching institutes under scrutiny by the Central Consumer Protection Authority?

Saptaparno Ghosh

### The story so far:

On October 23, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) said that it was probing 20 IAS coaching institutes for making misleading claims in their advertisements and for unfair trade practices. Four of the 20 institutions have been slapped with a penalty of ₹1 lakh.

### What has the CCPA observed?

Elaborating on the broader mechanism at play, Chief Commissioner at CCPA Nidhi Khare told *DD News* that every time the results of any competitive exam, including the UPSC Civil Services, are announced, coaching institutes would go on an advertising spree. Names and pictures of the top rankers are used in these ads to indicate their enrolment at the institute. However, they do not disclose the nature of the enrolment, that is, the course they might have pursued in

the institute. UPSC CSE exams are conducted at three stages — prelims, mains and interview. CCPA has observed that most rank holders showcased in the advertisements only took mock interviews from these institutes. In fact, coaching institutes have been found to provide mock interviews free of cost, since it serves their own interests. This information is not disclosed in the advertisements, which ideally must include the course they enrolled for. Thus, it would qualify as deliberate concealment of important information and can be categorised as a 'misleading advertisement' under Section 2(28) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

### What is the ecosystem like?

UPSC recommended a total of 933 candidates post its CSE examinations in 2022. However, as observed by the CCPA, the total selections claimed by the institutes together being probed exceeded the recommendations — the cumulative

count was over 3,500. This could also be because of multiple enrolments among students. At present, four institutes have been fined — Chahal Academy, IQRA IAS, Rau's IAS Study Circle and IAS Baba. While IAS Baba has received a stay on the notice from the Karnataka High Court, Rau's IAS has appealed against the order in the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. Other coaching institutes currently being probed include Vajirao and Reddy Institute, KSG-Khan Study Group IAS, Apti Plus, Analog IAS, Shankar IAS, BYJU'S IAS, Unacademy, Driшти IAS, Sriram's IAS, NEXT IAS, Yojana IAS, Plutus IAS, ALS IAS, Dhiшти IAS and Vision IAS, among others.

During the probe, the institutes were given the opportunity to make their submissions against the allegations of exaggerated claims. Their submissions reveal some of the same concerns raised by the CCPA. For example, Khan Study Group claimed that 682 of the 933 selected belonged to their institute.

However, their submission indicated that 673 students took only mock interviews. Vajirao and Reddy also professed about 617 selections — all of whom took the interview guidance programme.

### What do we know about the overall coaching industry?

Manisha Kapoor, CEO and Secretary General at the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) told *The Hindu* that education has emerged as "one of the most violative sectors in advertising" in recent years. "Most violations would be in the areas of leadership claims, placement to best colleges, success assurances etc. While there is fierce pressure in education, misleading ads in the category often perpetuate the problem and end up targeting vulnerable students and parents," she says.

According to Pune-based consultancy Infinium Global Research LLP, the coaching class market in India is expected to reach about ₹1.79 lakh crore by 2030 and grow at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate of 14.07% over a forecast period of 2023-30. Categorising the market, it said that higher education holds the largest market share — of about 32.75% in 2022. With migration also forming a part of the landscape, the coaching centre system is further complimented by the demand for services such as rented accommodation and local tiffin services among other things.

*With inputs from Jigeesha A.M.*

## THE GIST

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BIBLIOGRAPHY



The land of books: The decorated entrance of the 2018 Kerala Literature festival at Kozhikode beach. RAMESHKURUP.S

# Edinburgh to Kozhikode: how Kerala got onto UNESCO’s City of Literature list

Home to some of India’s best-known writers, including M.T. Vasudevan Nair, Vaikom Muhammad Basheer and S.K. Pottekkatt, the city also has a vibrant theatre tradition, several publishing houses, many libraries and bookshops, and hosts the popular Kerala Literature Festival

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Over four days in the coming month of January, the Kozhikode beach will witness a sea of people braving the blazing sun to listen to some great minds, from across the country and overseas, speaking mostly on literature.

The seventh edition of the Kerala Literature Festival (KLF) should attract hundreds of thousands of book lovers, as in previous years. It will be the first since UNESCO named Kozhikode a City of Literature, a fortnight ago.

The massive attendance for the KLF – there was a five lakh footfall at the last edition, according to the organisers – has, in fact, become the most visible symbol of Kozhikode’s love for literature. UNESCO’s recognition is richly deserved by this historic city.

Kozhikode is India’s first City of Literature. It was in 2004 that UNESCO launched the Creative Cities Network to promote cooperation among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. Edinburgh was the first City of Literature.

**Celebrating creativity**

Besides literature, the UN agency also recognises cities for their association with other creative fields like film, crafts, folk arts and design. This year, Gwalior has been named a City of Music, an honour that was achieved before by two other Indian cities, Varanasi (2015) and Chennai

(2017). A city has to submit a bid explaining why it deserves to be considered.

The Kozhikode Corporation acted, in all seriousness, on a suggestion by the Kerala Institute of Local Administration. A study was conducted by the students of Architecture and Planning at the National Institute of Technology, Calicut (the anglicised name of Kozhikode).

A study by a research scholar from Prague – the Czech city that got UNESCO’s tag in 2014 – also helped. As did the presence of 500-odd libraries, several publishing houses as well as literature festivals like the KLF.

The city’s love affair with letters becomes evident during the KLF. You will find large gatherings listening attentively to writers talking about their work or sharing their views on multiple topics during the hundreds of lively sessions over four days of the festival, the first edition of which was held in 2016.

You will also find the authors being treated like stars, with fans requesting them to pose for selfies or sign autographs, often on the books they penned. The KLF may have given Kozhikode a boost to its literary scene and the recognition from UNESCO may be an icing on the cake, but the city has always loved books and the men and women who write them.

**Master storytellers**

Kozhikode is home to one of the greatest writers of our time, M.T. Vasudevan Nair.

It was also home to another much loved legendary author, Vaikom Muhammad Basheer. S.K. Pottekkatt, yet another master storyteller, also lived in this city.

Kozhikode also has a vibrant theatre tradition, best represented by the likes of K.T. Muhammed and Thikkodiyam. It has also produced one of Malayalam cinema’s finest scriptwriters, Ranjith.

There have always been romantic notions about Kozhikode and its literature. Writer Anees Salim once ran away from home to Kozhikode so that he could become a disciple of Basheer. M.T.’s postal address is among the most famous ones in the city.

The world may know M.T. for his novels such as *Randamoozham*, *Asuravithu* and *Manju*, short stories like *Sherlock*, *Vanaprastham* and *Kazhcha*, and screenplays like *Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha*, *Amrutham Gamaya* and *Panchagni*, but he has also been an exceptional editor of a literary magazine and has nurtured several new writers. That magazine, *Mathrubhumi Weekly*, is printed from Kozhikode.

The Kozhikode station of All India Radio has contributed significantly to the city’s culture. The station boasted talents such as poet and lyricist P. Bhaskaran, composer K. Raghavan, author Uroob, poets Akkitham and N.N. Kakkad and Thikkodiyam.

Until UNESCO’s recognition became national news, it wasn’t literature, though, that people usually associated Kozhikode with. The city has been

celebrated more for its love of music, football and food. Kozhikode has always offered a wide array of food, catering to different tastes. Some of its eateries are known well beyond the borders of Kerala.

The venue of the KLF, the Kozhikode beach, has also played host to some of the biggest singers of the country. Excellent crowds would turn up at the Town Hall or the Tagore Centenary Hall for shows featuring lesser-known or even unknown singers.

Kozhikode has produced some of India’s finest footballers like Olympian Rahman and hosted several major tournaments in front of full houses. It also boasts of some of the most passionate fans of the beautiful game you would ever come across.

**Thriving publishing houses**

UNESCO’s approval of Kozhikode should be seen from a wider perspective. It isn’t the only city in Kerala that celebrates the written word. You would find serious readers across the State – in Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur or Kottayam (the first town to become a 100% literate town in India in 1989, and the publishing capital of Kerala).

Even in this era of e-books and mobile phones, publishing thrives in Kerala. More and more books from Malayalam are getting translated. And the Malayali has welcomed warmly translations from all languages.

Marquez was once called the greatest novelist in Malayalam.

THE DAILY QUIZ

As the business end of the Cricket World Cup begins, a quiz on the event over the years

N. Soorvaprakash

**QUESTION 1**

Two sets of three brothers each played a World Cup match together – one set in the 1975 World Cup and the other in 2003. Name them.

**QUESTION 2**

There are four players in the current edition of the World Cup whose fathers also represented teams in earlier editions. Name the current and former players.

**QUESTION 3**

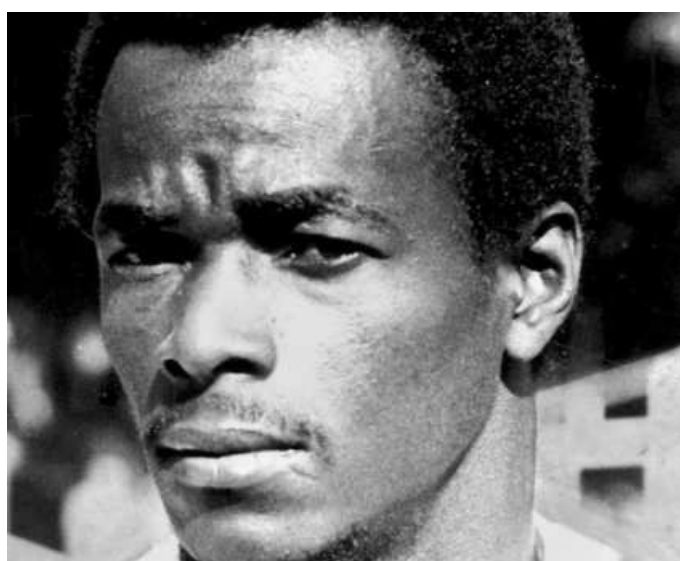
Name the two bowlers who are the only ones to have bowled the last ball of one edition of a World Cup and followed up by bowling the first ball in the next edition.

**QUESTION 4**

Who is the only Indian to have officiated as an “on-field” umpire in the final of a World Cup?

**QUESTION 5**

There has been only one century partnership registered for the 9th wicket in the history of the World Cup. Who were the two batsmen involved in it?



**Visual question:**

Identify this bowler who was the first to register a record that was later matched by only four other bowlers – Glenn McGrath (in 2003), Andy Bichel (in 2003), Tim Southee (in 2015) and Mohammed Shami (2023).

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

1. It was on this date that the first children’s day was observed. It was observed as this. **Ans: November 5, 1948; it was observed as Flower Day.**
  2. Jawaharlal Nehru’s birthday was first celebrated as Children’s Day in this year. This person recommended it. **Ans: 1954; V.M. Kulkarni**
  3. Children’s Day was proposed to be celebrated inspired by this event in the U.K. **Ans: Inspired by the Flag Day observed in England on the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II to raise money for “Save the Child Fund”. Children’s Day was proposed to be observed to collect funds for NGOs working for child welfare**
  4. This was a nodal organisation that produced children’s films and various TV programs. **Ans: Children’s Film Society India**
  5. World Children’s Day is celebrated on this date. **Ans: November 20; to commemorate the Declaration of the Rights of the Child by the UN General Assembly on November 20, 1959**
- Visual: This stamp was released this year. **Ans: 1983 Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Gaurav Gupta| Ishmanjit Kaur**



FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

“Sir, Mr. Chandrasekhar, Kanigiri, Prakasam district, wants to know the meaning of ‘heebie-jeebies’.”

“ ‘Heebie-jeebies’ means ‘a feeling of discomfort, apprehension or depression, the jitters’.

*I can’t stand him. He gives me the heebie-jeebies.*

‘Heebie-jeebies’ was coined by W. De Beck (1890-1942), an American comic-strip cartoonist.”

“Sir, Ms. K. Anitha, Hyderabad, wants to know the meaning and pronunciation of ‘limousine’.”

“A limousine is ‘any large, luxurious car, especially one driven by a chauffeur’. The first ‘i’ is pronounced like the ‘i’ in ‘fit’, the ‘ou’ is pronounced like the ‘a’ in ‘India’, ‘sine’ is pronounced like the word ‘seen’. The ‘s’ is pronounced ‘z’ by some. This is also acceptable. ‘A limousine liberal’ is a wealthy liberal. This expression is used in America.”

“Sir. Ms. V. Srilata, Ashoknagar, Hyderabad, wants to know the meaning of the sentence ‘He is not one who will let the grass grow under his feet’.”

“ ‘To let the grass grow under one’s feet’ means ‘to delay action, progress, etc’, ‘to become slack in one’s efforts’. A person who doesn’t let the grass grow under his feet is one who acts swiftly. He makes the most of his time and energy. Do you know the meaning of ‘grass-widow’?”

“No, sir”.

“A grass-widow is a married woman who is away from her husband for some time. A grass-widower is a man who lives apart from his wife for some time. In America ‘grass-widow’ also means ‘a divorced woman or one deserted by her husband’. Grass-widow and grass-widower are used jocularly. Please don’t use these with people you don’t know very well. You may get into serious trouble. It is good to know their meaning and better not to use them.”

“Sir, Ms. S. A. Sinha, Berhampur, wants to know the meaning of ‘long-headed’.”

“ ‘Long-headed’ means ‘shrewd, far-seeing’.

*You can’t fool him. He is longheaded.*

*The committee consists of some long-headed businessmen.*”

“Sir, Ms. S. Venkatesam, MV Koil Street Lloyds Road, Madras, wants to know the meaning of ‘lust’ and ‘lusty’.”

“ ‘Lust’ originally meant ‘pleasure’, ‘delight’. Later it came to mean ‘sensuous appetite or desire, considered as sinful or leading to sin’. Now it means ‘sexual appetite’. It doesn’t have a good connotation. It is also used to mean ‘lawless, passionate desire for something’.

*His lust for fame is incredible.*

*He has lust for life.*

‘Lustful’ means ‘full of sexual desire’.

However ‘lustily’ means ‘with vigour or energy’.

*They were lustily cheered.*

This doesn’t have any sexual connotation. Originally ‘lusty’ meant ‘full of lust or sexual desire’. Now it doesn’t have that meaning. It means ‘strong and vigorous’.

*He is a young lusty soldier.*

*He has lusty limbs.*

‘Lusty’ has a slight archaic air about it.”

*Published in The Hindu on January 2, 1990.*

## Word of the day

**Defunct:** no longer in force or use; inactive; having ceased to exist or live

**Synonym:** extinct

**Usage:** *That is now a defunct organisation.*

**Pronunciation:** bit.ly/defunctpro

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /dɪˈfʌŋkt/

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



## 2 infiltrators killed near LoC in Baramulla

The Hindu Bureau  
SRINAGAR

Two unidentified infiltrators were killed near the Line of Control (LoC) in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against two people, including a resident of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), in a terror conspiracy case.

A Srinagar-based Army spokesman said the Army and the J&K Police, in a joint operation, foiled an infiltration bid and killed two militants in Uri Sector, Baramulla.

“Two AK rifles, two pistols, four hand grenades and other war-like stores were recovered from the two slain terrorists,” the spokesman said.

The NIA charge-sheeted two people, including a PoK resident, in a terror conspiracy that “planned to disturb the peace and communal harmony of J&K through acts of violence and terror”. The accused were identified as Mohammad Ubaid Malik from Kupwara district, and Muhammad Dilawar Iqbal alias Maaz Khan Kashmiri alias Azad Kashmiri, of Abasapur in PoK.

# Uttarkashi tunnel rescue rides on operation of new drill machine

The new equipment, which came in two parts on an IAF aircraft, is expected to speed up efforts to save those trapped for over 72 hours now; co-workers raise slogans outside the collapsed site in the hill State over delay in rescue operations

Press Trust of India  
UTTARKASHI

An Indian Air Force C-130 J aircraft on Wednesday flew a heavy drilling machine from Delhi to Chinyalisaur to bore a safe passage for 40 workers trapped for over three days in an under-construction tunnel 30 km away in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, officials said.

While the new machine is being put into service, co-workers of those trapped inside expressed dismay at the progress of the multi-agency rescue operations. They gathered at the entry of the tunnel on the Brahmakhal-Yamunotri National Highway and shouted slogans in protest against the “slow” pace of the operation to rescue their colleagues trapped for over 72 hours now.

The initial plan was to use an “auger machine” to drill through the rubble of the tunnel’s collapsed portion and insert 800-mm and 900-mm diameter sections of mild steel pipes one after the other. Once this is done, the workers



Hope and prayers: People watch the rescue operations on Wednesday at the mouth of the collapsed road tunnel in Uttarakhand. AP

trapped on the other side can crawl out to safety.

But the first drilling machine turned out to be too slow and technical issues developed, the officials said. Also, falling debris inside the tunnel damaged the equipment and injured two rescue workers on Tuesday.

The replacement machine came in two parts on the aircraft and was being transported by road to the tunnel, about two hours away, Superintendent of Police, Uttarkashi, Arpan

Yaduvanshi said.

“We will start installing it as soon as it arrives and in four hours, it will begin the drilling operation. With a capacity to penetrate four to five metres of rubble per hour, we can expect it to penetrate 50 metres through the rubble in 10 hours,” Anshu Manish Khalkho, Director, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., said.

A portion of the tunnel, part of the ambitious Char Dham all-weather road

project, collapsed on Sunday. The 30-metre collapsed section is 270 metres from the mouth of the tunnel from the Silkyara side. Officials said the labourers were safe, and oxygen, electricity, medicines, food and water were being supplied to them through pipes.

Mr. Khalkho, however, said it was not possible to specify a time frame for the evacuation but efforts were on to make headway at the earliest and rescue them all safely. Constant com-

munication is being maintained, he said.

The list of the trapped workers issued by the emergency operation centre says 15 are from Jharkhand, eight from Uttar Pradesh, five from Odisha, four from Bihar, three from West Bengal and two each from Uttarakhand and Assam. One is from Himachal Pradesh.

Tuesday’s landslide and slow performance of the drilling machine deployed earlier hampered efforts to reach the workers, he said.

## Tribal body declares ‘self-rule’ in a few districts of Manipur

Vijaita Singh  
NEW DELHI

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) representing the Kuki-Zo people in Manipur has announced “self-rule” in the districts dominated by the community members. The tribal community will have a separate chief minister, and government officials from the community who were forced out of the State capital, Imphal, when the ethnic violence erupted in Manipur on May 3, will be given responsibilities, an ITLF leader said.

ITLF general secretary Muan Tombing told *The Hindu* on Wednesday that in the wake of the “selective justice” by the Union government, they were compelled to take the step.

“We do not care if the Centre doesn’t recognise us. The Kuki-Zo people in Tengenoupi, Kangpokpi and Churachandpur districts will have self-rule. We have no expectation from the ‘Meitei Manipur government,’” he said.

There was no response from the Union Home Ministry on the issue.

Mr. Tombing said the Kuki-Zo people were referred as “outsiders” by Home Minister Amit Shah

in Parliament in August. He refused to meet the Minister in future.

The ITLF has held several rounds of negotiations with the officials of the Union Home Ministry since May 3.

Last week, a team of Intelligence Bureau officials and the Ministry’s adviser (Northeast), A.K. Mishra, met the ITLF leaders in Churachandpur.

Students in dire straits

Mr. Tombing said the students were suffering owing to the ethnic violence and the Centre was ignoring their concerns deliberately. “There are more than 800 students whose future is in peril. Around 120 medical students and more than 600 nursing students are unable to continue their education for the past several months since they were driven out of the valley-based colleges,” Mr. Tombing said.

Earlier, 10 Kuki-Zo legislators, including those from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had demanded separate administration. At least 175 people have been killed and more than thousands displaced after ethnic violence between the tribal Kuki-Zo and the majority Meitei community broke out on May 3.

## FATF team in India to hold on-site review meetings

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

A Financial Action Task Force (FATF) team is in India as part of the process to conduct the country’s mutual evaluations to ascertain if authorities have put in place and effectively implemented the required legal framework against money laundering and terrorist financing.

It is learnt that the team arrived in Delhi in the first week of November. During the on-site visit, expected to last around two weeks, the FATF team will hold meetings with senior government officials and representatives of the private sector.

“Usually, such an FATF team comprises over a dozen members. They include FATF Secretariat officials and domain experts. They may meet senior functionaries of the Department of Revenue under the Finance Ministry and officials of various enforcement agencies, such



The visiting team’s report may be discussed during the June 2024 Plenary. AP

as the Enforcement Directorate, Narcotics Control Bureau and National Investigation Agency [as it enforces the anti-terror Unlawful (Activities) Prevention Act], and financial regulators,” said a government official.

Visit to Mumbai

The official said the FATF, which is likely to visit Mumbai as well, may also meet with civil society representatives.

According to the inter-governmental body, mutual evaluations are peer

reviews where members from different countries assess another country. The process starts with the selection of the legal, financial and law enforcement experts for the assessment team. The country concerned provides to them all relevant laws and regulations that are in place to prevent criminal abuse of the financial system.

Assessors analyse the information, primarily looking at the technical requirements of the FATF standards. A draft report is then prepared identifying areas of focus for the on-site visit. After the visit, a draft mutual evaluation report covering both the elements of technical compliance and effectiveness is brought out, as per the information on the FATF website. The FATF plenary discusses the findings, include the ratings, and adopts the final report for publication.

In India’s case, the report may be discussed during the June 2024 Plenary.

## Proposed criminal code gives more immunity to defence personnel

Vijaita Singh  
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Bill, 2023, expected to replace the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), provides further immunity to armed forces personnel as no case can be registered against them without the sanction of the Union or the State government for acts performed in the line of duty.

A report published by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs last week said Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla briefed the panel about 46 significant changes in the proposed law. Mr. Bhalla had told the committee that the new law provides protection to armed forces personnel.

“The Sanhita introduces safeguards to prevent the registration of cases against armed forces personnel for acts performed in the line of duty without prior consent from the Central or State Govern-



Under existing CrPC, only arrest of the official needs consent of the Centre. NISSAR AHMAD

ment,” the report said quoting the Home Secretary’s presentation.

The CrPC, introduced in 1898 and amended in 1973, provides protection to members of the armed forces only from arrest and there are no conditions regarding registration of a criminal case.

The CrPC says that “no member of the armed forces of the Union shall be arrested for anything done or purported to be done by him in the discharge of his

official duties except after obtaining the consent of the Central Government”.

Besides AFSPA

The proposed provision will be in addition to the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) that gives unbridled power to the armed forces deployed in “disturbed areas” to arrest or kill anyone acting in contravention of law, and search any premises without a warrant, and protection from prosecution and legal suits without Central government’s sanction. At present, the AFSPA is applicable in parts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and whole of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier this year, the Defence Ministry denied sanction to prosecute 30 Army personnel including a Major who were accused of killing six coal miners in Nagaland’s Mon district in December 2021 out of “mistaken identity.” The Nagaland Police had registered a case and filed a

chargesheet against the accused but the prosecution sanction was denied.

The Home Secretary said that special laws will supersede the general criminal procedures. Special laws include the anti-terror Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

The Sanhita modernises the court structure as it simplifies the court system by eliminating British-era designations such as “Metropolitan Magistrate” and “Metropolitan Area”, the report said. It also empowers the Union government to appoint Public Prosecutors for trial, appeal, and other proceedings in the National Capital Territory of Delhi in consultation with the High Court, the report said.

To promote gender parity, the BNSS allows service of summons on any adult family member, including women, in the absence of the person to be summoned, the report said.

## PM to open summit on Global South tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the second Voice of Global South Summit on Friday. This will be the second such summit in less than a year hosted by India.

The first virtual summit witnessed participation by 125 countries of the Global South and was dominated by the Ukraine war, but the upcoming summit is expected to echo the rumblings of the Israeli military operation in Gaza.

It is also going to reflect India’s evolving equation with the bloc of Global South countries as nearly all countries voted in favour of a ceasefire in Gaza on October 26 at the United Nations General Assembly when India abstained. The summit will be arranged into 10 sessions with the inaugural and concluding sessions meant for the heads of states and governments.

## Praveen Chakravarty appointed AIPC chief

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Congress appointed Praveen Chakravarty, who currently heads the Data Analytics Department of the party, chairman of the All India Professionals’ Congress (AIPC). He has replaced Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor, who was the founder-chairman of the body.

The unit, a brainchild of former Congress President Rahul Gandhi, was founded in 2017 to act as an additional feeder organisation to the parent party and give a platform to professionals who are interested in politics.

Taking over the position, Mr. Chakravarty laud-



Praveen Chakravarty

ed the work done by Mr. Tharoor.

“I am well aware that Shashi’s shoes are impossible to fill. AIPC under Shashi has done a stellar job in organising professionals into a formal group. It is now time to turn it into a formidable group,” Mr. Chakravarty said in a statement here.

## Sensing low morale in party, Shah stayed put in M.P.

Nistula Hebbur  
NEW DELHI

In Madhya Pradesh, the outward manifestations of the BJP’s campaign – rallies, speeches and claims of governance record – have been outweighed by the party’s behind-the-scenes management of its cadre and their morale, which had been sagging in the months leading up to the election.

Ever since the BJP’s defeat in the Karnataka Assembly election in May, it has been said that party will lose power in Madhya Pradesh also.

Apart from anti-incumbency sentiments, given 18 years of BJP rule in the State, the BJP, just as in Karnataka, had cobbled together a majority in the Assembly after bringing

down a government run by the Congress, giving the latter the moral high ground.

The challenges within

For the BJP therefore, the challenges going to the polls have been as much within as without, as the morale of its cadre has been depleting.

The BJP high command, therefore, decided to field seven MPs – including three Union Ministers – as candidates. Party sources said the move was made in view of the anti-incumbency feelings against Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan within the party itself, even more than among the electorate.

“There was a feeling that 18 years is a long time. The administration run by him was entrenched, with



Union Home Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah during a roadshow in Jabalpur ahead of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election. PTI

no scope for anyone else to enter the system, and government officials had worked out their equations with Bhopal to an extent that they were unresponsive towards the people, thinking they cannot be brought to account,” said a

senior leader of the BJP’s State unit.

Meeting rebels

Against this backdrop, Union Home Minister Amit Shah stayed in Madhya Pradesh between October 28 and 31 and met rebel

candidates, persuading some to withdraw their candidature and giving pep talk to party workers or *karyakartas*. It was an effort to ensure that mistakes made in Karnataka are not repeated.

“Amit Shahji met with all 10 *sambhags* or divisions of the party, including district-level office-bearers, leaders in-charge, coordinators, disgruntled elements, and others at least six or seven times,” a source said. In fact, Mr. Shah changed his schedule when he realised that the situation in Jabalpur – where viral videos showed highly vocal disgruntlement among party workers – required more time.

“The main message of the pep talk to party workers was that whatever may be their disgruntlement

with the State unit or the party’s government in Madhya Pradesh, the alternative, a Congress government, was even more unpalatable. That achieving anything is possible only when the party remains in power; otherwise, one needs only recall their situation under one year of Congress rule in 2018-19,” a source said. “The fact that a collective leadership had been projected by the BJP high command also demonstrated that the party was aware of the reasons for the workers’ disgruntlement.”

Mr. Shah issued specific talking points on how to handle tough seats, focus on urban tribal areas, and emphasise the “anti-Ram Mandir” and “anti-Mahakal Lok” stance of the Congress.



# ASSEMBLY POLLS 2023

MIZORAM » MADHYA PRADESH » RAJASTHAN » CHHATTISGARH » TELANGANA

## Ensure silence period kicks in: EC to M.P. CEO

With Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan scheduled to address people at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the Election Commission asked the State's Chief Election Officer to ensure no campaigning takes place after 6 p.m. when the 48-hour silence period kicks in. The Congress had approached the poll panel

complaining that according an advertisement published by the BJP in newspapers across Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Chouhan will speak with "brothers and sisters" of the State at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday.

In a post on X, the Madhya Pradesh BJP confirmed the planned addresses.

Sources said that on the basis of the representation by the Congress, the EC has issued directions to the CEO to take necessary steps to ensure that no campaigning takes place. PTI



Shivraj Singh Chouhan meeting supporters during a public meeting in Jabalpur. FILE PHOTO

## 'More cash seized during polls this year'

In the run-up to the Assembly polls in five States, the Income Tax Department has seized more unexplained cash as compared with elections held in those States earlier, CBDT Chairman Nitin Gupta said on Wednesday.

Mr. Gupta said that before the State Assembly elections, the agencies, including the I-T

Department, increased surveillance and also received information about unexplained cash and jewellery on toll-free numbers created for the purpose. He said pre-election monitoring of unexplained cash and surveillance is very intense and the entire activity is coordinated at the level of the Election Commission and State authority.

According to sources, in Rajasthan, there has been a three-fold increase in the total seizure of illegal cash, liquor, drugs, gold, silver, etc. PTI



**Cong. changes its face from time to time. Now they have become fond of Ram. Some have become janeu-dhari. They don't even know how it's worn**  
J.P. NADDA  
BJP national president

## Diplomats observe Modi's roadshow in M.P.

A three-member delegation of foreign diplomats witnessed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadshow in Indore ahead of the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, with one of them describing elections in India as a festival that people celebrate. The programme is part of the Know BJP initiative launched by the party. PTI



**Which agency will investigate [video of Union Minister Tomar's son]? When will raids take place? When will there be media programmes**  
BHUPESH BAGHEL  
Chhattisgarh Chief Minister

# M.P. rivals go for the jugular; gloves off between Priyanka and Scindia

Congress leader speaks of betrayal by Union Minister, who trains his guns on the grand old party; Prime Minister says women's empowerment is the BJP's priority, and the new generation is looking at the next 25 years of India

Mehul Malpani  
BHOPAL

The heavy campaigning for the election for Madhya Pradesh's 230 Assembly seats came to an end on Wednesday with Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra terming Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia a "traitor" for switching over to the BJP and bringing down the 15-month Congress government in the State.

Addressing a poll rally in Datia, Ms. Vadra said, "He [Mr. Scindia] fell short in height but his arrogance *waah bhayi waah* [wow]."

She also said that when she was working with Mr. Scindia (when he was in the Congress) in Uttar Pradesh, several party volunteers had complained to her that he did not do their work as they did not address him as "Maharaj". "But he has followed the tradition of his family very well. Many people have betrayed but he betrayed the people of Gwalior-Chambal [the region of Mr. Scindia's influence]. He stabbed you in the back and brought down an established government. It was your government," Ms. Vadra said.

This time, with the BJP,



Curtains down: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at a rally in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal on Wednesday. A.M. FARUQUI

Mr. Scindia actively campaigned across the State, especially in the Gwalior-Chambal region, to prove his worth and justify his decision of switching parties. The party has also fielded 18 of Scindia loyalists in the poll fray.

### Slams Congress

Mr. Scindia, in his numerous rallies, has trained his guns on the Congress on various fronts and has asked the public if he made the right decision by bringing down the government. Mr. Scindia also responded to Ms. Vadra's charges by calling her a "part-time

politician".

In a post on X, Mr. Scindia said, "I do not expect her to have the ability to understand the difference between these two traditions - the sons of which family sacrificed their lives to protect Mother India from the Afghans to the Mughals and the British? And who protected India from China? Forget about protecting, the Indian land itself was given to them as a gift?" "The Scindia family has repeatedly changed the rule of corrupt and promise-breaking people, and the people of Madhya Pradesh are going to clean

you again," he wrote.

Ms. Vadra also took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "He carries a list of how many people have abused him," she said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Modi, who concluded his campaigning in the State with three rallies and a roadshow on Tuesday, appealed to the voters of Madhya Pradesh to choose the BJP to make Madhya Pradesh a developed State. Mr. Modi specifically targeted the women and youth voters of Madhya Pradesh in his post. While he said women empowerment was the BJP's priority, the Prime Minister also said that the new generation is looking at the next 25 years of India and their own 25 years together.

"In the rallies, I also saw how angry the people of Madhya Pradesh are with the dynastic politics and negativity of the Congress. Congress has no vision, no road map for the development of Madhya Pradesh," he wrote.

The State has seen aggressive campaigning since October 9, when the EC announced polls in the State, with all top leaders from the BJP and the Congress holding a number of rallies

and roadshows.

The BJP had deployed Mr. Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, several State leaders like Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, among others.

The BJP, in a surprising move, has also fielded three Union Ministers - Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Patel and Faggan Singh Kulaste, four MPs, and one national general secretary - Kailash Vijayvargiya.

Unlike previous polls, the BJP did not declare Shivraj Singh Chouhan., the State's longest serving Chief Minister, its chief ministerial candidate. The party instead decided to go to the electorate with the face of Mr. Modi, which was visible from its campaign posters and main slogan "*M.P. Ke Mann Mein Modi, Modi Ke Mann Mein M.P.*"

The Congress, on the other hand, has gone into the polls with Kamal Nath as its face, which was again visible in party's campaign posters that showed his face prominently with the party's promises.

# Chhattisgarh countdown echoes with corruption, communalism charges

Shubhomoy Sikdar  
RAIPUR

In the last stretch of campaigning before the second and final phase of the Chhattisgarh Assembly election, Union Home Minister Amit Shah highlighted the accusations of appeasement and corruption against the State government, while former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi highlighted his party's election promises, comparing them with the BJP's.

Both leaders held public meetings in a final bid to hammer their messages home, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined the campaign on social media, predicting, in a post on X, a crushing defeat for the incumbent Congress.

Mr. Gandhi squeezed in two rallies, at Bemetara and Baloda Bazar, highlighting his party's pledge to conduct a caste census. He outlined the contrast between "Congress ki guarantees for the welfare of the poor, versus "Modi ki guarantees". "Modi's guarantees are for Adani only and whatever he does, he does it for people like Adani," Mr. Gandhi said.

Mr. Gandhi also dropped what is being interpreted as a subtle hint that the Congress leadership will repose its faith in



High stakes: Union Minister Anurag Thakur addressing a public meeting for a BJP candidate in Chhattisgarh on Wednesday. PTI

Mr. Baghel again in the event of another victory.

Mr. Baghel, himself, has been tight-lipped about his future prospects but often uses his signature phrase "*Kaka zinda hai* (Uncle is alive)" in his campaign speeches. *Kaka* or uncle is a moniker commonly used for Mr. Baghel.

Holding a rally in Saja, a constituency where the BJP has fielded the father of a man who died in a communal clash a few months ago, Mr. Shah accused the State government of indulging in corruption.

Mr. Shah said that under the rule of Bhupesh Kaka, Bemetara [Saja is a part of Bemetara district] had become a centre of "love jihad". He added that the daughters of the Sahu community, Lodhi community (both OBC castes), and Gond community were

their targets.

Referring to the various alleged scams in the State, including the Mahadev App scam, Mr. Shah alleged that if the BJP came to power, it would hang all those who embezzled money upside down. "Bhupesh Kaka did not spare even cow dung in the Gauthan scam. In this too, thousands of crores of rupees have been lost by Bhupesh Kaka through corruption," he said.

Mr. Modi also raised the issue of corruption on X. "Congress's crushing defeat in this election is certain. People are trusting the good governance of BJP and not the empty promises of Congress. BJP is determined and committed to fulfill its every resolution," his post read. Seventy seats of the 90-member Chhattisgarh Assembly go to the polls on Friday.

# Modi living the good life, Rahul says at rally in Chhattisgarh

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Taking a potshot at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's sartorial choices, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi asked the crowd at an election rally in Chhattisgarh on Wednesday if they had ever seen Mr. Modi repeating his clothes, contrasting it to his white T-shirt that he sports regularly.

He was speaking at the last election rally in Baloda Bazaar ahead of the Assembly election on Friday.

Speaking in the context of Mr. Modi's statement that the "poor" are the biggest caste group in India, Mr. Gandhi said, "He says there is no caste in India other than the poor, then how are you an OBC [Other Backward Classes]? He travels in aircraft worth ₹12,000 crore, in cars worth ₹10-12 crore, wears suits worth crores. Have you ever seen Modiji wearing the same suit twice?"

Pointing at himself, he said, "I only wear one shirt... This white shirt and

**He was speaking in context of the PM's statement that the 'poor' are the biggest caste group in India**

he.. he wears a new outfit daily.. sometimes a suit, sometimes a shawl.. an *achkan* (a special type of kurta), dark glasses.. will fly in aircraft.. But when it comes to helping OBCs.., he claims there is no caste in the country."

Mr. Gandhi also hit back at the Prime Minister for mocking him. On Tuesday, wrapping up his campaign in Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Modi called Mr. Gandhi *moorkhon ke sardar* (leader of fools) for his remarks that Indians are using "made-in-China" phones. Without directly referring to the jibe, Mr. Gandhi said, "He is irritated by questions on Adani (industrialist Gautam Adani). He can go on abusing me and as long as he does this, I know I am doing something right," he said.

# 'Communalism and a tendency to polarise voters are in BJP's DNA, it won't succeed'

Congress leader says that for the party, an election is a tool to fulfil people's aspirations, whereas the BJP is trying to polarise voters in Rajasthan; he underlines that there is no trace of factionalism in party, dismisses reports of Rahul not campaigning

INTERVIEW

K.C. Venugopal

Mohammed Iqbal

Ahead of the Rajasthan Assembly election, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal speaks about the BJP's alleged misuse of Central agencies, differences in the party, its chief ministerial candidate and Rahul Gandhi's campaign. Excerpts:

**The Assembly election campaign in Rajasthan is getting shrill with allegations being made about appeasement and support for terrorists. How does the Congress plan to deal with the BJP's strategy?**

The BJP has got nothing to tell the people about governance at the national or State level because it has not done anything to address the real issues of unemployment, price rise and deep agrarian crisis. These problems have arisen because of wrong policies of the BJP-led govern-



ment at the Centre, which is just not concerned about people's sorrows. Communalism and the tendency to polarise the voters are in the BJP's DNA. They are doing this through their false and misleading campaign.

**Is this the only way the BJP is trying to show the Congress in a bad light?**

Misuse of the Central investigating agencies, such as the ED, CBI, and Income Tax Department, forms part of the BJP's strategy to target the Congress and the leaders in the Congress-ruled States. The ED has become one of the star campaigners of the BJP, but there is not a single BJP candidate who has been raided by the agency anywhere in the country.

With the misuse of the official machinery, the level playing field for elections has been lost.

**Will the BJP's strategy succeed in a State like Rajasthan, where the political leaders still follow strong traditions and ethics?**

These tactics of the BJP will not succeed here because they are meant to divert people's attention from the real issues. The Congress fights the elections not just for winning. Election is a tool for the Congress to fulfil the people's aspirations. We have started fulfilling our promises in Karnataka, where we won recently. You cannot feed the people with communal sentiments indefinitely. If you want to feed them, you

have to give them rice.

[November 25].

**The Congress leaders have criticised the BJP's decision to project its symbol, the lotus, as its chief ministerial face. But the Congress itself has not announced anyone as its chief ministerial candidate in Rajasthan.**

Congress has a tradition of not announcing the chief ministerial face before elections. After the party's victory, MLAs will be consulted and the high command will take a decision.

**But why is Rahul Gandhi not campaigning actively in Rajasthan?**

The impression that Mr. Gandhi is not serious about campaigning in Rajasthan has been created by a section of the media. He has been busy with the campaign for the past three weeks in the States going to the polls before Rajasthan. It is the AICC which prepares the tour programmes of senior leaders. We have fixed his schedule in Rajasthan a bit later because of the polling day

**Has the Congress finally resolved the differences between the camps led by Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot?**

All the senior leaders of Rajasthan met for a review of our election campaign in Jaipur last evening. Mr. Pilot, who was busy with the campaign in Madhya Pradesh, took pains and flew in just for the meeting and left for Bhopal this morning. We had a very cordial discussion with no trace of factionalism. When the party's interest is supreme, all the leaders are on the same page despite their different personal views.

**Is the Congress planning to take action against rebels who have refused to withdraw from the electoral fight?**

We are talking to them. They are of the Congress mind and their goal is to defeat BJP. Some of them were deserving people who may get a chance the next time. The party will take a decision on those who are adamant on contesting as Independents.

# Congress candidate for Karanpur seat dies at 75

Press Trust of India  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Congress leader, Gurmeet Singh Koonar, died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi, party leaders here said on Wednesday. He was 75.

Mr. Koonar, MLA for the Karanpur Assembly constituency who was given ticket to contest the seat again, was admitted to the Geriatric Medicine Ward of the AIIMS on November 12.

He died of sepsis with septic shock and renal disease, says the death certificate issued by the hospital. He had hypertension. Mr. Koonar had been fielded by the party from the seat against BJP leader Surendra Pal Singh for the November 25 election to the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly.

An official of the State election office said, "The election to the Karanpur seat will be adjourned due to the demise of the candidate. A fresh date of polling will be notified by the Election Commission."

Condoling the death, State Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said: "I am deeply saddened by the news of the demise of Karanpur MLA and former Minister Gurmeet Singh Koonar."

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



## INBRIEF



## Four migrant workers die of asphyxiation in Surat

Four migrant workers died of asphyxiation while cleaning a septic chamber in a textile factory in Surat on Tuesday. The deceased include a 16-year-old boy, his father and two others, who fell unconscious after entering the septic tank and died of suffocation. The State police, the factory inspector office and the Gujarat Pollution Control Board have launched a probe against the factory. The police have lodged a case of accidental deaths. As per the details, Rajusinh Bodhaniya was cleaning the effluent treatment plant's 20-foot-deep recycled water tank along with his son Kamlesh. The two other labourers were standing outside.

## Udhayanidhi launches DMK youth wing's State-wide rally

DMK youth wing leader and Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Wednesday launched a State-wide bike rally taken out by the party's youth wing from Kanniyakumari ahead of its State conference scheduled in Salem for December 17. He appealed to the youth wing members to enlighten members of the public about the State government's schemes and the steps being taken to improve their living standards. He also urged them to highlight the Centre's "authoritarian attitude" and "systematic denial of States' rights by interfering in State affairs". He further urged the youth wing members to participate in the DMK's ongoing signature campaign for abolition of NEET.

## CM Soren takes dig at PM Modi on Jharkhand Foundation Day

Says PM's visit to Birsa Munda's birthplace might be his first, but it is a common affair for the people of Jharkhand

**Amit Bhelari**  
**Abhinav Lakshman**  
PATNA/NEW DELHI

Sparks flew in Jharkhand's Ulihatu village on Wednesday when Chief Minister Hemant Soren took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was visiting Jharkhand on the State's Foundation Day, as also to mark the birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda, celebrated as the *Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas* for the last three years.

Mr. Soren took potshots at the Prime Minister's visit to the birthplace of Birsa Munda; the visit was promoted by the government as a first by any PM. Mr. Soren, who heads the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, which is an Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance ally, said, "It is a great thing that the PM has made it to Ulihatu on his first visit. For us though it is a normal course of events, and we often keep visiting this hallowed place."

In his remarks, Mr. Soren said it was unfortunate that the tribals had not yet gotten their rights. He further added that for all the talk of last mile connectivity for essential govern-



**Flag-off:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a visit to Ulihatu, the birthplace of tribal icon Birsa Munda, in Khunti district of Jharkhand, on Wednesday. PTI

ment schemes, it has not often progressed beyond mere headlines.

"The tribal society has been fighting for its rights for centuries. Whether it was with the British or with moneyed interests the fight goes on; it is unfortunate that till date tribal society has not got its proper place in the larger society. The scheme that is being started today is for the most backward people of our own society. To make it work for its intended end is a challenge for all of us," Mr. Soren said.

During his address shortly after, PM Modi noted that his government had been working to bring es-

sential services to the most backward regions of the country, many of which were in Jharkhand. He went on to list a host of milestones that the Centre had achieved in Jharkhand, and asked the State government to work in tandem with the Central government for the betterment of all people.

"It is my pleasure to announce on the Foundation Day of Jharkhand that the State has achieved 100% electrification of Railways," Mr. Modi said and added that both Jharkhand as well as a separate Ministry for Tribal Affairs became a reality only due to the efforts of the Atal Bihari Vaj-

payee-led National Democratic Alliance government.

In his address, the Prime Minister said all previous governments had neglected the most backward sections of the society, adding, "I worked for them, I have lived their lives, and I have eaten their salt, and am indebted to them. Today I have come here, to the land of Birsa Munda, to repay that debt. Anyone can draw a line on butter but someone should draw a line on the stone also."

Mr. Modi added that he was very fortunate to become the first PM to visit Birsa Munda's birthplace in Ulihatu, where he unveiled

a statue of the tribal hero, and emphasised his government's efforts to build tribal freedom fighter museums all over the country, including in Jharkhand. "Just one year ago, on this day, I dedicated the *Bhagwan Birsa Munda Memorial Park-cum-Freedom Fighter Museum* in Ranchi to the nation," the PM said.

Mr. Modi stressed on the Hindi name for the scheme, which employs the term *adivasi*. This holds significance, especially with the *adivasi/vamasi/janjatiya* terminological contradiction catching on, particularly among the Opposition parties, as a way to resist Hinduisation of the tribals.

While presenting the name of the scheme in Hindi - the *Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyaan* - Mr. Modi, stressed on the expression "*adivasi nyaya*" three times, whereas Mr. Soren was careful to avoid using any other term than "*adivasi*" during his remarks.

In his address, Mr. Soren also requested the Prime Minister to take cognisance of the displacement of tribal persons in the State due to mining operations in forested areas.

## Food Ministry silent on extending PMGKAY

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister's food-grains scheme, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), is for a period of one year beginning January 1, 2023, according to the Union Food Ministry. A Ministry statement was released in a routine press release here on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced 11 days ago at election rallies in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh that his government will extend the foodgrains scheme to 80 crore people for another five years. The scheme ends on December 31. The Opposition alleges the announcement is a clear violation of the model code of conduct.

"A decision was taken to strengthen provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 in terms of accessibility, affordability and availability of grains for the poor and ensure effective and uniform implementation of the National Food Security Act," the release added. It had no comment on Mr. Modi's decision to extend the scheme.

It is understood that the decision to extend the scheme has to be cleared by the Cabinet.

## IMEC a 'win-win situation' for all States involved: Finance Minister

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is a "win-win situation" for all States involved, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Wednesday, while highlighting that the project is "not without its geopolitical challenges". She also termed the conflict in Israel and Gaza as "a worrying manifestation of these" challenges.

Ms. Sitharaman was addressing the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD), jointly hosted by the Navy and National Maritime Foundation.

## 'Fragile security'

Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar said the fragile security situation in the South China Sea, in addition to "violations" of esta-



**Mutual way:** Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar releases a book during the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

blished Codes of Conduct or Confidence-Building Measures, posed a "clear and present danger to good order and discipline at sea". He further said the Indo-Pacific being the most militarised in the world further exacerbates the probability of ongoing competition becoming a conflict.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar said India seeks

sustainable and equitable exploitation of marine resources and seabed in high seas."

Mr. Dhankar said that collaborative security and innovative partnerships seem to be the way forward. "This is the only way out. No country can stand alone, there has to be action in togetherness," he said. The Vice-President released a book titled *Building Partnership: India & International Cooperation for Maritime Security* authored by Captain Himadri Das.

Addressing the event, Ms. Sitharaman said the IMEC will be a win-win as it enhances transportation efficiency, reduces logistics cost, increases economic unity, generates employment, and lowers greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to a cleaner, safer, better world.

## SC Collegium led by Chandrachud completes a year, stresses diversity

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has in the first year of his tenure as top judge, which began in November 2022, recommended 14 judges to the top court.

Thirteen of them were either Chief Justices or senior puisne judges of High Courts and one, senior advocate K.V. Viswanathan, was a direct elevation from the Supreme Court Bar.

The collegium resolutions spell out the criteria for considering judges for the Supreme Court. Seniority in their respective parent High Courts and in the All India High Court Judges List was the foremost. The Justice Chandrachud Collegium recommendations show that besides seniority, merit,



D.Y. Chandrachud

performance and integrity of the judges in the zone of consideration were also under scrutiny.

## Two factors

The collegium has highlighted diversity and inclusion in its appointments to the Supreme Court. These two factors include recommendation of judges from High Courts which are either not represented or are inadequately represented in the Supreme Court, ap-

pointment of persons from marginalised and backward segments of society, gender diversity and representation of minorities.

However, the Chandrachud Collegium is yet to appoint a woman judge to the Supreme Court. There are only three women judges currently serving in the Supreme Court, which is functioning at its sanctioned judicial strength of 34 judges.

Five separate Collegium resolutions, from December 2022, cover the Chandrachud Collegium's recommendations for judicial appointments to the Supreme Court.

The latest one, on November 6, saw the recommendation of Delhi, Rajasthan, and Gauhati Chief Justices Satish Chandra Sharma, Augustine George Masih, and Sandeep Mehra, respectively.

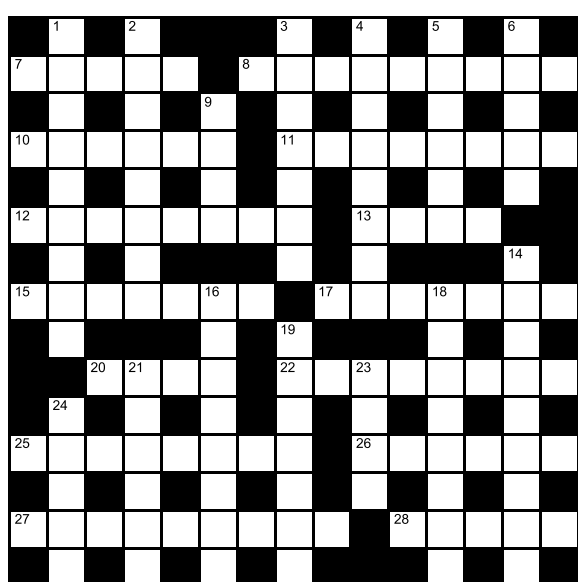
Justice Sharma is second in the all-India seniority list of High Court judges and the senior-most among judges from his parent High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

Justice Masih is seventh in the all-India list and senior-most among the judges of his parent High Court of Punjab and Haryana. There were already two judges from the Punjab and Haryana High Court serving in the Supreme Court. The collegium however noted that Justice Masih belonged to a minority community.

Though Justice Mehta was 23rd in the all-India list, he was the senior-most judge from the Rajasthan High Court, his parent court. Besides, the collegium reasoned that the apex court had no representation from Rajasthan on the Bench.

## THE CROSSWORD+ 14021

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



## Across

- 7 Walk in the morning at outskirts of Bhopal with wife at last (5)  
8 A bishop announces 'time has elapsed' and resigns (9)  
10 See, water is warm, perhaps (6)  
11 Organ stocked by governor of Algiers for supply (8)  
12 Man holds an injunction on artists to dance (8)

- 13 Makers try to primarily develop society (4)  
15 Drink with gasoline? Not a deviation (4,3)  
17 Say, building block at pier not dislocated (7)  
20 Constant tension to get a bread (4)  
22 Nature is one endless poetry (8)  
25 Retires after collecting bonus finally for living (8)  
26 Stranger's chin broken by native (6)  
27 Criminal's record includes mutilation of dancer after beheading (9)  
28 Japanese drink infused with new reptile (5)  
**Down**  
1 Am very mobile surprisingly? No on the contrary (9)  
2 Last minute arrangement to discard tin is radical (8)  
3 Request judge to follow an article on capital (7)  
4 Six students take time to research earliest rural dweller (8)  
5 Cut vehicle's velocity, brake hard ultimately (6)  
6 Transport iron on railway collecting rupees (5)  
9 Withered shrub, ephedra really expanding at the entrance (4)  
14 Daughter dumped researches perhaps, after leading laboratory provided cosmetics (9)  
16 Maybe Caesar and Brutus are antisocial to dismiss officer-in-charge in a tizzy (8)  
18 Growing problem following youngster's cut short (8)  
19 Advise dancing guests to have some gin (7)  
21 Perhaps fly home to join party (6)  
23 Somehow misread Mrs' farewell proposal (4)  
24 Perhaps leave with former lover to make tea (5)

## SUDOKU



## Solution to previous puzzle

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

## Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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



## FAITH

## Study and knowledge

A lotus opens up its petals and shows its beauty only when the Sun rises. The Sun brings out the best in the lotus. Likewise, knowledge is the sun that dispels ignorance. It refines us, and makes us good human beings. The more you learn, the more you realise how little you know, and your thirst for knowledge only increases.

Thiruvalluvar, through an excellent example, shows us how knowledge increases with studying, said R. Narayanan in a discourse. A well provides more water the deeper you dig. Likewise, the more you study, the more your knowledge. The knowledge that you acquire is not limited by time. In fact, Thiruvalluvar says that it will be of use not only in this birth, but in seven births! Avvaiyar warns that we should not traverse in whichever path our mind tells us to. We must analyse a situation, take into consideration all the consequences of any action, and only then make a decision. Such an informed decision is possible only if a person has analytical skills, and such skills come with education.

Thiruvalluvar says that knowledge consists in controlling one's mind, in not letting it wander and in getting the mind to focus on useful, lofty things. Thiruvalluvar says that we must not accept what people say at face value. We must analyse their words, and arrive at the truth.





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



**GENEVA**  
**'Stop this horror', UNICEF chief says on her visit to Gaza Strip**



The head of the UN children's agency said she had witnessed "devastating" scenes on a visit to war-ravaged Gaza and urged Israel and Hamas to "stop this horror". "Inside the Strip, there is nowhere safe for Gaza's one million children to turn, UNICEF's executive director Catherine Russell said, describing her visit. AFP

**OTTAWA**  
**Canadian PM Trudeau tells Israel that 'killing of babies' must stop**



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the killing "of women, of children, of babies" in the Israel-Hamas war must stop. "The world is watching, on TV, on social media, we are hearing the testimonies of doctors, family members, survivors, kids who have lost their parents," Mr. Trudeau said. AFP

**MADRID**  
**Spain PM urges Israel to end 'indiscriminate killing' in Gaza**



Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez urged Israel to end the "indiscriminate killing of Palestinians" in Gaza. "We demand an immediate ceasefire on the part of Israel in Gaza and strict compliance with international humanitarian law, which today is clearly not respected," he said during a debate in Parliament. AFP

**RAMALLAH**  
**Israel's war on Gaza is against the existence of Palestinians: Abbas**



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Israel's war with Hamas was "against the existence of Palestinians", in a speech marking the 35th anniversary of the Palestinian declaration of independence. "It is a war against the Palestinian national identity, the identity of the land and the identity of its inhabitants," Mr. Abbas said. AFP

# Israeli raid at Gaza's main hospital sparks international condemnation

U.S., Red Cross, WHO, Jordan and Norway express concerns over Israel's actions at Al-Shifa hospital; Gaza says Israel's ensuing aerial bombardment and ground offensive have killed 11,320, mostly civilians and including thousands of children

**Agence France-Presse**  
PARIS

The Israeli Army operation in Al-Shifa hospital, targeting what it says is a Hamas command centre under Gaza's biggest medical facility, on Wednesday set off a wave of international condemnation. The Army had announced overnight it was carrying out "a precise and targeted operation against Hamas in a specified area" of the hospital where the UN estimates there are at least 2,300 patients, staff and displaced Palestinians. Israel has long accused the Islamist group of using Gaza hospitals as bases,



**Timely aid:** An injured Palestinian woman is wheeled into the Al-Aqsa Hospital in central Gaza on Wednesday. AFP

digging tunnels under Al-Shifa and exploiting patients as human shields. The territory's Health Ministry says Israel's ensuing aerial bombardment and ground offensive have

"We do not support striking a hospital from the air and we don't want to see a fire in a hospital where innocent people, helpless people, sick people trying to get medical care they deserve are caught in the crossfire," a National Security Council spokesperson said. The United Nations humanitarian chief demanded immediate action to "rein in the carnage". "An entire population is deprived of the basic means of survival. This cannot be allowed to continue," said Martin Griffiths. The International Committee of the Red Cross said it was "extremely concerned about the impact

on sick and wounded people, medical staff, and civilians". "All measures to avoid any consequences on them must be taken," the ICRC said, insisting that "patients, medical staff, and civilians must be at all times protected". World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the agency had lost touch again with staff at the hospital. Jordan accused the UN Security Council of enabling the "barbarism" of Israel's raid on the hospital through its silence. "That's going too far and cannot be accepted", Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide said.

## 'Greenhouse gases hit record high in 2022'

**Agence France-Presse**  
GENEVA

Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere hit new record highs in 2022, with no end in sight to the rising trend, the United Nations warned on Wednesday. The UN's World Meteorological Organization said levels of the three main greenhouse gases – the climate-warming carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide – all broke records last year. "Such levels of heat-trapping gases will mean further temperature increases, more extreme weather and higher sea levels, the WMO

said in its 19th annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin. "Despite decades of warnings from the scientific community, thousands of pages of reports and dozens of climate conferences, we are still heading in the wrong direction," WMO chief Petteri Taalas said. The 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries agree to cap global warming at "well below" 2° C above average levels measured between 1850 and 1900 – and 1.5° C if possible. The global mean temperature in 2022 was 1.15° C above the 1850-1900 average – and Mr. Taalas said it was all but certain that 2023 would be the warmest year on record.

## China, U.S. pledge to step up climate efforts ahead of major UN meeting

**Associated Press**  
BEIJING

China and the U.S. have pledged to accelerate their efforts to address climate change ahead of a major UN meeting on the issue,

making a commitment to take steps to reduce emissions of methane and other greenhouse gases besides carbon dioxide. The joint announcement came on the eve of a summit between Presi-

dents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping. Cooperation between the world's two biggest emitters of greenhouse gases is considered vital to the success of the UN climate talks opening in two weeks in Dubai.

## France issues arrest warrant for Syrian President

**Associated Press**  
PARIS

French judicial authorities on Wednesday issued international arrest warrants for Syrian President Bashar Assad, his brother and two Army generals for their alleged involvement in war crimes and crimes against humanity, including a 2013 chemical attack on rebel-held Damascus suburbs, lawyers for Syrian victims said. In addition to Mr. Assad, the arrest warrants were issued for his brother, Maher Assad, the commander of the 4th Armored Division, and two Syrian Army generals, Ghassan Abbas and Bassam al-Hassan.

**भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**  
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE  
निर्माण एवं अनुसंधान ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP  
तिरुवनन्तपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 22, (फोन नं./ Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

**ई-निविदा की अवधि बढ़ाना / EXTENSION OF E-TENDER**

1. उद्देश्य, बीएसएससी, तृतीया में मानवयान सॉलर मोटर भंडारण सुविधा के लिए भवन का निर्माण (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Construction of Building for Gaganyaan CES motors hardware storage facility at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works)  
NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/16/2023-24 Dt. 19.10.2023

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 24.11.2023 को 23:00 बजे तक बढ़ाए गए/Extended upto 23:00 hrs. on 24.11.2023  
निविदाओं की प्राप्ति / Receipt of tenders: दिनांक 29.11.2023 को 23:00 बजे तक बढ़ाए गए/Extended upto 23:00 hrs. on 29.11.2023  
योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य शर्तों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आर्मांत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआरटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे [www.tenderwizard.in/ISRO](http://www.tenderwizard.in/ISRO) से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website [www.tenderwizard.in/ISRO](http://www.tenderwizard.in/ISRO).

Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक, सीएमजी, बीएसएससी / Group Director, CMG, VSSC

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** Tel.06766-258301(0); email: [se\\_nerwj@rediffmail.com](mailto:se_nerwj@rediffmail.com)  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR**  
**e Procurement Notice for Bridge Work under BSY Identification No. Bridge Online NCB No.399**

No. 4123 / Date : 14/11/2023

1. Name of the Work : Construction of H.L. bridge over Sendehei Nallah at Ch.0,700 Km. on Kantarohi to Naranpur (P.S.) road in the District of Keonjhar. (Well Foundation).

2. Estimated Cost : Rs.550.23 Lakhs (Approximately).

3. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : 'A' Class Contractor

4. Period of Completion : 18 (Eighteen) Calendar months.

5. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O.D.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	Bridge Online NCB No.399	Dt.18.11.23 at 11:00 A.M. to Dt.02.12.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.01.12.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.04.12.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later	

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
Sd/- Er. S.K. Mishra, Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.  
0-1532-01PR-251771/1/0037/2324

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice**

Tender No : 160/2023-24/PHC/KNR, KIIFB - WSS to Mattannur and Irity Municipalities - Phase II - Package II - Distribution system - Irity Municipality - Providing new distribution system in Irity Municipality and providing FHTCs - Pipe line work, EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/-, Tender Fee : Rs. 19518/-, Last Date for submitting Tender : 07-12-2023, 03:00 pm, Phone : 04972705902.

Website : [www.kwa.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in), [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)

Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kannur  
KWA-JB-GL-6-1603-2023-24

**SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED**  
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount (Exclusive of GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
	Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation roads) in Thiruvananthapuram - Pumping Station Road (D45)	2023_SCTLT_617140_2	Rs.4,97,44,352/-	24/11/2023

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the website <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in>

(Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

**ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**  
Regd. office: 6th Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Sullabadi, Hyderabad-500004, India. HO: III Floor, PVS land mark (Industrial Park), Auto Nagar, Mangalagiri, Guntur Dt.-522503, Andhra Pradesh, India. E-mail: [vcmd\\_apfd@yahoo.co.in](mailto:vcmd_apfd@yahoo.co.in), [vcmd.apfdcl@gmail.com](mailto:vcmd.apfdcl@gmail.com)

**RED SANDERS WOOD SALE (PHASE-VIII) 2023-NOTICE**

Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation Limited hereby notifies the sale of 408.546 Metric Tonnes of Red Sanders Wood(RSW) through international competitive bidding by way of e-tender-cum-e-auction on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 in the First cycle. The unsold RSW lots in the first cycle, if any, would be put up for sale on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 in the Second cycle. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has all the necessary statutory approvals for the sale and export of RSW. The details of the sale conditions and related information are available in the following: <http://www.apfdcl.com>, <http://www.forests.ap.gov.in>, <http://www.msclindia.com> Sd/ (A.K.NAIK, IFS.) VICE CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR (FAC)

Date: 14.11.2023

**Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
GURU HARGOBIND THERMAL PLANT, LEHRA MOHABBAT  
Regd.office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001.  
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
Phone: 96461-17604, 96461-17659 e-mail: [se-hq-@lehra@pspcil.in](mailto:se-hq-@lehra@pspcil.in)  
GSTIN 03AAFCP5120Q1ZC

Tender Enquiry no. 1600/MAMCO/O&M/PC-2493 Dated: 14-11-2023

Chief Engineer / O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHPT, LehraMohabbat, invites E-tender for the Procurement of Dual Laminated Fibre-Reinforced Plastic (FRP) & Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride (CPVC) Tanks For HCL Acid And Alkali in DM Plant Stage-I & II At GHPT, Lehra-Mohabbat., Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 14-11-2023 from 17:00 hrs. onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
GHPT - 96/23 76155/12/2405/2023/29778

**PROFESSOR JAYASHANKAR TELANGANA STATE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**  
Administrative Office: Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-30, Telangana State, India  
**NOTIFICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO PG AND PH.D. COURSES UNDER ICAR 30% QUOTA FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR- 2023-24**

Advt.No. 4239-(1)/PG/2023 Date: 15-11-2023  
ONLINE applications are invited for eligible candidates for admission into PG and Ph.D. courses under ICAR 30% quota for the academic year 2023-24 as approved by competent authority of ICAR. The online counselling brochure and other details are available on University website: [www.pjtsau.edu.in](http://www.pjtsau.edu.in)

Sd/- M. VENKATA RAMANA REGISTRAR  
DIPR R.O.No.8320-PP/CL/ADVT/11/2023-24 Dt. 15.11.2023

**THE INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES, CHENNAI**  
(Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India)

November 14, 2023

**Advt No.15-R/IMSc/2023**

IMSc invites online applications from eligible candidates for filling up of One vacant post [UR] of Deputy Controller of Accounts (Level - 11 in Pay Matrix under 7<sup>th</sup> CPC).

For more details, please visit our website [https://www.imsc.res.in/other\\_forms](https://www.imsc.res.in/other_forms).

Sd/- REGISTRAR

No. A.12026/7/2023-Est.IV  
Government of India  
Ministry of Jal Shakti  
Department of Water Resources,  
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

.....

**Narmada Control Authority (NCA) is a Body Corporate set up by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 6A of the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956, for the purpose of securing compliance with the implementation of the decision and direction of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal. The Narmada Control Authority has its headquarter at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.**

2. Applications are invited from eligible and suitable officers for filling up one post of Member (Civil) in Narmada Control Authority, Indore in the Pay Matrix Level-14 (Rs.144200-218200/-) on deputation (including short-term contract) basis.

3. The last date for receipt of applications for appointment on deputation (including short-term contract) basis to the post of Member (Civil) in Narmada Control Authority, earlier published in the Employment News on 5-11-August, 2023 and 30 Sept-06 October, 2023 is hereby further extended up to 17.12.2023.

4. Details of the post, eligibility conditions etc. are available at [mowr.gov.in](http://mowr.gov.in), [dopw.gov.in](http://dopw.gov.in) and [nca.gov.in](http://nca.gov.in). Applications (in triplicate) complete in all respects of suitable and eligible officers and who can be spared immediately in the event of selection may be sent through proper channel to: The Under Secretary (Estt.IV), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Room No. 428, Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi - 110001 and by email at [use4-mowr@nic.in](mailto:use4-mowr@nic.in) & [soe4-mowr@gov.in](mailto:soe4-mowr@gov.in).

5. Advance copies of application or application received after the prescribed period or not accompanied with the requisite information/ documents are liable to be rejected.

(Narayanan Bhattadiri K.P.)  
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India



## IN BRIEF



## Post-Roy's death undistributed ₹25,000 cr. with SEBI in focus

Undistributed funds, totalling more than ₹25,000 crore, lying with the capital markets regulator SEBI's account, have come back into focus after the demise of Sahara Group's chief Subrata Roy. Mr. Roy passed away in Mumbai on Tuesday after battling prolonged illness. Mr. Roy faced multiple regulatory and legal battles in connection with his group companies that were accused of circumventing regulations with Ponzi schemes, allegations his group always denied. PTI

## 'Direct tax mop-up to cross FY24 target of ₹18.23-lakh cr.'

The government will exceed the ₹18.23 lakh crore direct tax collection target set for the current fiscal, CBDT Chairman Nitin Gupta said. "The economy is doing well, and we will get a better picture of full-year tax collection once the third instalment of advance tax numbers come in by December 15," Mr. Gupta told reporters here. As per government data, net direct tax collections between April 1 and November 9 this fiscal has swelled 22% to ₹10.60 lakh crore. PTI

## 'In 3 quarters of CY23, India shipped 105.9 mn wearables'

India's wearable market saw a record 48.1 million units shipped in third quarter (July-September) of calendar 2023, a 29.2% year-on-year growth, reported International Data Corporation's (IDC) India Monthly Wearable Device Tracker. With this, the market shipped 105.9 million units in the first three quarters of calendar 2023, which was more than the 100.1 million units shipped in the whole of 2022, according to the India Monthly Wearable Device Tracker.

## RBI stops Bajaj Finance from giving loans under 2 products

REUTERS  
BENGALURU



India's central bank on Wednesday barred Bajaj Finance, one of India's largest consumer lenders, from issuing loans under two products with immediate effect, due to deficiencies in adhering to digital lending guidelines.

Bajaj Finance did not issue key information to borrowers under the eCOM and Insta EMI Card lending products, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said. There were deficiencies in information for other digital loans and the restrictions imposed will be reviewed after Bajaj Finance rectifies these deficiencies, the RBI said.

The Insta EMI card offers consumers pre-approved credit up to

This is the first time the RBI has used these rules to restrict a large player from adding customers,

SRINATH SRIDHARAN  
Independent policy researcher

₹200,000 for small-ticket purchases, as per Bajaj Finance's website. No description is available for the eCOM product.

The non-bank lender had total assets under management of ₹2.14 trillion (\$25.76 billion) as of September 30, investor presentation shows. It had 41.9 million EMI cards outstanding, according to the presentation.

Bajaj Finance did not immediately respond to a

# Gold drives trade deficit to new high

India's monthly goods trade deficit widens to an all-time high of \$31.46 billion, eclipsing the previous record of \$29.23 billion in September 2022; increase in imports of gold, oil and electronics spurs deficit

Vikas Dhoot  
NEW DELHI

India's goods exports grew only for the second time in 2023-24 in October, albeit on a low base, rising 6.2% to \$33.6 billion, but imports jumped to a record high of \$65.03 billion, 12.3% over last year, fuelled by higher gold inflows.

Consequently, India's monthly goods trade deficit widened to an all-time high of \$31.46 billion, eclipsing the previous record of \$29.23 billion in September 2022. October's outbound shipments' value was also the lowest since last November, and 2.5% below September's.

## Record inflow

Gold imports almost double to push India's October trade deficit to an all-time high even as exports recover



India's merchandise exports in April-October though stand at about \$245 billion, 7% below earlier year's figure

Volumes of exports rise for some commodities, but lower prices vis-à-vis last year drag overall shipment values

Analysts say rise in trade deficit has been driven primarily by festive season imports, which may normalise soon

"October's trade figures, with goods exports rising 6.2%, along with indications from the first week of November, confirm that green shoots that we spotted in August are now stabilising," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said.

In 2022-23, India's goods exports had crossed \$450 billion. Between April and October this year, merchandise exports stand at nearly \$245 billion, 7% below last year's figure in the same period as per provisional Commerce Ministry

data released on Wednesday.

Officials stressed that though volumes of exports have been rising or stable for some commodities, lower prices vis-à-vis last year were responsible for dragging overall shipment values.

## Record imports

While ministry mandarins attributed a large part of the increase in October's imports to a surge in gold imports, which were up 95.4% to \$7.2 billion, trade analysts noted that other items, including oil, electronic and gems and jewellery, also contributed to the record import bill.

"A broad-based increase

in imports appears to have taken shape in last month, driving them to a record high," Yuvika Gupta, economist at QuantEco Research told *The Hindu*. "A rise in crude price-driven increase in oil imports, wedding and festive season-led demand in gold and other items such as electronics, gems and jewellery have led the upside," she added.

Ms. Gupta said some manufacturing imports like chemicals, machinery and base metals are also witnessing buoyancy. "The widening of trade deficit has been single-handedly driven by imports, which may normalise next month," she reckoned.

## ONGC mulls ₹1 lakh crore spend on 2 petchem plants

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI



India's top oil and gas producer ONGC plans to invest about ₹1 lakh crore in setting up two petrochemical plants to convert crude oil directly into high-value chemical products as it prepares for energy transition, top company officials said on Wednesday.

Crude oil, which companies such as ONGC pump out from below seabed and underground reservoirs, is a primary source of energy. It is processed in oil refineries to produce petrol,

diesel and jet fuel.

Petrochemicals are chemical products derived from crude oil and used in the manufacture of detergents, fibres, polythene and other man-made plastics.

At an investor call,

ONGC Director (Finance) Pomila Jaspal said the firm is looking to build separate oil-to-chemical (O2C) projects. She, however, did not give details.

"We have plans to invest ₹1,00,000 crore by 2028 or 2030 in two projects in two separate States," said D. Adhikari, ED and Chief of Joint Ventures & Business Development, ONGC.

"Our plan is to raise petrochemical capacity to 8.5-9 million tonne by 2030." One project is likely to be set up by the ONGC on its own and the other in a joint venture.

## Sanmar Shipping eyes 20-ship fleet

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI



Vijay Sankar

Sanmar Shipping Ltd. (SSL), a part of Chemplast Sanmar, has drawn up plans to strengthen its fleet by adding eight more ships taking the total to 20.

A prominent player in the international tanker market, SSL inaugurated a subsidiary in Singapore named Sanmar Shipping SG Pte. Ltd. to leverage its presence there both for operational and strategic efficiency, as per Chemplast Sanmar social-media post.

In his inaugural address,

Sanmar Group Chairman Vijay Sankar outlined his vision of taking the fleet strength to 20 in the next few years from 12 now. He also felt the new office will be a complimentary to the group's growth, bringing in clients and collaborations.

## MARKETS

## MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,676	-1.14
US Dollar	83.09	0.28
Gold	61,210	0.84
Brent oil	81.35	-1.25

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2225.40	11.75
Adani Ports	810.75	0.90
Apollo Hosp	5224.95	4.30
Asian Paints	3116.20	30.60
Axis Bank	1041.35	16.00
Bajaj Auto	5536.70	111.50
Bajaj Finserv	1587.05	1.85
Bajaj Finance	7234.30	-136.55
Bharti Airtel	950.00	15.00
BPCL	392.55	5.45
Britannia Ind	4710.80	14.45
Cipla	1241.75	1.20
Coal India	350.60	-1.25
Divis Lab	3536.85	26.85
Dr Reddys Lab	5419.95	0.10
Eicher Motors	3848.30	202.90
Grasim Ind	1943.95	15.10
HCL Tech	1276.65	15.65
HDFC Bank	1504.40	15.60
HDFC Life	636.15	15.10
Hero MotoCorp	3177.85	59.05
Hindalco	505.40	17.90
Hind Unilever	2486.40	8.25
ICI Bank	941.10	-6.65
IndusInd Bank	1493.95	-15.65
Infosys	1410.50	36.95
ITC	441.95	5.95
JSW Steel	772.85	11.75
Kotak Bank	1769.50	21.30
L&T	3064.95	16.45
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5401.65	140.55
M&M	1544.15	3.90
Maruti Suzuki	10456.05	57.65
NestleIndia	24174.05	88.20
NTPC	247.30	1.60
ONGC	199.50	3.70
PowerGrid Corp	210.15	-2.15
Reliance Ind	2356.45	41.85
SBI Life	1357.10	28.75
State Bank	584.70	3.35
Sun Pharma	1180.90	3.10
TataConsumerProduct	929.60	13.05
Tata Motors	671.55	18.30
Tata Steel	124.05	3.05
TCS	3404.30	72.75
Tech Mahindra	1173.75	42.40
Titan	3295.95	31.20
UltraTech Cement	8766.90	89.50
UPL	561.80	9.10
Wipro	391.65	10.00

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 15

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.94	83.26
Euro	90.04	90.39
British Pound	103.35	103.76
Japanese Yen (100)	55.13	55.34
Chinese Yuan	11.46	11.51
Swiss Franc	93.37	93.73
Singapore Dollar	61.51	61.76
Canadian Dollar	60.58	60.82
Malaysian Ringgit	17.76	17.84
Australian Dollar	54.05	54.26

Source: Indian Bank

## UCO Bank halts IMPS service after tech glitch

The Hindu Bureau  
HYDERABAD

Public sector lender UCO Bank has made the popular instant money transfer facility IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) offline for its customers following an internal technical glitch.

The bank said as a result of the glitch, from November 10-13, certain account holders of "our bank have received some erroneous credits via IMPS."

As a precaution, the bank made the IMPS offline and was working to resolve the issue and restore service "at the earliest". The matter has also been reported to law enforcement agencies for necessary action, the lender said in a filing on Wednesday.

## Crocs footwear unit at Perambalur to begin operations, provide 4,000 jobs

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI



J. Rafiq Ahmed (right) is seen with his collaborator at the groundbreaking ceremony.

The first factory at the Perambalur footwear park to make Crocs brand of footwear is set to begin operations on November 28.

The factory is set up by JR One Footwear Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture company between Phoenix Kothari Footwear Ltd. and Shoetown, at the SIPCOT Industrial Park in Perambalur district and is expected to provide jobs to 4,000 people in and around the region, Phoenix Kothari Footwear Chairman J. Rafiq Ahmed said in a statement.

The inauguration of the

50-acre facility is slated for November 28.

The foundation stone for the factory was laid on November 28, 2022 by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

This is a game-changing event as it is the first facto-

ry to go on stream after the State government came out with a separate footwear and leather product manufacturing policy. Also, the factory is coming up just on the eve of the much-anticipated global investors' summit, which is being organised by the State Government in the first week of January, Mr. Ahmed said.

The cluster approach to component manufacture at the Perambalur footwear park is significantly unique. Only China has the cluster approach to component production currently. With big international brands seeking to rely less on China in the

post-COVID era, the Perambalur cluster is turning out to be a new destination for many, he said.

Guidance Tamil Nadu, the nodal agency for investment promotion and single-window facilitation, had already signed 10 MoUs with Phoenix Kothari Footwear and its 10 affiliated companies, including those from Taiwan, for an investment of ₹740 crore.

Earlier, Guidance Tamil Nadu had signed two MoUs committing an investment of ₹1,700 crore with Phoenix Kothari Footwear on August 2022, after the government unveiled the footwear policy.

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**MORE TO COME**

**'Kohli is not finished yet, it's a phenomenal achievement'**



EMMANUAL YOGINI

Virat Kohli made his 50th ODI hundred during the World Cup semifinal against New Zealand, and Sourav Ganguly had little doubt that the batting star has many more miles to traverse in his career. "It will take a lot of beating to go past this and he's not finished yet. It's a phenomenal achievement," Ganguly said.

**IN SEVENTH HEAVEN**

**Shami goes past Starc's record for bowler with most five-fors**



EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mohammad Shami, with his fourth five-wicket haul, went past Mitchell Starc (three) to emerge the bowler with most five-fors in the World Cup. The India pacer, who scalped seven wickets in the semifinal against New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday, is the only bowler to take three five-fors in a single edition.

**RECORDS TUMBLE**

**Kohli becomes the first batter to score 700 runs in an ODI WC**



EMMANUAL YOGINI

Virat Kohli became the first batter to score 700 World Cup runs in a single edition. He became the third Indian after Sachin Tendulkar and Rohit Sharma to score 600-plus runs in a World Cup. Kohli went past Ricky Ponting (13704) to become the third-highest run-getter in ODIs after Tendulkar (18426) and Kumar Sangakkara (14234).

**PURPLE PATCH**

**Shreyas is the third Indian to score consecutive tons in WC**



EMMANUAL YOGINI

Shreyas Iyer became the third Indian after Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid to score consecutive tons in the ODI World Cup. Shreyas is the third Indian after Rohit and Virat Kohli to score 500 runs in this edition. Shreyas (eight) broke Sourav Ganguly and Yuvraj Singh's (seven each) record of most sixes hit by an Indian in a WC innings.

# Kohli's record 50th, Shami's sizzling seven drive India

Shreyas too plays a crucial hand with second hundred on the go, as the Men in Blue post a huge total; the Kiwis, despite a spirited ton by Mitchell and his 181-run stand with Williamson, lose by 70 runs

**ODI WORLD CUP**

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**  
MUMBAI

A Wednesday night of delight ebbed away at the Wankhede Stadium as the Men in Blue, savouring individual excellence and team solidarity, got past New Zealand in the World Cup semifinal.

Virat Kohli's record-breaking 50th ODI ton, Shreyas Iyer's century, and Mohammed Shami's seven for 57, all combined wonderfully as India defeated Kane Williamson's men by 70 runs.

**Turning the tables**  
Chasing India's 397 for four, New Zealand finished with 327 in 48.5 overs. Having lost to the same rival in the 2019 World Cup semifinal at Manchester, Rohit Sharma's men turned the tables, and will now march into Sunday's final at Ahmedabad, awaiting the victor of the Australia-South Africa semifinal.

New Zealand started brightly through Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra. Conway, however, nibbled at Shami's first delivery and saw K.L. Rahul effect a diving catch. Skip-



**Stellar shows:** Kohli became the highest scorer in a single edition of the World Cup and Shami emerged as the most successful bowler in the knockouts, as India entered the final. EMMANUAL YOGINI



per Williamson, tight defence and watchful eyes, drove a four off Shami, the latter in turn scalped Ravindra, drawing an edge. Williamson and Daryl Mitchell then stitched a defiant 181-run third-wicket partnership.

The latter was all swagger while thumping a six off Shami. Williamson had a close shave when Rahul accidentally disturbed the

stumps and there was no conclusive evidence about whether the second bail too was dislodged before the direct throw disturbed the timber with Williamson's bat being on the line.

Later Shami dropped Williamson on 52 but Mitchell was in terrific form, lashing at Jasprit Bumrah, and soon registered his ton.

Williamson (69),

though, succumbed to Shami, who also accounted for Tom Latham.

The double blow was too much to bear and New Zealand wilted despite Mitchell's glorious 134 (119b, 9x4, 7x6).

In the afternoon, Rohit won the toss, elected to bat and set a rollicking tempo. Whipping a four off Trent Boult, Rohit drove the next past mid-off as the first over yielded 10.

His partner Shubman Gill then tucked into Tim Southee before Rohit unleashed a bouquet of drives and pulls as Boult and Southee felt the heat of the Indian skipper's bat.

Spinner Mitchell Santner was hoisted into the stands, and Rohit (47) seemed set for more when he mistimed a stroke against Southee and Wil-

liamson judged the skier to a nicety. As new man Kohli bided his time, Gill shifted gears, pulling the seamers and dancing down to the spinners.

**In pain**  
However, at 79, he winced in pain, clutching his thighs and returned to the pavilion.

Kohli kept pocketing his runs while Shreyas played

**SCOREBOARD**

**INDIA**  
Rohit Sharma c Williamson b Southee 47 (29b, 4x4, 4x6), Shubman Gill (not out) 80 (66b, 8x4, 3x6), Virat Kohli c Conway b Southee 117 (113b, 9x4, 2x6), Shreyas Iyer c Mitchell b Boult 105 (70b, 4x4, 8x6), K.L. Rahul (not out) 39 (20b, 5x4, 2x6), Suryakumar Yadav c Phillips b Southee 1 (2b); Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-6); 8; Total (for four wkts. in 50 overs): 397.

**FALL OF WICKETS**  
1-71 (Rohit, 8.2 overs), 2-327 (Kohli, 43.6), 3-381 (Shreyas, 48.5), 4-382 (Suryakumar, 49.1).

**NEW ZEALAND BOWLING**  
Boult 10-0-86-1, Southee 10-0-100-3, Santner 10-1-51-0, Ferguson 8-0-65-0, Ravindra 7-0-60-0, Phillips 5-0-33-0.

**NEW ZEALAND**  
Devon Conway c Rahul b Shami 13 (15b, 3x4), Rachin Ravindra c Rahul b Shami 13 (22b, 3x4), Kane Williamson c Suryakumar b Shami 69 (73b, 8x4, 1x6), Daryl Mitchell c Jadeja b Shami 134

(119b, 9x4, 7x6), Tom Latham lbw b Shami 0 (2b), Glenn Phillips c Jadeja b Bumrah 41 (33b, 4x4, 2x6), Mark Chapman c Jadeja b Kuldeep 2 (5b), Mitchell Santner c Rohit b Siraj 9 (10b, 1x4), Trent Boult (not out) 2 (2b); Lockie Ferguson c Rahul b Shami 6 (3b, 1x6); Extras (b-4, lb-5, w-19, nb-1); 29; Total (in 48.5 overs): 327.

**FALL OF WICKETS**  
1-30 (Conway, 5.1), 2-39 (Ravindra, 7.4), 3-220 (Williamson, 32.2), 4-220 (Latham, 32.4), 5-295 (Phillips, 42.5), 6-298 (Chapman, 43.5), 7-306 (Mitchell, 45.2), 8-319 (Santner, 47.5), 9-321 (Southee, 48.2).

**INDIA BOWLING**  
Bumrah 10-1-64-1, Siraj 9-0-78-1, Shami 9-5-0-57-7, Jadeja 10-0-63-0, Kuldeep 10-0-56-1.  
**Toss:** India; **PoM:** Shami.  
*India won by 70 runs to reach the final to be played at Ahmedabad on November 19 (Sunday).*

## Kohli's Fantastic 50 — an achievement of Himalayan proportions that should stand the test of time

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**  
MUMBAI

Like always, he ran like the wind. Virat Kohli knows no other way. As Lockie Ferguson steamed in, Kohli shuffled across and redirected the delivery to backward square-leg.

The single was taken at a breathless pace and then he turned around for his second, a run that ushered in his 50th ODI ton. One better than his idol Sachin Tendulkar's previous record of 49 centuries.

**Air of inevitability**  
In the history of India's batting riches, Kohli had carved a niche for himself many moons ago. And when the 50th hundred was registered at a heaving Wankhede Stadium here on Wednesday evening, it had an air of inevitability.

After skipper Rohit Sharma struck a scorching 47 to set the base, Kohli walked in and did his usual thing, pinching singles, flexing the odd four, and watching his younger partner Shubman Gill tuck into the New Zealand attack in the World Cup semifinal.

The whips off fast bowlers, the gentle drives against the spinners were all in vogue and then Kohli



\* Not Out

**Kohli scales Mount 50**

The Indian became the first batter in history to score 50 ODI hundreds

No.	Score	Opponent	Ground	Date	No.	Score	Opponent	Ground	Date
1	107	vs. Sri Lanka	Kolkata	24 Dec 2009	26	154*	New Zealand	Mohali	23 Oct 2016
2	102*	Bangladesh	Mirpur	11 Jan 2010	27	122	England	Pune	15 Jan 2017
3	118	Australia	Visakhapatnam	20 Oct 2010	28	111*	West Indies	Kingston	6 Jul 2017
4	105	New Zealand	Guwahati	28 Nov 2010	29	131	Sri Lanka	Colombo (RPS)	31 Aug 2017
5	100*	Bangladesh	Mirpur	19 Feb 2011	30	110*	Sri Lanka	Colombo (RPS)	3 Sep 2017
6	107	England	Cardiff	16 Sep 2011	31	121	New Zealand	Mumbai (W)	22 Oct 2017
7	112*	England	Delhi	17 Oct 2011	32	113	New Zealand	Kanpur	29 Oct 2017
8	117	West Indies	Visakhapatnam	2 Dec 2011	33	112	South Africa	Durban	1 Feb 2018
9	133*	Sri Lanka	Hobart	28 Feb 2012	34	160*	South Africa	Cape Town	7 Feb 2018
10	108	Sri Lanka	Mirpur	13 Mar 2012	35	129*	South Africa	Centurion	16 Feb 2018
11	183	Pakistan	Mirpur	18 Mar 2012	36	140	West Indies	Guwahati	21 Oct 2018
12	106	Sri Lanka	Hambantota	21 Jul 2012	37	157*	West Indies	Visakhapatnam	24 Oct 2018
13	128*	Sri Lanka	Colombo (RPS)	31 Jul 2012	38	107	West Indies	Pune	27 Oct 2018
14	102	West Indies	Port of Spain	5 Jul 2013	39	104	Australia	Adelaide	15 Jan 2019
15	115	Zimbabwe	Harare	24 Jul 2013	40	116	Australia	Nagpur	5 Mar 2019
16	100*	Australia	Jaipur	16 Oct 2013	41	123	Australia	Ranchi	8 Mar 2019
17	115*	Australia	Nagpur	30 Oct 2013	42	120	West Indies	Port of Spain	11 Aug 2019
18	123	New Zealand	Napier	19 Jan 2014	43	114*	West Indies	Port of Spain	14 Aug 2019
19	136	Bangladesh	Fatullah	26 Feb 2014	44	113	Bangladesh	Chattogram	10 Dec 2022
20	127	West Indies	Dharamshala	17 Oct 2014	45	113	Sri Lanka	Guwahati	10 Jan 2023
21	139*	Sri Lanka	Ranchi	16 Nov 2014	46	166*	Sri Lanka	Thiruvananthapuram	15 Jan 2023
22	107	Pakistan	Adelaide	15 Feb 2015	47	122*	Pakistan	Colombo (RPS)	10 Sep 2023
23	138	South Africa	Chennai	22 Oct 2015	48	103*	Bangladesh	Pune	19 Oct 2023
24	117	Australia	Melbourne	17 Jan 2016	49	101*	South Africa	Kolkata	5 Nov 2023
25	106	Australia	Canberra	20 Jan 2016	50	117	New Zealand	Mumbai (W)	15 Nov 2023

Source: ESPNcricinfo

unleashed some magic, flicking a six off Tim Southee, a shot that was tensile wrists and just enough power for the ball to sail into the stands.

Even after Gill retired hurt and retreated, Kohli

relished the pyrotechnics of Shreyas Iyer, and remained the busy senior ally.

Once the milestone was reached, Kohli leapt and then bowed down once to Tendulkar and the maestro

heartily applauded from the stands. Dropped on 107 by Glenn Phillips off Southee, Kohli added 10 more before holing out in the deep.

But by then he had anchored India to a strong to-

tal, a position further enhanced when Shreyas too got to his century.

Sunil Gavaskar's late cut off Ijaz Faqih at Ahmedabad's Motera Stadium in 1987 helped him become the first batter to scale

Mount 10,000 in Tests. Later Tendulkar added a string of records, most of which may defy emulation. And now Kohli has added his own unique chapter, which should stand the test of time.

## His hunger, intensity inspiring: Gill on Kohli



**Incredible:** Every time he comes out to the park, he does something special, says Gill about Kohli. EMMANUAL YOGINI

**Amol Karhadkar**  
MUMBAI

Shubman Gill has won the Under-19 World Cup for India. Moments after the Men in Blue booked a berth in the men's World Cup final, he was delighted with yet another clinical team effort.

"The way we have been batting, bowling and fielding as a unit, it feels great to be a part of the dressing room," Gill said.

Besides breaking the New Zealand jinx, India also saw Virat Kohli scoring a record 50th ODI hundred. Gill spoke about the Kohli legacy.

"Every time he comes out to the park, he does so-

mething special. He has been doing it for the last 10-15 years, that's what is really inspiring," Gill said.

"For me, it's not so much about the skill he has. It's more about the hunger he has and the intensity with which he goes out there. That's more inspiring. And to be able to consistently do that for as long as he has been doing really inspires me."

After a fluent partnership with Kohli, Gill had to retire hurt with cramps. "It started with cramps and then I pulled my hamstring. It was quite humid and these are just the after-effects of dengue," he said, assuring that he will be ready for Sunday's final.



# 'I am trying to find the words to describe it'

You actually just admire Kohli's greatness and he keeps getting better, says New Zealand skipper Williamson referring to the star India batter's 50th ODI hundred

## ODI WORLD CUP

Shayan Acharya  
MUMBAI

Since their U-19 days, Virat Kohli and Kane Williamson have got a mutual admiration, and on Wednesday the former scored his 50th ODI century that eventually paved the way for India's 70-run win against New Zealand in the semifinals.

Though he was disappointed that his team was knocked out of the tournament, Williamson did not hesitate in admiring Kohli's greatness.

"If you play 50 games, some people would call that a great career. To get 50 hundreds... I am trying to find the words to describe it really, and not just that, it's actually about winning games for his team and he's getting close and there's a lot of attention and that comes with a lot of his success," Williamson said.

"Actually it was always



Causing a flutter: Mitchell's ton, in pursuit of a huge target, had the Indians worried. EMMANUAL YOGINI

about pushing his team forward and so yeah, I mean he's the best isn't he? And he seems to be getting better, which is a worry for opposition all around the world, but you admire it. It's incredible really. Although it's tough to be on the other side of it today, they (India) were outstanding. You actually just admire

his (Kohli's) greatness and he's just getting better that guy.."

It was a World Cup of two halves for New Zealand as it won its first four group league games and suffered five losses in the last six outings.

But Williamson took positives from his side's campaign. "You always

want the wins, but we still continue to focus on how we want to keep going out as a team, not overreact to the loss the previous match and actually keep turning up and playing what's in front of us. The conditions keep changing a little bit, and I thought we did that quite well to get to the stage..."

# Controversy ensues over pitch change ahead of semifinals

Shayan Acharya  
MUMBAI

Controversy erupted ahead of Wednesday's World Cup semifinal fixture between India and New Zealand, with reports claiming that the pitch for the marquee fixture was switched in a bid against the International Cricket Council (ICC) agreement to aid Indian spinners.

However, India captain Rohit Sharma played down the issue after winning the toss and opting to bat first.

"It looks a good pitch, a little on the slower side, but whatever we do, we have to do it well," he said.

Earlier, *The Daily Mail* reported that as per the initial agreement, the semifinal clash was supposed to be played on surface No. 7, which was unused for any of the four group matches played at the venue.

However, without keeping Andy Atkinson, the ICC's independent pitch consultant, in the loop, the match was shifted to strip No. 6, which had been used for a couple of games.

Speaking to *Sportstar*, an ICC spokesperson said, "Changes to planned pitch

rotations are common towards the end of an event of this length and have already happened a couple of times.

"This change was made on the recommendation of the venue curator in conjunction with our host."

"The ICC independent pitch consultant was apprised of the change and has no reason to believe the pitch won't play well," the spokesperson added.

The ICC's playing conditions for the World Cup specify that the respective 'ground authority' is 'responsible for the selection and preparation of the pitch' before it hosts any fixture.

A couple of days ago, India's head coach Rahul Dravid and his assistants, Paras Mhambrey and Vikram Rathour, had a long discussion with the Mumbai Cricket Association curator and BCCI's seasoned curators, Ashish Bhowmick and Taposh Chatterjee.

The last four games at the venue were high-scoring ones. In the first three, the teams batting first won. That proved the case on Wednesday, too.

# India is the third men's team to reach four World Cup finals



Arsenal: Shami became the fifth bowler to take a seven-wicket haul in the ODI WC. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mayank Chaudhary  
CHENNAI

Rohit Sharma became the first batter to hit 50 sixes in ODI World Cups. Rohit (28) also went past Gayle's tally of 26 maximums (2019) in a single edition. Virat Kohli and Kane Williamson are the sixth and seventh players to make four semifinal appearances in the World Cup. India (397/4) registered the highest team total in an ODI WC knockout match, beating New Zealand's 393 vs. West Indies in the 2015 quarterfinal.

Williamson and Daryl Mitchell's 181-run partner-

ship is the highest third-wicket partnership for the Black Caps in ODI WC history. Mitchell is the first score two tons against India in an edition of the WC. Mohammed Shami (7/57) registered the best bowling figures by an Indian in ODIs. He also became the fifth bowler after Winston Davis, Andy Bichel, Glenn McGrath and Tim Southee to take a seven-wicket haul in the ODI WC. Shami (17 innings) went past Starc (19) to become the fastest to 50 wickets in the ODI WC. India is only the third men's team to reach four ODI WC finals after England and Australia.

# Babar resigns as Pakistan captain



Babar Azam. ANI

Agence France-Presse  
LAHORE

Pakistan cricket underwent a major shake-up on Wednesday in the aftermath of the World Cup flop as Babar Azam quit as skipper with Shan Masood becoming Test captain, Shaheen Shah Afridi taking the reins of the white-ball side while coaches were downgraded.

Babar had been leading the side since November 2019, but after the failure to reach the World Cup semifinals in India, his position was under threat.

"I am here to support the new captain and the team with my experience and dedication," said Babar.

# Can South Africa overcome its knockout phobia?

Ashwin Achal  
KOLKATA

As a semifinal clash with Australia approaches on Thursday, it is time for South Africa to confront the ghost of World Cups past. There are regrets galore, especially when it comes to knockout matches and Australia.

The spirit reveals the most distressing vision of the 1999 World Cup semifinal, when Allan Donald and Lance Klusener sunk into brain fade mode to let the Aussies through to the final. Travel to 2007, where a shocking South African batting collapse made it an easy day out for Australia in another last-four game.

Even going all the way back to 1992, South Africa exited the semifinal stage at the hands of a cruel rain rule. From needing 22 runs off 13 balls when showers interrupted play, Brian McMillan and Dave Richardson returned to the crease with an impossible task of getting 21 runs from one delivery.

Two quarterfinal defeats (1996, 2011) and a semifinal slip in 2015, add to South Africa's nightmares. These repeated reverses have led to many terming the national team as "chokers" – the equivalent of a harsh cuss word in the world of professional sport. This South African squad may not carry these

scars, but captain Temba Bavuma was honest to admit that players feel "anxiety" heading into this pressure match.

At the Eden Gardens, the Proteas will be desperate to finally let go of all the pain. Only a win can create a new, positive discourse.

Australia's record in crunch games, on the other hand, is second to none. Through the years, the sides have been forged into ruthless machines by the likes of Allan Border, Steve Waugh, Ricky Ponting and Michael Clarke – World Cup-winning captains all.

The knack of finding unstoppable momentum came to the fore in this tournament as well. The Aussies were thought to be down and out after losing their first two encounters, before going on an unbeaten seven-game rampage.

Glenn Maxwell's remarkable unbeaten 201 against Afghanistan served as a reminder of Australia's indomitable spirit. Maxwell, expected to be fit for this game, will be South Africa's biggest threat. Opener David Warner and Mitchell Marsh are in good nick too, while leg-spinner Adam Zampa has taken 22 wickets. Rain could pose the only dampener in what should be a thrilling contest. The sell-out crowd expected at this grand venue will hope that the reserve day is not put into use.

## Thursday thunder

The Proteas will look to break the semifinal hoodoo while the Aussies will seek their eighth consecutive win in this edition as the two heavyweights meet at the Eden Gardens



### Record in semifinals (ODI World Cup)

	M	W	L	T*
South Africa	4	0	3	1
Australia	8	6	1	1

\*The 1999 semifinal classic between Australia and South Africa ended in a tie. Australia progressed by virtue of finishing higher in the Super Six table

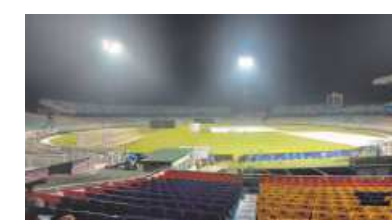
### League record (2023 World Cup)

South Africa	W W L W W W L W
Australia	L L W W W W W W W

### Captaincy record

	M	W	L	NR	Win/Loss	
Temba Bavuma	ODIs	31	18	12	1	1.50
	WC	7	5	2	0	2.50
Pat Cummins	ODIs	13	10	3	0	3.33
	WC	9	7	2	0	3.50

With Bavuma and Cummins at the helm, South Africa and Australia have played each other once (in the league stage of the 2023 World Cup). South Africa won by 134 runs



Source: ESPNcricinfo

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Generally cloudy with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers Source: IMD

**SOUTH AFRICA**

1992: lost to England by 19 runs  
1999: Match tied (vs. Australia)  
2007: lost to Australia by seven wickets  
2015: lost to New Zealand by four wickets

**AUSTRALIA**

1975: bt England by four wickets  
1987: bt Pakistan by 18 runs  
1996: bt West Indies by five runs  
1999: Match tied (vs. South Africa)  
2003: bt Sri Lanka by 48 runs  
2007: bt South Africa by seven wickets  
2015: bt India by 95 runs

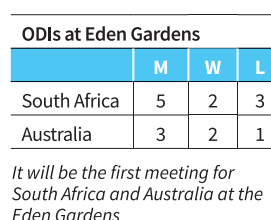
2019: lost to England by eight wickets

Australia went on to win the title in 1987, 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2015

### ODIs at Eden Gardens

	M	W	L
South Africa	5	2	3
Australia	3	2	1

It will be the first meeting for South Africa and Australia at the Eden Gardens



K.R. Deepak



Bavuma



Cummins

# Our experience will be handy: Cummins



Ace in the pack: Maharaj will be keen to continue his good show in the business end. K.R. DEEPAK

Ayan Acharya  
KOLKATA

Pat Cummins believes Australia's experience of playing in high-stakes matches could prove decisive as it takes on South Africa in the second ODI World Cup semifinal at the Eden Gardens on Thursday.

South Africa holds a positive win-loss record over Australia in ODIs (55 wins and 50 losses) against the five-time champion. But Cummins is not too perturbed by the numbers.

"What helps us is that we've got a lot of guys that have been in this situation (knockouts) before. We have won the ODI and T20 World Cups and various other tournaments. You can draw on that in the middle of the contest," the

Aussie skipper said. Cummins weighed in on the controversy surrounding India regarding its supposed preference for a spin-friendly deck for the semifinal against New Zealand. "Yeah, I saw that. You know, obviously, ICC has an independent pitch curator who manages that, so I'm sure they're all over making sure it's fair for both teams," he said.

Meanwhile, Temba Bavuma has shown improvement from the hamstring strain he suffered against Afghanistan. But the South African skipper said he is still "not 100%" fit and a decision on his inclusion will be taken on Thursday. "I'm quite confident, but I mean, it's not a unilateral decision that will be made (regarding selection)."

# Alcaraz keeps his hopes alive; Sinner downs Djokovic

Reuters  
TURIN

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz got back on track at the ATP Finals with victory over a tormented Andrey Rublev on Wednesday, easing to a 7-5 6-2 to revive his hopes in Red Group.

World No. 2 Alcaraz, who had suffered an opening round-robin defeat by Alexander Zverev, responded with a confident display, albeit against an unravelling Russian.

Rublev managed to hang on in the first set but wavered at 5-5 when he dropped his serve – Alcaraz then claiming the opening set with a comfortable



Maiden success: A gritty Sinner registered his first win over Djokovic. GETTY IMAGES

hold. Things deteriorated rapidly for Rublev when he dropped serve at the start of the second set. He

slammed his racquet after handing Alcaraz a break point and when he then blazed a shot wide, he re-

peatedly smashed his racquet into his leg. The Turin crowd gasped and an emotional Rublev had to wipe blood off his knee during the changeover.

Alcaraz took complete control after that with Rublev seemingly playing against the Spaniard and himself. The contest reached its predictable conclusion in little more than an hour.

In doubles, Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden kept alive their hopes with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Rinky Hijikata and Jason Kubler.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, Novak Djokovic's winning streak was halted at 19 matches as home favourite

Jannik Sinner was roared to a superb 7-5, 6-7(5), 7-6(2) victory by a partisan crowd.

After more than three hours of an absorbing toe-toe battle in which neither player took a backward step it was World No. 4 Sinner who seized his chance in the deciding set tie-break finally to crack Djokovic's resistance.

**The results: Green Group:** Sinner bt Djokovic 7-5, 6-7(5), 7-6(2).

**Doubles:** Granollers & Zeballos bt Dodig & Krajicek 6-4, 6-4.

**Red Group:** Alcaraz bt Rublev 7-5, 6-2. **Doubles:** Bopanna & Ebden bt Hijikata & Kubler 6-4, 6-4.

THE HINDU CRICKET WORLD CUP TRIVIA CHALLENGE

- Which unfancied team did India beat in the 2003 World Cup semi-finals?
- Who was Netherlands's leading run getter in the 1996 ODI World Cup?
- Which Indian bowler had the bowling figures of 5 for 27 against Pakistan in the 1999 ODI World Cup?

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1. Sunil Gavaskar  
2. Craig McDermott  
3. Shakib Al Hassan



# South Africa will have to be ready for a very motivated Australia

The Proteas' rugby team recently won the World Cup and if the cricketers can take inspiration from that and go the extra mile, then they have the capability of putting it across the five-time champion



Sunil Gavaskar

Five-time champion Australia have moved into top gear as they take on the South Africans at the Eden Gardens for a place in the finals. The kind of recoveries they have made in this tournament is nothing short of miraculous and it typifies the Australian spirit of never giving up.

Glenn Maxwell's double century and the extreme physical discomfort in which he scored it, is the stuff of dreams. From a totally hopeless position, he dashed the hopes of Afghanistan of qualifying for the semifinals. True, Afghanistan did not have the experience to play the moment and not think they had already won the match, but it still was an innings of great physical courage and mental strength that took Australia home.

It's this same going-to-extreme-lengths-to-do-the-impossible for Australia that the South Africans will be up against. They, too, are a proud sporting nation, but have nothing to show in the trophy cabinet in cricket. Their rugby team recently won the World Cup and if the cricketers



Powerhouse: Head, who can hit the ball with incredible power, is in great form. K.R. DEEPAK

openers will impact how Rabada and Coetzee need to bowl too. Do these two fine bowlers come in, to stem the flow of runs or do they have to bowl to keep the pressure of the early wickets, will to a great extent, decide the course of the game.

The Australian top three are a powerhouse and all are in great form. There's David Warner playing in his last World Cup and Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh, who hit the ball with incredible power. Steve Smith's absence opened the door for Marsh to bat in that position and he has taken to it like a duck takes to water. Then there's Glenn Maxwell. The cricketing world just witnessed with their jaws agape as to the miracle he unfolded last week. His bowling too is what Pat Cummins is relying on to keep the run flow down. Cummins himself has got back to his bowling best and along with Starc and Hazlewood won't let the Proteas have it easy. Zampa has benefitted as batters have tried to go after him and lost their wickets in the attempt.

The fielding of both teams is outstanding and so there will be those thrills too for the Eden crowd. It's a wonderful opportunity for the Proteas to fling away the tag of chokers but against a team that has regained its mojo it is likely an uphill battle.

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can take inspiration from that and go the extra mile, then they have the capability of putting it across the Aussies.

Their problem has been in getting the team off to a good start while batting, and apart from one game, they have invariably lost a

couple of wickets or more in the first power play of 10 overs. The middle-order has been their strength with Rassie van der Dussen, Aiden Markram, and Heinrich Klaasen powering the way around with David Miller to land the killer punch.

In the bowling, Keshav Maharaj has relished bowling on Indian pitches and has been superb in the middle overs, not only keeping the runs down but also taking wickets. How their new ball attack of Marco Jansen, Lungi Ngidi bowl to the Australian

# Prannoy lone Indian survivor at Japan Masters badminton

Press Trust of India  
KUMAMOTO

Returning to action after recovering from a back injury, shuttler H.S. Prannoy emerged as the lone Indian survivor at the Japan Masters, advancing to the second round with a gritty win here on Wednesday.

The 31-year-old, who played with back pain en route to the Asian Games bronze medal in his last outing, defeated Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong 22-20, 19-21, 21-17 in a 64-minute opening round clash at the Super 500 event.

Prannoy made a good start, taking a 11-6 lead at the first mid-game interval. Lee, however, managed to claw back at 14-14 but the Indian held his fort despite relentless pressure to eventually seal the opening game by the narrowest of margins.



Hard-fought win: Prannoy in action against Lee. X@PRANNOYHSPRI

Prannoy took the momentum to the second game, zooming to 14-8 but the world No. 18 from Hong Kong drew parity at 17-17 and this time went the distance with Prannoy falling into a pool of errors.

The gritty Indian, however, didn't let the reversal affect him as he recovered from 5-8 behind to turn the tables at 13-11 and then keep his nose ahead despite a fighting Lee to win the decider and the

match. Lakshya Sen, who had won the Canada Open this year, and Orleans Master winner Priyanshu Rajawat had a bad day in office as they bowed out of the tournament after falling short in their opening match.

The results:

**Men: First round:** Kodai Narooka (Jpn) bt Lakshya Sen 21-17, 21-10; Lin Chun-Yi (Tpe) bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-15, 21-12; H.S. Prannoy bt Lee Cheuk Yiu (HK) 22-20, 19-21, 21-17.

# Riya advances in singles, doubles

Sports Bureau

Riya Bhatia beat Mia Saveljic 6-3, 6-0 in the first round in a draw of 64 in the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Riya also made the doubles quarterfinal in partnership with Lauren Proctor.

**The results: \$80,000 Challenger, Kobe, Japan:**  
**Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Niki Poonacha & Divij Sharan bt

Karol Drzewiecki (Pol) & Zdenek Kolar (Cze) 6-4, 6-2; Purav Raja & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Shinji Hazawa & Yuta Shimizu (Jpn) 6-7(6), 6-4, [10-5]; Chung Yun Seong (Kor) & Ruben Gonzales (Phi) bt Rithvik Bollipalli & Arjun Kadhe 6-4, 6-4.

**\$15,000 ITF men, Hua Hin, Thailand: First round:** Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Rohan Mehra 7-5, 7-6(3).

**Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Tsung-Hao Huang (Tpe) & Shintaro Imai (Jpn) bt Pruchya Isaro (Tha) & Parikshit Somani 6-3, 4-6, [10-8].

**\$25,000 ITF men, Monastir: First round:** Hady Habib (Lbn) bt

Chirag Duhan 6-1, 6-0.

**\$25,000 ITF women, Austin, USA: First round:** Mary Stoiana (USA) bt Sahaja Yamalappalli 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

**\$25,000 ITF women, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: First round:** Riya Bhatia bt Mia Saveljic (USA) 6-3, 6-0.

**Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Riya & Lauren (USA) bt Carolyn Ansari & Haley Giavara (Caro) 6-3, 6-4.

**\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Lee Bathellier & Louna Zoppas (Fra) bt Lakshmi Gowda & Pawinee Ruamrak (Tha) 6-4, 7-5.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



Sehreen

General Public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), Namely: Sehreen D/o Sakir Ali R/o House No. 250, Gali No. 3, Kardampuri, Near Gold Line Public School, Delhi has been missing since 09.11.2023 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 93A dated 09.11.2023 has been lodged at Police Station Jyoti Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Age:** 18 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black Colour Burkha.  
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Jyoti Nagar, Delhi at E-mail [ld-cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:ld-cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
**Phone:** SHO 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Jyoti Nagar, Delhi  
Fax No. 011-24368639 North East Distt., Delhi  
DP/13003/NE/2023 Ph. No. 987057820, 7838264855

## Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a Female dead body Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 70 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Built: Normal, Face: Round, Wearing : Yellow Suits & Salwar having blue color flower print & light orange chunni who was found dead Jal Nahar, Water Pump, D-Block, Sector-4, Bawana, Delhi on 14.11.2023 at 8:00 AM. In this regard, a DD No.6-A, dated 14.11.2023 has been lodged at PS Bawana, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about this female may kindly inform to the following.  
**SHO P.S., Bawana, Delhi**  
DP/13105/ON/2023 Ph. : 7065036321, 9999753792

## UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one male person was found dead at H.No. J-670, Gali No. 3, Kartar Nagar, Delhi dated 06.11.2023. In this regard a DD No. 82A dated 06.11.2023 has been registered at P.S. Usmanpur, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 80 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Colourful Shirt and White Payjama.



Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.  
**SHO P.S. New Usmanpur Delhi**  
Ph.: 011-22175468, 8750870722  
DP/13114/NE/2023

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DIPR/6060/Tender/2023 Chief Engineer / PPP / TANGEDCO

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Tender Opening Date & Time	18.12.2023 @ 03.30 PM
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## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Neeraj Kumar** S/o Randhir Singh R/o House No. 916, Chhhb Pana, Pooth Khurd, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 954/2022 U/s 406/511/467/471 IPC registered at P.S. Jaffarpur Kalan, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Neeraj Kumar** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Neeraj Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Neeraj Kumar** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **21.12.2023**.

By Order  
Sh. Abhinav Ahlawat,  
Metropolitan Magistrate-09 (South West)  
Room No. 314, Third Floor,  
Dwarka District Courts, Delhi

DP/13078/DW/2023  
(Court Notice)

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION DIVISION**  
BAGLIHAR HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT-II  
CHANDERKOTE RAMBAN E-mail: [xenegenbhepii@gmail.com](mailto:xenegenbhepii@gmail.com)

GEN/BHEP-II/1040-1045 Dated: 11-11-2023

**Extension Notice-III**

Due to poor response, the E-nit No. GEN/BHEP-II/14 of 2023 Dated: 06-10-2023 titled Interlocking of 11 KV supply between BHEP power house stage-I and stage- II published by this office is here by extended by 07 days.

Description	Previous Date	New Date
Last date for submission of Bid	10-11-2023 at 04:00PM	17-11-2023 at 04:00PM
Date of Opening of Bid	11-11-2023 at 02:00PM	18-11-2023 at 02:00PM

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer Generation Division BHEP-II  
Chanderkote

DIP/J-3949-P/23

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE-HOSPITAL**

Bemina, Srinagar, J&K 190017 Department of Materials Management  
0194-2493226, email: [mmo@skimsmc.edu.in](mailto:mmo@skimsmc.edu.in)

Sub: Procurement of spares/ consumables for Laureate Phaco machine (Make: A l c o n, USA) on Proprietary Article basis. Notice for invitation of objections thereof.

SKIMS Medical College-Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar J&K, intends to procure spares / consumables for Laureate Phaco machine (Make: Alcon, USA) from M/s Alcon Laboratories (India) Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru, through their local authorized distributor, on PAC basis as per provisions of Rule 166 of GFR.

In this connection, objections (if any) from companies manufacturing/ marketing such items compatible with the above machine and capable of delivering the same result as intended from the above items, regarding the proprietary nature of the above items, should be communicated on the above mentioned email id within a weeks' period i.e., by or before 20th of November, 2023 up to 04:00 PM.

After due date, it will be presumed that no manufacturer/ company has any objection/ comments to offer and the claim for the proprietorship of the item, shall be accepted.

Sd/-  
Materials Management Officer  
(SKIMS MCH Bemina)

DIPK-NB-4217/23  
Nov 14 2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**Directorate of Floriculture (G&P) Department Kashmir**

Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032  
email: - [kashflori@rediffmail.com](mailto:kashflori@rediffmail.com)

**Subject: - Extension No.02.**

In view of no response, the last date for submission of bids invited vide this office e-Tender Notice No.26 of 2023 dated 03.10.2023 for Outsourcing of Entry Ticketing System of Lidder Park, Pahalgam is hereby extended as per the details given below: -

1. Period of downloading of bidding Document	14.11.2023 from 11:30 AM to 28.11.2023 up to 02:00 PM
2. Bid submission Start Date	14.11.2023 from 12:00 Noon
3. Bid submission End date	28.11.2023 up to 02:00 PM
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	01.12.2023 at 02:00 PM

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid Tender Notice.

No: -DFK/GS-681/3660-62  
Dated:- 14/11/2023

DIPK- 12230/23  
Nov 14 2023

Sd/-  
Accounts Officer,  
(Member Secretary)

## OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

### DEATH



We deeply mourn the demise of **S R GOPAL** Sr Scientist (Retd) at Dubai on 14th Nov 2023. Ashok, Savitha, Abhishek and Akshay. Mob: +971 552923464, +971 557577698

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



**P. SRI LAKSHAMMA**  
D.O.B: 15.11.2020  
My Mother last word:  
The Saddest Thing About Betrayal is That it never Comes from your enemies. We miss you every moment in our life, your presence continues to surround us, in our hearts, you are always there. Inserted by: P. Janarthana Reddy, Pavana Kumari, R. Sureshkumar Reddy, S.Krishnakumari & Grandchildren



**Padmashri Dr N P Seshadri**  
2.1.1929 to 16.11.2009  
14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Distinguished Scholar, Musicologist, Administrator and Founder National Cultural Organisation.  
Homage by **Padmashri Dr N P Seshadri Charitable Trust**  
New Delhi - 9810097129.



## IN BRIEF



## Rory McIlroy resigns from PGA Tour board

Rory McIlroy resigned from the PGA Tour board on Tuesday, an abrupt move that comes as the tour is trying to finalise an agreement to create a new commercial enterprise involving Saudi Arabia's national wealth fund. Asked if he liked having a seat at the table, McIlroy said, "Not particularly, no. Not what I signed for whenever I went on the board. But yeah, the game of professional golf has been in flux for the last two years." In a statement, PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan and board chairman Ed Herlihy thanked McIlroy for his dedication and commitment the last five years. The 34-year-old four-time major winner had been one of the staunchest allies of the PGA Tour during its bitter civil war with LIV, reportedly turning down a huge offer to join the free-spending series.



## Injured Mitoma out of Japan World Cup qualifiers

Japan suffered a blow on the eve of World Cup qualifying with Brighton winger Kaoru Mitoma ruled out with injury, the football association said on Wednesday. The 26-year-old has scored seven goals in 18 appearances for his country and emerged as one of the most exciting attackers in the Premier League. "Since this is a World Cup qualifier I joined the team believing in my potential to contribute," Mitoma said in a JFA statement. "But unfortunately, seeing as I won't be able to play at 100%, I've decided to let my teammates play on my behalf, as much as I regret doing so."

## BWF World Tour Finals ramps up prize pot

The richest tournament in badminton got even richer on Wednesday after the sport's governing body ramped up the prize pot for the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals to \$11.5 million over the next four years. The prize money for this year's Finals, taking place from December 13-17 in Hangzhou, will be \$2.5 million, up from \$1.5 million last year. It will increase over the coming years to \$3.5 million in 2026, the Kuala Lumpur-based Badminton World Federation said. "We are delighted to be able to confirm \$11.5 million over the next four years for what already is our signature finale to the BWF World Tour," secretary general Thomas Lund said. "This represents an overall greater commitment to our players and contributes to an enhanced world-class sports product that we seek."



## Flintoff is head coach of Northern Superchargers

Former England captain Andrew Flintoff has been appointed as head coach of the Northern Superchargers men's team in The Hundred, nearly a year after a serious car accident. Flintoff was hospitalised with facial and rib injuries after the crash last December. He is now set for his first head coach role and replaces ex-England wicketkeeper James Foster, who left the Headingley-based side last week. "I'm relishing the opportunity to be back amongst it, helping to guide the Superchargers team to success on the field while making memories off it and helping to take cricket to more people," he said.

## 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. (Friday)

**Euro 2024:** European Qualifiers, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Friday); Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.30 p.m.

## Asian sides battle for World Cup spot

None of the continental heavyweights are taking this qualification stage lightly; India is traveling to Kuwait for its Group A clash

## FOOTBALL

Associated Press  
SEOUL

Son Heung-min will join South Korea for its opening game in World Cup qualifying, with head coach Jurgen Klinsmann aiming to start the second stage of Asian competition with a statement win.

The Koreans and Asia's five other 2022 World Cup participants start their qualification campaigns to appear at the 2026 tournament on Thursday.

None of the continental heavyweights are taking this stage lightly, with European-based stars such as Son, Kaoru Mitoma and Mehdi Taremi picked for their national teams.

South Korea kicks off



**We mean business:** Star player Son has been called up for the Qualifiers by South Korea. AFP

against Singapore in Seoul. Klinsmann is ready to play his strongest team, despite the fact that Singapore is ranked No. 155, as he be-

gins a bid for South Korea to qualify for an 11th successive World Cup. "You have to take them very seriously," Klinsmann

said. The top two from each of the nine four-team groups will progress to the next stage of Asian qualify-

ing, where they'll compete for one of the eight automatic spots at the World Cup.

## The form team

Japan has appeared at every World Cup since 1998 and, now ranked No. 18, is Asia's form team with six wins from its last six games.

Head coach Hajime Moriyasu wants to use that momentum to get off to a perfect start in Osaka against Myanmar and then against Syria five days later on neutral turf in Jeddah.

Australia also reached the knockout stage at the 2022 World Cup, pushing eventual champion Argentina all the way in the second round.

In the last two months, the Socceroos drew 2-2 with Mexico, lost 1-0 to England in London and beat

New Zealand 2-0.

Qatar is still recovering from losing all three games as World Cup host in 2022, and takes on Afghanistan in its first game.

Roberto Mancini faces his first competitive game with Saudi Arabia since being appointed in August. Taking on Pakistan at home should give the Saudi team the opportunity for a much-needed victory though as it prepares for tougher tests ahead.

In other group openers, the Palestinian team will play Lebanon in Sharjah, having to prepare remotely because of the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, and United Arab Emirates will be playing at home on the same night against Nepal. India is traveling to Kuwait in Group A and China is traveling to Thailand in Group C.

## Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez face off in World Cup qualifying

Associated Press  
SAO PAULO

Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez, close friends and former teammates at Barcelona, will renew their on-the-field rivalry on Thursday in World Cup qualifying.

Messi, who appears to have recovered from a muscle injury in his leg, led Argentina to its third World Cup title last year and has his team in first place in the South American qualifying group for the 2026 tournament.

The 36-year-old Suarez has just returned to Uruguay's national team as he nears the end of a high-scoring season in the Brazilian league.

The Argentines will take on two-time World Cup champion Uruguay at La Bombonera Stadium in Buenos Aires.

Also on Thursday, Brazil will travel to face Colombia in Barranquilla as it tries to recover from a home draw with Venezuela and a loss at Uruguay in its previous two qualifying matches.

Brazil coach Fernando Diniz, who recently won the Copa Libertadores



**Crossing swords:** Former club mates at Barca, Messi and Suarez will renew their rivalry when Argentina faces Uruguay. GETTY IMAGES

with Fluminense, could use teenager Endrick after calling him up for the first time.

Argentina leads the 10-team South American qualifying group with 12 points from four matches. Uruguay, Brazil and Venezuela have seven points each and are separated by goal difference. Colombia has six points, while Ecuador, Paraguay and Chile have four each. Peru has one point and Bolivia has zero.

The next World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada will include 48 teams, meaning direct entry for the top six teams in South America. The se-

venth-place team will contest an intercontinental playoff for a berth.

Messi will likely be playing his last two matches of the calendar year against Uruguay and then Brazil next week at the Maracana Stadium. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner finished his season with Inter Miami on October 21.

Suarez, a teammate of Messi at Barcelona from 2014-20, will return to Uruguay's national team for the first time under coach Marcelo Bielsa. The veteran striker earned his place despite knee pain, which he doesn't hide during every match for Brazilian club Gremio.

## Indian Oil edges past All India Police Sports Control Board

## HOCKEY

Sports Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Fancied Indian Oil began its campaign with a fighting 3-2 victory against All India Police Sports Control Board in the opening game of the 3rd Hockey India Senior Women inter-department championships here on Wednesday.

Boasting of more than 10 players currently part of the Indian squad, the Indian Oil women were expected to have an easy outing but were pushed all the

way by the police team.

IOC took the lead twice only for the opposition to level scores as goalkeeper Bichu Devi was kept busy. It took a winner from Deepika in the 51st minute for IOC, coached by former India star Deepak Thakur, to ensure full points in the Pool B contest.

In another game, captain Rajni Bala struck twice in Sashatra Seema Bal's 3-0 win against Tamil Nadu Police.

In Pool A, favourite Railways lived up to the billing with a comprehensive 11-0 victory against UCO Bank Academy.

After a goalless first quarter that saw the Railways come close and missing the target, the side struck thrice in the next two before adding five more in the final 15 minutes, Gurjit Kaur getting three goals and Monika adding two.

**The results: Pool A:** RSPB 11 (Gurjit Kaur 3, Monika 2, Vandana Katariya, Shilpi Dabas, Aishwarya Chavan, Alka Ddungdung, Navneet Kaur, Devika Sen) bt UCO 0; SAI 1 (Pooja Yadav) bt Union Bank 0.

**Pool B:** IOC 3 (Jyoti, Sharmila Devi, Deepika) bt AIPSCB 2 (Yashika Negi, Sushma Kumari); SSB 3 (Rajni Bala 2, Ranjita Minj) bt TNP 0.

## Siddhant nets four in Jindal Panther's easy win

Sports Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Siddhant Sharma scored four goals to help Jindal Panther to a 8-4 victory over Delta Foundation in a league match of the Girdhari Cup polo tournament

on Wednesday.

In the semifinals on Friday, Jindal Panther will meet 61st Cavalry/Royal Enfield and Vimal Arion Achievers will take on Delhi Foundation

**The results (league):** Jindal

Panther 8 (Siddhant Sharma 4, Dino Dhankar 2, Naveen Jindal, Simran Shergill) bt Delta Foundations 4 (Salim Azmi 2, Padmanabh Singh 2).

Vimal Arion Achievers 6 (Abhimanyu Pathak 3, Hurr Ali 2, Daniel Otamendi) bt Sahgal Stud 1/2 (Naveen Singh, handicap 1/2).

## This World Cup is an advert why ODI format should stay as it is

It's the most important one after Tests and from what we have seen so far in terms of just the play and the excitement, I am a fan of the 50-50 format

## INTERVIEW

## Viv Richards

Amol Karhadkar  
MUMBAI

The future of ODI cricket has been the most-debated topic before and during the World Cup. Sir Viv Richards shared his thoughts on why the 50-over format should remain intact.

**Have you liked the World Cup? Your take on the future of the ODI format?**

Oh, yes! So I am hoping that the 50-over stays because there has been talk that they are looking at whether or not (to persist with it). But from what we have seen so far in terms of just the play and the excitement, I am a fan of what I have seen and I am hoping the 50-50 format stays.

**From a cricketing standpoint, what is it**



**Words of wisdom:** Test cricket is the foundation and T20s professional fun, according to Richards.

**about this format you believe it should survive?**

This is the most important format of the game that you can find after Test cricket. It gives players an opportunity, 50 overs to get themselves in. That's enough time. In order for you to accomplish your innings and from what we would have seen as well, we look at some of the scores in the World Cup thus far. They have been

highly impressive and exciting... if anyone starts thinking about this now, I just believe it will just be ludicrous because I am hoping that this is here to stay for quite some time. This particular World Cup, in a sense, would have sent that message that would have been the greatest advert for why this particular tournament should remain.

**Without this format, do you think that switching**



Some of the scores in the World Cup have been impressive and exciting so far

**to T20 from Test cricket and Tests to T20s would be difficult?**

It would be. I just felt that it's like golf, we have various formats. You know you try and let that be played out at some point, and if you ask maybe the individuals who appreciate it, they will tell you. I am hoping that they will give you an honest answer that this 50-50 stuff is the next best thing to the greatest tournament that can be played after Test cricket. Test cricket, it's just (right up there), because we all know the substance of Tests.

I don't think we would want individuals going from Test matches because some are still not wanting to play the five-day version.

**A lot of talk is also surrounding whether the format needs to be tweaked slightly, make it 40 overs a side or make it four innings of 25 overs each. What's your take?**

Listen, listen. You know what? Sometimes we suspect the apple cart and anyone that tells me what they would have seen so far in this particular World Cup, you have guys scoring the amount of hundreds scored, the double hundred as well in the circumstances. This World Cup, in itself, is an advert why the tournament should stay as it is.

**Maxwell was good, right?**

It's great. Where on earth in the modern day, would you have heard the guy scoring 200 in especially the circumstances - at 90-whatever for seven - and still getting it done. Just from that particular outing for me, the 50s should re-

main because look at the de Kock, the Kohlis, the Markrams, you look at it. It is the best format after (Tests) and then when you have accomplished, maybe, the 50-50 stuff, you can just have the greatest fun.

Then there's the T20 which is professional fun. I do believe we have it in the right perspective at the moment for those who want to play Test cricket. That to me is the foundation if you want to go further.

**Some of the players themselves are saying they don't want to play the 50-over format any longer...**

Some are lazy, I guess. Even before you would have heard that particular comment, there are some who already would have given up, would rather give up Test matches.

Who would give up the 50-50, and that was the argument the day before. I hope common sense prevails.



# Sport is a real tool for change, says David Beckham

The UNICEF ambassador and former England and Manchester United footballing great says sports brings team-building, confidence, focus, discipline, and enjoyment

**INTERVIEW**

**David Beckham**

**Amol Karhadkar**  
MUMBAI

**H**e has travelled to India as a UNICEF ambassador and to watch his first cricket World Cup game – the first semifinal involving India and New Zealand. But David Beckham's eyes glitter as much while discussing his involvement with the youth of India as while discussing football.

He still refers to Manchester United as "us" and "we". The legendary footballer discussed all things UNICEF and football during a brief chat with *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

**Now that you have spent some time in India, what's your initial feeling? Is your coming to India too late or too early?**

I don't think it's too late or too early. I always feel that there can be change and there also has been progression here. This is my first time visiting India. I can't believe I have never been to this country before. It's a country that I have always wanted to visit, but for some reason I have never been able to.

People welcomed me with open arms, but I have seen a lot of good. I have seen a lot of change and people that I have spoken to feel that there has been progression, but there is still a lot to be done. That's one of the reasons why I am part of UNICEF.

It's one of the reasons why I am here. It's one of the reasons why we have visited different places in Gujarat when I went to the university to meet different young kids. And I went to a couple of different villages and a women's programme down in this incredible place, and that for me was encouraging.

**There is more to India and David Beckham than just the film. Have you been able to interact with any fans so far?**

Not so many fans at the moment. My time really has been spent with certain government officials, and new and old partners for UNICEF, so we have jumped from one place to another. The important part of my visit was to meet these young innovators, to meet these young children, to hear from them because people need to hear from the children and children need to know that they have a voice.

That was the thing that I saw yesterday. It's the one thing that I was encouraged by yesterday. The fact that so many of the young girls and boys that I met actually had a real vision of what they want to change. They spoke with the confidence that encouraged me a lot.

**Since you are referring to children and India is such a young country, how critical is sport to influence young minds in a positive way?**

The one thing that I have noticed over my career and over my travels is sport has the power of change, whether it be football, whether it be cricket, basketball, whatever... sport is a real tool for change. I have seen it when I have gone to different places, different villages.

When I take a football with me and kick a football around with these young kids for 20 minutes, 40 minutes, two hours, they forget about everything that's going on, so that part of it is great. Sports brings team building, confidence, focus, discipline, and enjoyment. That is one of the biggest things that sport can bring.

It breaks down barriers, there are a lot of barriers that need to be broken, not just here in India but around the world. Gender equality is something that we have all been striving for. One of the things that I loved about meeting these young girls that I met yesterday, they are all striving for that gender equality. It was encouraging to see.

**Messi's move to Miami. We have seen how MLS suddenly got so many eyeballs. What can one actually expect from Inter Miami since you have been an integral part of MLS?**

In all honesty, there were a few reasons why we wanted to bring Leo Messi to Inter Miami. Firstly because I want to win a championship and I want it to be the best team in America. But more importantly, we want to inspire the next generation of football players, soccer



EMMANUAL YOGINI & X@ICC

**THE GIST**

▼  
'The important part of my visit was to meet these young innovators, to meet these young children, to hear from them because people need to hear from the children and children need to know that they have a voice'

▼  
'It wasn't just to bring Leo to Miami, it was to bring Leo to the MLS, to bring him to America, to then inspire the next generation of players.'

▼  
'I have been very vocal about Manchester United needing a change. When Sir Alex Ferguson stepped down in 2013, there was always going to be a dip'

players in America.

It wasn't just to bring Leo to Miami, it was to bring Leo to the MLS, to bring him to America, to then inspire the next generation of players. We are very lucky to have a player, the best player in the world, in our team.

And we are very lucky to have a World Cup winner in our team, and he has already made a huge difference to not just the team, to our city and to America. That excitement of having Leo Messi in America has been incredible.

**European clubs have been partnering with Indian football clubs for a decade now. India captain Sunil Chhetri represented the Kansas City Wizards in 2010. How does MLS view the Indian football market and the Indian football ecosystem overall in terms of potential and strategic partnerships?**

It's one good thing that I have seen about these new leagues that are growing, bringing different players in. People said to me recently, do you like the competition? Absolutely, because it's good for the game and whatever is good for the game can only be good for the sport going forward with any partnerships with the Indian League or Indian players. We are always looking for players to bring into our team, into our league, and all leagues around the world are exactly the same.

**We saw the England manager Gareth**

**Southgate being criticised for Jordan Henderson's inclusion after his recent club signing. You have been in a similar situation when you went to the MLS. Should playing in a so-called lesser quality league impact national selection?**

No, I don't think it should. If you are a trusted player, wherever you are playing in the world, there is a reason why you have been in the England squad for the amount of time that you have been in the England squad. Not because you are lucky, it's because you are a good player.

At the end of the day, it doesn't matter what league you are playing in, what level you are playing in. If you are playing at a level that is high enough to play for your country, then you should be able to play for your country. There will always be that criticism of players.

I had it when I first moved to America, I then worked my way back into the England squad, and I stayed there until I didn't play for my country. But playing for your country is the most important thing as a footballer. I loved playing for Manchester United. I loved playing for Real Madrid and all the players that I have in the teams that I have played for. Playing for my country was the most important thing to me.

**You mentioned the club. It's been a decade now since Manchester United won a league title.**

Don't remind me.

**Ever since Sir Alex Ferguson retired in 2013, there have been several false alarms. Have you ever considered putting your hand up and getting involved in the set-up?**

Of course, every single day. I am a true Manchester United fan that only wants the good for our club and only wants us to get back to top level again. But that has to start at the top. It has to start with ownership. We have talked about the change that should happen.

I have been very vocal about Manchester United needing a change. When Sir Alex Ferguson stepped down in 2013, there was always going to be a dip. You can't stay at the top level. But we stayed out for the amount of years because we had the stability of having someone like Sir Alex Ferguson, our manager.

Now we have had quite a few managers over the last 10 years and that is unfortunate because the stability that we had with Sir Alex Ferguson, isn't there any more. It shows in the way we play. It shows in the way the club has obviously declined.

But we are still Manchester United. No one can change that. We are still, in my eyes, the best club in the world, but there was always going to be a moment where... decline is the wrong word. There was always going to be a dip in winning trophies. Unfortunately, it's been for quite a few years now. That will change, but we are still Manchester United and we are still the best.



# Raychaudhuri, the physicist who quietly defied the system

2023 is Amal Kumar Raychaudhuri's birth centenary. He defied pressure from Meghnad Saha to pursue his passion for general relativity. His 1955 paper on the Raychaudhuri equation revolutionised the field of relativity and was key to the work of Roger Penrose and Stephen Hawking

Nirmalya Kajuri

A young Indian physicist was under pressure. His heart was set on working in the field of general relativity - the study of space, time, and gravity. But the director of his institute stood in the way. The physicist was told that he had to work on a field of the director's choosing, or leave. He still kept at it, working on the mysteries of gravity in his spare time.

He ended up writing the most significant paper on general relativity to have come out of India.

This young physicist was Amal Kumar Raychaudhuri. The central result of his paper, published in 1955, is now known as the Raychaudhuri Equation. It was important to the work of Stephen Hawking, Roger Penrose, and others - work that revolutionised general relativity.

This year is Raychaudhuri's birth centenary.

## A breakdown in the theory

Raychaudhuri was born in Barisal (now in Bangladesh) in 1923 and educated in Kolkata. After completing his MSc in physics from Science College, he joined the Indian Association of Cultivation of Science (IACS) to pursue experimental physics research.

While the work didn't suit him and he eventually dropped out, he discovered in the IACS library his deep interest in general relativity.

Albert Einstein had developed the theory of general relativity in 1916, seven years before Raychaudhuri was born. Before Einstein, gravity was believed to be a force that attracted massive objects towards each other. But general relativity explained gravity to be the result of massive objects bending the fabric of space and time around them.

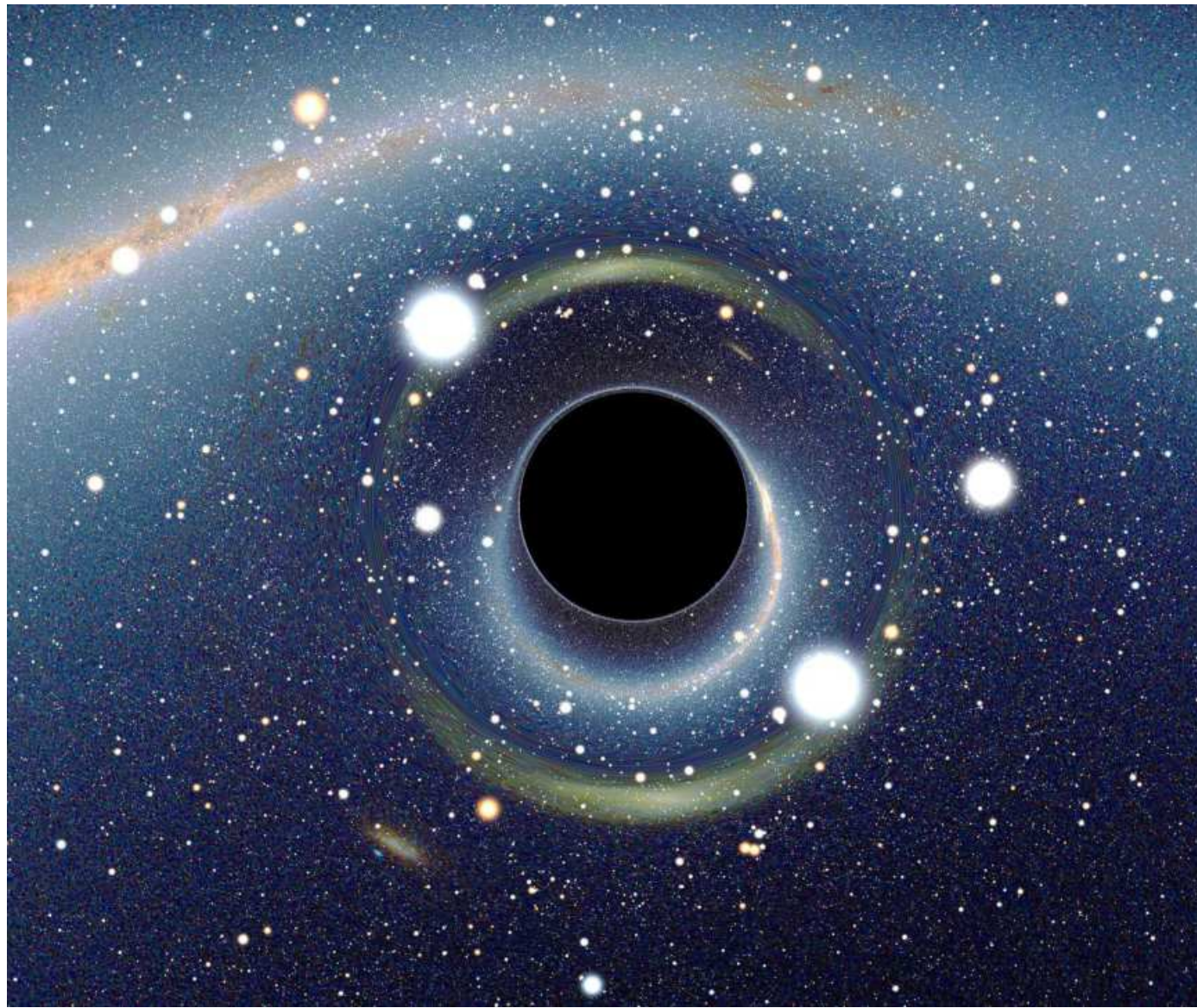
The theory had a problem, however. It predicted that at certain points in space and time, gravity could become infinitely strong. In other words, space and time could become infinitely curved. All matter in the vicinity would get pulled in and converge at those points. Such points are called singularities, and that the theory allowed for them signalled a breakdown of the theory itself.

## A barrier

In Raychaudhuri's time, it was an open problem as to whether the singularities were bugs introduced by the unrealistic simplicity of the models - or features of reality itself. The question was unsolved because realistic models of the universe were notoriously difficult to solve mathematically.

Raychaudhuri was looking for the answer. Working as a scientific officer in IACS, a position well below a faculty member, he dove into the topic - and immediately hit a snag in the form of the director of the institution, Meghnad Saha.

Saha is one of the greatest Indian scientists in history. But as director, he could be a micromanager. He deemed general relativity to be too impractical a topic to work on. He told Raychaudhuri to work either on more 'useful' topics or find another job. With few career options available to him, Raychaudhuri had no choice but to comply.



A simulated view of a black hole in front of the Large Magellanic Cloud. ALAIN R (CC BY-SA 2.5)

But he did not give up on gravity. Even as he worked on the topics chosen for him by Saha, Raychaudhuri pursued the problem of singularities in his spare time. Soon, he hit on a highly original approach that entirely bypassed the mathematical challenges.

## The north-bound ships

According to general relativity, every bit of matter tries to move in a straight line in space and time. But space and time are themselves bent by massive objects.

As an analogy to how matter moves in a curved spacetime, consider a couple of ships that start sailing in parallel. Both the ships travel north. Even if they sail in the straightest possible line, following their bows, they will end up converging at the North Pole. To someone who is not aware (or, more likely, in denial) of the shape of the earth, it would look like the ships had been pulled together.

Similarly, when a passing asteroid gets sucked into the earth's atmosphere, it is because the earth's mass has warped the fabric of spacetime around it. The straightest possible path in this curved fabric leads directly to earth.

Raychaudhuri studied the motion of bits of matter navigating the fabric of spacetime. Each bit followed the straightest path in space-time. He found that, just like the north-bound ships, the bits of matter were bound to converge to a single point as long as they had positive energy.

More accurately, he considered that the



Raychaudhuri pursued the problem of singularities in his spare time. Soon, he hit on a highly original approach that entirely bypassed the mathematical challenges



Amal Kumar Raychaudhuri in 1991. IUCAA

bits were initially spread across a volume and asked how this volume would change as each bit tried to travel straight in a curved space. Raychaudhuri found that the answer was given by a simple, elegant formula that showed the volume would

always decrease regardless of how curved the spacetime was. This is the celebrated Raychaudhuri equation.

## More powerful than imagined

For a complete proof, one had to show that there were no points of convergence that also were not singularities. Such a proof was developed in a series of theorems, chiefly by British physicists Roger Penrose and Stephen Hawking. The Raychaudhuri equation played a key role in many of them. It was also central to Hawking's famous area theorem, which proved that the surface area of a black hole never decreases.

The Raychaudhuri equation proved to be more powerful than Raychaudhuri himself may have anticipated. However, he found little appreciation in India until his work received recognition in the West, and even then it didn't transform his career. IACS members scuttled his promotion to the faculty while Calcutta University rejected his application. Raychaudhuri eventually joined Presidency College, Kolkata, where he became a legendary teacher, inspiring generations of future physicists.

Amal Kumar Raychaudhuri's story teaches us the folly of telling scientists what to work on and the importance of following one's own path under difficult conditions. For many Indian scientists, his story continues to both resonate and inspire.

(Nirmalya Kajuri is an assistant professor of physics in IIT Mandi.)



NASA has handed over the NISAR satellite to ISRO. A U.S. Airforce C-17 aircraft transported the payload from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California to Bengaluru. THE HINDU

## NASA, ISRO prepare to launch joint space mission

Press Trust of India

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) is set to be launched in the first quarter of 2024 after a few tests, particularly those related to vibration, NASA officials have said.

"ISRO is projecting the first quarter of next year. So, I mean, that's ready," NASA NISAR Project Manager Phil Barela said during a media interaction in Bengaluru on November 15.

He is expecting the launch of NISAR "not earlier than January" from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota on board an ISRO Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-II (LV-M2).

NISAR is a low-earth orbit observatory being jointly developed by ISRO and NASA.

The mission has a three-year duration and will survey all of the earth's land and ice-covered surfaces once every 12 days. This will start after a 90-day satellite commissioning period.

As a result, it will provide spatially and temporally consistent data for

**NISAR will reveal the dynamics of carbon storage and uptake in wooded, agricultural, wetland, and permafrost ecosystems and the response of ice sheets to climate change**

understanding changes in the planet's ecosystems, ice mass, vegetation, biomass, sea-level rise, groundwater, and natural hazards.

"The vibration testing that's underway, but there's a whole slew of performance tests that we need to do," Mr. Barela said, including battery and simulation tests.

They will also test the radars and various spacecraft electronics for performance. "So, a lot of testing remains but the big environments test, the only one remaining now, is vibration," Mr. Barela added.

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Director Laurie Leshin said NISAR is "better than anything that was flown in the past".

"While there are datasets from past missions that can form sort of a baseline, this is a new level of capability that we will have with NISAR," she told reporters on November 14.

"If it's working very well, we will almost certainly extend that mission to get that longer baseline. It's a very important thing to see the earth change on multi-year timescales," Dr. Leshin had said.

In a handout, NASA also said NISAR will reveal the dynamics of carbon storage and uptake in wooded, agricultural, wetland, and permafrost ecosystems and the response of ice sheets to climate change, and the interaction of sea ice and climate.

The satellite is equipped with a synthetic aperture radar in two frequencies and an antenna reflector. In all, NISAR is the size of a SUV with a mass of 2.8 tonnes, and will be powered by solar panels.

The six-foot spacecraft bus will host command and communication systems for the payload. "The 'bus' will also support the radar antenna reflector and its boom. There is enough fuel aboard to support at least five years of operations," the NASA handout said.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to [science@thehindu.co.in](mailto:science@thehindu.co.in) with the subject 'Daily page'

## THE SCIENCE QUIZ

### Using lasers to cool atoms

Vasudevan Mukunth

#### QUESTION 1

In 1975, X, Hans Georg Dehmelt, Theodor Hansch, and Arthur Schawlow proposed the possibility of laser cooling atoms, and X and others validated it by demonstrating it three years later. Name X, who won a part of the physics Nobel Prize in 2012.

#### QUESTION 2

Y was one of the Nobel Prize winners for physics in 1997 "for the development of methods to cool and trap atoms with laser light". Thus, he became the first Nobel Laureate born in an Arab country. Y is famous for developing a variant of laser cooling called \_\_\_\_\_ cooling. Fill in the blank with the name of a cursed hero in Greek mythology.

#### QUESTION 3

A simple laser cooling technique is called \_\_\_\_\_ cooling. Here (very simply speaking), laser light is shined on oncoming atoms. The atoms absorb photons from the laser - more so due to the \_\_\_\_\_ effect - and slow down in that direction. Fill in the blank with the same name. Hint: the effect is also experienced when one observes trains.

#### QUESTION 4

Name the little-known Indian physicist, and a doctoral student of C.V. Raman, who discovered many of the principles underlying laser cooling. Notably, he discovered the geometric phase - a generalised form of which is today called the Berry phase, for Michael Berry.

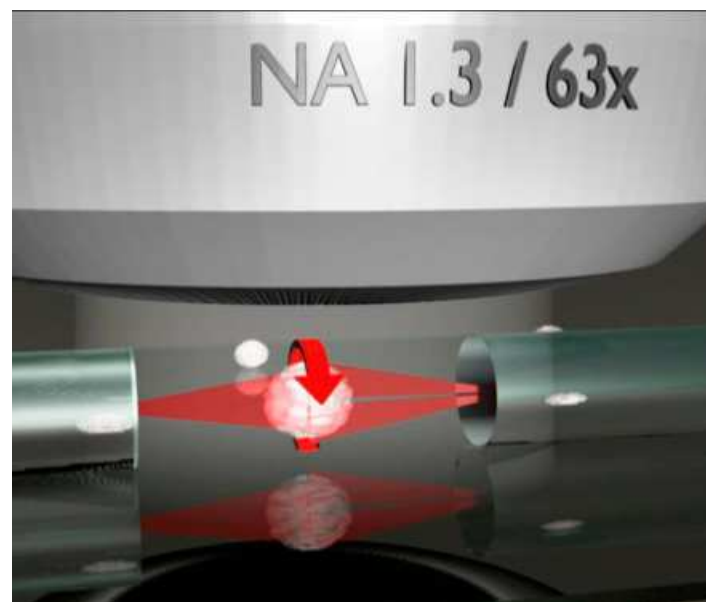
#### QUESTION 5

Name the device used in atomic and

molecular physics research to trap atoms, including electrically neutral ones. It does this using laser cooling and a non-uniform magnetic field, and can slow some atoms from more than ~100 m/s to ~0.1 m/s.

#### Answers to November 14 quiz:

1. Leopard that went extinct from Taiwan by 1983 - **Ans: Formosan clouded leopard**
  2. Tiger earlier believed to have gone extinct from Sunda Islands in 1950s - **Ans: Bali tiger**
  3. Thailand deer resembling barasingha, last recorded in 1939 - **Ans: Schomburgk's deer**
  4. Aquatic mammal that went extinct in the 1970s - **Ans: Japanese sea lion**
  5. Small equine species also known as hemippe - **Ans: Syrian wild ass**
- Visual: **Kouprey**  
First contact: Mohammed Yasir M.N.R.



Visual: This illustration shows an apparatus that uses precisely tuned light beams to hold and rotate a cell. Name the technology in which laser light is used to hold and move atoms.

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