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AT LEAST 274 KILLED, 1,024 INJURED AS ISRAEL BOMBS LEBANON CITIES
Thousands of people in southern and eastern Lebanon fled their homes after Israel military's evacuation alert, congesting all roads to Beirut

300 TARGETS HIT, HEZBOLLAH HOTBEDS NEXT
The Israeli military said it was going after Hezbollah weapons sites, adding that it hit 300 targets on Monday. It said the next wave of airstrikes would include Bekaa Valley, which runs along the Lebanese-Syrian border, where Hezbollah has long had an established presence. It is where the militant group was founded in 1982 with the help of Iran's Revolutionary Guards

HEZBOLLAH'S ROCKETS HIT RAFAEL FACTORY
■ Some Israeli strikes hit residential areas. One strike hit parts of Byblos in central Lebanon, which is 130 km from the border north of Beirut | **P9**
■ Meanwhile, Hezbollah claimed it has stepped up its attack on Israel, firing dozens of rockets at an Israeli military post in Galilee. It also targeted the facilities of the Rafael defence firm, headquartered in Haifa

21 children
AND 39 WOMEN KILLED, ACCORDING TO LEBANESE HEALTH MINISTER FIRASS ABIAD

MPOX IN INDIA

Malappuram man +ve for fast-spreading Clade 1b strain

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

INDIA on Monday reported its first case of mpox Clade 1b variant in Malappuram district in Kerala, officials sources confirmed. Clade 1b is the fast-spreading and severe viral strain that has been declared a global public health emergency by the World Health Organization.

The patient, a 38-year-old man, had recently returned from the United Arab Emirates and was admitted to the government medical college hospital after he tested positive for mpox last week, officials said.

Official sources added that the patient, who is stable, has not been discharged from the hospital. "This is the first case of the current strain that led to the WHO declaring mpox a public health emergency last month for a second time," they said.

The state authorities are monitoring the situation and contract tracing all individuals who have come in contact with the patient, officials said.

Kerala Health minister Veena George said those returning from abroad, if they have any symptoms, should inform the health department and seek treatment at the earliest. "Isolation facilities have been established in all districts. Surveillance has been strengthened, including at airports," she said.

This is the second case of mpox in India. The earlier case of mpox that emerged in the national capital was a 26-year-old resident of Haryana's Hisar, who tested positive for the West African Clade 2 strain. He was admitted to Delhi's Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital on September 8 and was discharged on September 21.

Mpox infections, which manifest with fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes, last two-to-four weeks, and patients recover with supportive medical care.

"It is a self-limiting disease and cannot be compared to Covid," officials said. **P4**

Storing, watching child porn a crime: SC

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday held that storage or watching of child pornographic material constituted an offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act).

Setting aside a Madras High Court order, which held that merely downloading and or watching child porn on one's electronic device did not amount to an offence under the POCSO and IT Acts, the bench said, "The High Court committed an egregious error in passing the im-

pugned judgment."

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala suggested that the Centre bring an ordinance to replace the term "child pornography" with "Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM)" so as to reflect more accurately the reality of such offences.

The POCSO Act could be suitably amended by Parliament subsequently, it said. The bench also ordered all courts not to use the "child pornography" term hence-

forth in their judicial orders.

Justice Pardiwala, reading the verdict for the bench, said: "Section 15 of the POCSO provides for three distinct offences... It is in the nature and form of an inchoate offence which penalizes the mere storage or possession of any pornographic material involving a child when done with a specific intent prescribed thereunder, without requiring any actual transmission, dissemination etc."

The bench also stressed the need to address misconceptions around

sexual health and added that promoting a comprehensive understanding of the benefits of sex education was essential for reducing the incidence of sexual crimes in the country.

"Implementing comprehensive sex education programs that include information about the legal and ethical ramifications of child pornography can help deter potential offenders. These programs should address common misconceptions and provide young people with a clear understanding of consent and the impact of exploitation," the bench suggested.

● SAYS REFORM IS KEY TO RELEVANCE ● CALLS FOR HUMAN-CENTRIC DEVELOPMENT

Modi's message of humanity in Summit of Future

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

AMID raging global conflicts, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday stressed the need for collective efforts to bring peace and stability. "Success of humanity lies in our collective strength, not on the battlefield," Modi said while speaking at the UN Summit of the Future.

The Summit of the Future followed by the annual General Assembly high-level week comes in the midst of the Israel-Hamas conflict and the Ukraine war as well as challenges of climate change, inequality and deep geopolitical divides.

Modi also called for urgent reforms in global institutions including the UN for the collective betterment of the world and highlighted the success of India's human-centric sustainable development model.

Subtly pointing to the absurdity of the world's largest international organisation excluding the world's most populous country, Modi said his voice carries

the weight of 1.4 billion Indians constituting one-sixth of the total world population.

India has been pushing for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council, pointing out that the powerful global body does not at all reflect the current geopolitical realities. India last sat at the UN high table as a non-permanent member in 2021-22.

Stressing the need for global reforms, Modi said: "Reform is the key to relevance. Global reforms are required. India has partnered with the Global South as we want to be more inclusive. We also included the African Union in the G20 hence proving that reform is the key to relevance."

In his five-minute address to world leaders from the iconic podium of the UN General Assembly hall in New York, Modi highlighted India's human-centric approach to sustainability through food security and health initiatives. "Sustainable development can be successful. We in India have been able to help 250 millions come out of poverty



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks at Summit of the Future at the UN on Monday | P1



When we are discussing the Global Future, we must accord the highest priority to a human-centric approach

MEETS PALESTINE PRESIDENT ABBAS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and expressed deep concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza, reaffirming India's support for early restoration of peace in the region

ACCEPTS OLI'S INVITE TO VISIT NEPAL

Modi also met Nepal Prime Minister K P Oli, who is on his maiden foreign visit to attend the UN session. "Our talks focused on energy, technology and trade," Modi said in a post on X. Modi accepted Oli's invitation to visit Nepal

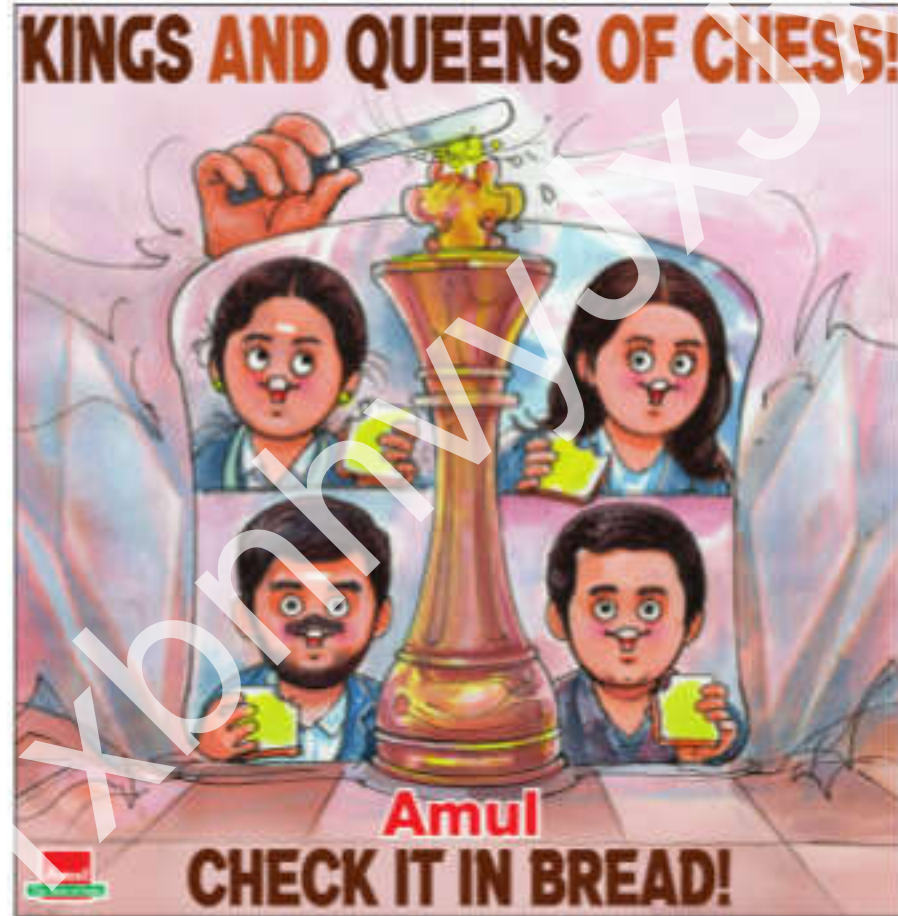
through our sustainability efforts, sustainable development can be successful," he said.

Modi also emphasised the need for balanced regulation at a global level, for the safe and responsible use of technology. "We need global digital governance, which ensures that national sovereignty and integrity are upheld," he

said, adding: "Digital Public Infrastructure should be a Bridge, not a Barrier."

World leaders have consistently lauded India's digitalisation drive which has helped alleviate poverty and bring millions of people into the formal economic system.

(With inputs from agencies)



RELAXATION IN DEVPT CURBS

State CRZ mgmt plan gets Centre's approval

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

IN A huge relief to residents of coastal areas, the Ministry of Forests, Environment and Climate Change on Monday approved the draft Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Management Plan submitted by Kerala based on the 2019 Coastal Zone Regulation notification. The new plan will reduce the no development zone in urban areas. As many as five corporations, 36 municipalities and 66 town panchayats will benefit from the relaxations.

However, green activists have opposed the dilution of restrictions alleging that it will lead to a construction spree in the coastal areas jeopardising the ecology.

As per the 2011 CRZ notification, Kerala had five corporations, 36 municipalities and 245 grama panchayats under CRZ. The corporations and municipal areas having tidal influence were categorised under CRZ II, with a no development zone of 50m. The 245 grama panchayats were categorised under CRZ III, where development activities were restricted to a distance of 200m from the high tide line.

Under the new management plan, 66 of the 245 panchayats have been legally designated as urban areas and categorised as town panchayats under CRZ II, reducing the restriction zone from 200m to 50m.

The new management plan has divided coastal areas and panchayats around inland water bodies into CRZ IIIA and CRZ IIIB based on density of population. If a panchayat designated under CRZ III has a population density of 2,161 per sq km, it will be categorised under CRZ III A and the no development zone will be only 50m. The cardinal difference between the CRZ notifications of 2011 and 2019 is the reduction of no development zone. ● More on P4

66

of 245 panchayats designated as urban areas and categorised as town panchayats under CRZ II, reducing the restriction zone from 200m to 50m.

EXPRESS READ

Pooram report will be released: CM

Thrissur: Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday said the report on the probe into the disruption of



Thrissur Pooram will be released soon. The CM's assurance comes amid charges by the Opposition that there was a conspiracy and external interference in the incidents that led to the fiasco. "It seems that the report has been submitted to the DGP by September 23. I will examine it on Tuesday when I reach the office. However, many assumptions have already been made regarding the contents of the report," he said, and wondered what would happen if all these assumptions go wrong.

High drama over donating Lawrence's body to MCH

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

DRAMATIC scenes unfolded at the Ernakulam Town Hall when the mortal remains of veteran communist leader and former CPM central committee member M M Lawrence, 95, were kept for public homage on Monday.

A minor scuffle broke out after his daughter Asha, along with her son Milan, opposed the plan to hand over his body to the Government Medical College Hospital (MCH) in Kalamassery.

The situation became tense when Asha and Milan arrived at the Town Hall by 3pm. As Asha broke down standing beside her father's body, the scheduled transfer of the body to the medi-



CPM leader M M Lawrence's daughter Asha raises objection as her father's mortal remains were about to be taken to the medical college in Kalamassery | A SANEESH

cal college mortuary was delayed. Women activists began raising slogans in support of the CPM while Asha, hugging

her father's body, chanted 'CPM Muredabad' (down with CPM) several times, insisting that the body not be taken away.

As Milan too got involved in the tussle between Asha and the activists, a further confrontation ensued with volunteers present there. Amid a heated exchange, Asha fell, and attempts were made to manhandle Milan.

As the situation threatened to escalate, CPM members stepped back and other relatives, including Lawrence's daughter Sujatha, intervened. Asha and Milan blocked the shifting of the body, but they were eventually removed by the police and the CPM workers. The other family members too helped manage the situation. The body was later transferred to the MCH as per Lawrence's previously stated wishes. ● More on P4

Hear daughter's objections: HC

Kochi: Disposing of a petition filed by Asha Lawrence, daughter of veteran CPM leader M M Lawrence, the Kerala High Court on Monday directed the principal of the Government Medical College, Kalamassery, to consider the objections raised by the petitioner on handing over her father's mortal remains to the college for medical research. **P4**

2 die as car falls into river near Kumarakom

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kottayam

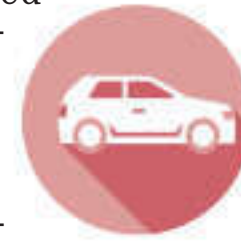
TWO persons, including a 27 year-old woman from Mahasra, were killed when the car in which they were traveling plunged into river Kaippuzha at Kaippuzhamuttu near Kumarakom on Monday night.

The deceased have been identified as James George, 48, and Sayli Rajendra Sarje, a native of Kulgaon in Thane district.

According to the police, the accident took place around 8.30 pm. A Fire and Rescue team from Kottayam, along with local residents, quickly retrieved the car from the stream and took the victims to the Government Medical College Hospital in Kottayam, but their lives could not be saved.

It is learnt that the passengers were travelling from Kumarakom to Ernakulam when the accident occurred.

Authorities suspect that the victims may have been relying on Google Maps for direction, leading them astray and causing them to veer off the road and into the river.



And now, we choose 'Laapataa Ladies' for the Oscars

SUDHIR SRINIVASAN

WHAT constitutes the perfect submission for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film? It's a question that haunts not only the Film Federation of India jury, responsible for announcing our official submission, but also our filmmakers and cinephiles alike. We argue and we try and we choose,

and yet, the answer eludes us every year. Why else has it been 23 years since *Lagaan* became the last Indian film to make it to the final shortlist for nominations?

A cautious answer to this question would be, "Whatever captures the fascination of the Oscars jury."

But what exactly does? Ultimately, it's about catering to the tastes and whims of the Western imagination—it's their award, af-

ter all. This isn't simply about selecting what we believe to be the best film we have made during the year. Instead, it's about identifying which film we think has the best shot at getting nominated—setting aside, for now, the question of actually winning. Take last year, for instance. SS Rajamouli's *RRR* sparked a frenzy of Western interest—a momentum we might have been wise to ride. Yet, we chose *Chhello*

Show by Pan Nalin, a charming film, yes, but one whose theme is rather familiar to Western audiences.

And now, we place our hopes in *Laapataa Ladies*, a delightful film co-produced by Aamir Khan, the actor in our last Foreign Language Oscar-nominated film. The second directorial of Kiran Rao, this film gently places us in the heart of rural India with an undistracted gaze on its women—the

lives they are expected to lead, the subjugation they endure, and the fleeting moments of respite they may or may not receive. It's a narrative of sadness wrapped in humor; harsh realities presented palatably.



Filmmaker Kiran Rao during an interview

SAMRIDHI@KOCHI TURNS A REPLICABLE SELF-SUFFICIENT BUSINESS MODEL

The restaurant, that began with a crew of 14 women sourced from Kudumbashree units, now has 98 members



(Left) The rush at Samridhi@Kochi; and the employees serving food to their customers at the restaurant | A SANESH

ANU KURUVILLA @ Kochi

THE concept of Janakeeya Hotels selling good homely food for ₹20 to ensure that no one in Kerala goes hungry was well-received. But four years down the road, of the 1,198 Janakeeya Hotels started in the state, 300 have downed their shutters. Many more are on the verge of closing. However, among the many stories of failures, the Janakeeya Hotel named 'Samridhi@Kochi', run by the Kochi Corporation, stands tall. The restaurant, which began with a motley crew of 14 women sourced from Kudumbashree units in the district has turned 100% self-sufficient. "We are now an establishment with 98-member crew of women selling more than 300 products," says Philin James, in charge of Samridhi@Kochi. According to him, the withdrawal of government subsidies is the main reason why more and more Janakeeya Hotels are facing closure. "It was bound to happen anytime. Running on subsidies is not a good business model. So when Kochi Corporation decided to establish a Janakeeya Hotel in Ernakulam, we planned to execute the project with self-sufficiency as a target," he says. The government stopped provid-

ing subsidies to the Janakeeya Hotels in 2023. "We completely weaned ourselves off sponsorships by the end of 2023. And today the restaurant is standing firm on its foot. We are supported by the Kochi Corporation in our endeavour to provide good, hygienically prepared food. The corporation helps out by paying electricity and water bills plus the rent," says Philin. According to him, a lot of study went into making the restaurant self-sufficient. "Imagine selling food for ₹20 per meal! When running a restaurant, we have to take into consideration a lot of factors. When the project was launched, it was thought to give food at ₹30. The price of a meal was again revised to ₹10 and now finally stands at ₹20. However, providing food for ₹20 is not possible without having financial backing," says Philin. The model proposed was to pad up the sales revenue with the government subsidy and donations or CSR funds from the companies or institutions. "This was thought of since sales revenue would never be enough to run the endeavour. You have to consider the cost of production too. In our case, we found that in the initial days (when the meal was priced at ₹10) even though we got more than 3,000 customers, the sales revenue was just around



₹30,000 compared to the production cost which hovered around ₹60,000. Cash flow became an issue, with even the government subsidy coming after two or three months," says Philin. This was no way to success, he adds. So, we decided to introduce specials. "The idea came from the study that we did. It was found that nearly 80% of those dining at restaurants order specials. So, we thought even if 50% of our customers order specials that would be enough to increase the sales revenue. We introduced fish fry as the special. However, it was found that not even 20% of our customers ordered specials. We even tried lowering the price from ₹50 to ₹20. But it was a failure," says Nandan, manager of Samridhi@Kochi.

But that didn't bog down those behind the project. They came up with the idea of introducing a variety of quality products and changed their operating time to 24 hours. "That saw a significant increase in our sales revenue. Today, we are making and selling more than 300 additional products besides the meals. The situation is such that when the government stopped providing subsidy, we were not affected," he adds. Samridhi@Kochi today has 98 staff. "Every woman in our establishment gets a salary of ₹30,000. Not only the restaurant but also the women have become self-sufficient," says Philin. According to Nandan, Onam sales were also very good. "We got more than 1,000 dine-ins and more than an equal number of parcel orders. We couldn't cater to the parcel orders and had to shut down the facility after becoming overwhelmed," he adds. "We sold about 800 litres of payasam on Thiruvonam day. Though we serve five types of payasam every day, for Onam our menu included palada, semiya, parippu, wheat and pal payasam," says Nandan. Highlighting that this business model can be replicated everywhere in the country, Philin says, "Every business needs to be self-sufficient."

Janakeeya hotels in Kerala

1,198

Number of Janakeeya hotels closed 300

Samridhi@Kochi

Launched in 2021

Number of employees

Started with - 14

After four years - 98

Number of products other than meals - over 300

Status - Achieved self-sufficiency

We completely weaned ourselves off sponsorships by the end of 2023. Today, the hotel is standing firm on its foot, with Kochi corporation's support

Philin James, Samridhi@Kochi

State's 'She Toilet' initiative crumbles

SHAINU MOHAN @TPuram

THE much-touted 'She-Toilet' project, which was launched as a model initiative to provide safe, hygienic and accessible public restrooms for women, has failed with none of the 57 toilets functioning. Public money to the tune of ₹3.40 crores has gone down the drain because of the poorly planned project with no future vision by the Kerala State Women's Development Corporation (KSWDC). Initially launched in 2012, the KSWDC piloted the project in Thiruvananthapuram. The plan was to set up women-friendly, technology-driven She Toilets with a slew of features, including a coin-operated sanitary napkin vending machines, an incinerator to dispose of used napkins, electronic display boards on the doors, security features, FM radio and SMS alert. Each toilet cost around Rs 5 lakh and owing to high maintenance cost KSWDC wound up the project following a directive from the state government. Replying to the RTI filed by Hemaraj K S, a Thiruvananthapuram native, about the status of the She Toilets recently, KSWDC said that the project period has ended and none of the 57 toilets are functional now. "They are spending public money on meaningless projects and not caring to sustain such facilities. The easy way out for the authorities is to abandon the project and tax-payers' money goes down the drain. The government should show some accountability to the public when they plan projects. They should plan projects in such a way that the money spent is not wasted and the public gets to use the facilities for a longer period," said Hemaraj K S. When contacted, an official of KSWDC said that the project was abandoned owing to high

Total number of She Toilets in the state	
Total cost	₹3.4 crore
Thiruvananthapuram	26
Kozhikode	11
Malappuram	3
Kollam	2
Kannur	6
Kottayam	4
Palakkad	3
Kasaragod	2

maintenance costs. "The operation and maintenance period was over; and the maintenance cost was too high and unaffordable. After evaluation, we realised that it was better to install new toilets than maintain the existing ones. We abandoned the project following direction from the state government in 2017. The life of the project was 7 years. After that we didn't take up any toilet project," said the official. Senior economist Mary George criticised the government for not providing better facilities for women. "They always say the government is with the women. If they actually believe so, instead of abandoning the project, the government should have set up more She Toilets in the state. Women are facing so much struggle because of a lack of toilets in public spaces. Such projects should be given top priority by a responsible government," she said. She said that the availability of toilets is essential as lifestyle diseases are growing among women and men. "We don't want technology-driven toilets, just clean toilets run by Kudumbashree women would be enough. Abandoning a project implemented by the previous government is not a good way of governance," she added.



LONG WALK FOR PATRIOTISM

75-yr-old on a walking mission from Kasaragod to T'Puram to prove he is not anti-national

BIJU E PAUL @Alappuzha

AT a time when wearing patriotism on one's sleeves is rather common, this 75-year-old has undertaken a long walk to prove that he is a patriot and not a traitor. R Manoharan of Kumpalathu, Perungala, Kayamkulam, is walking from Kasaragod to Thiruvananthapuram braving the elements to prove his love for the country. He has been nursing a grouse for many years after he was sacked from two Central government jobs just for being



Now I am 75 years old and I have to prove my love for the country. I have decided to walk along the roads of the state to prove my patriotism in front of the public

R Manoharan

a communist. In those days, being a communist was considered anti-national by some sections. After completing mechanical engineering from NSS Polytechnic, Pandalam, in 1968, Manoharan joined the Indian Army Madras Engineer

Group. But after nine months, he was sacked. "In the letter, the authorities said that my character was good, but my 'service is no longer required'," he told *TNIE*. "Later, I joined the Income Tax Department in Mumbai. But they sacked me because I was a communist and it was my bad mark according to the authorities," he said. Although he sent several memorandums to the chief minister and the Governor seeking reinstatement in the job and being absolved of the 'anti-national' tag, they were of

no use. Once former CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury also raised this issue in the Rajya Sabha, but it failed to yield results. "Now I am 75 years old and I have to prove my love for the country. I have decided to walk along the roads of the state to prove my patriotism in front of the public." His journey started from Thalappadi in Kasaragod on August 15 and he plans to conclude the odyssey in Thiruvananthapuram by November. Manoharan covers around 15 to 20 km every day and he is cur-

rently in Malappuram district. He hopes to enter Palakkad next week. After he was sacked, Manoharan dabbled in various jobs. He became a mechanic in Kerala Cooperative Transport (KCT), a private bus operators' society located in Kayamkulam and went on to become its union leader. In 1980, he went to the Sultanate of Oman where he worked for nearly nine years and returned in 1989. After coming back to Kerala, he joined the LLB programme at the Kerala Law Academy in

Thiruvananthapuram and enrolled as an advocate after graduating. According to Manoharan, his father, Ramakrishnan, was a communist and he too became one after being fascinated with its ideology. He was active in the CPM until 2012. Following the murder of T P Chandrasekharan, he publicly voiced his opposition against the killing and was removed from party membership for that. "I am a communist, but I am not a traitor to the country. I have to prove it before my death," he said.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

24th September: Short journeys are on the cards. Be prepared to drop everything and visit the people or places who matter at this particular moment. Also, keep your eyes open for facts and figures that finally help you take a significant step into the future.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Friends and associates are about to be flabbergasted by your down-to-earth approach to financial matters. You may now sense a prosperous period ahead, even though nothing will happen without sensible team-work. I know co-operation is a struggle, but it's necessary.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
It is almost time to make a final choice and stop worrying about others' feelings or opinions. Judge your own behaviour by absolute standards of right and wrong, not according to what friends or family might expect. Define your limits and other people will respect them.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Behind the day-to-day fluctuations of the planets lie longer-term trends of which you are often only half aware. A powerfully creative time is now coming to an end and it is up to you to inwardly digest all that has happened over the last four months.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The underlying message of current planetary patterns, especially those emanating from Jupiter and Neptune, is that you are expected to hold on to what is sound, worthwhile, personally meaningful and spiritually rewarding. That has to be pretty sound advice, don't you think?

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
The good news is that celestial configurations are still lively and, if you are alert and on-the-ball, you ought to be able to turn even adverse developments to your own advantage. This is no time to procrastinate. It's better to know where you stand to start with, and at least you'll know what changes are needed.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Your remarkable analytical faculties often serve you well and prevent you from making potentially disastrous blunders. After what has been a relatively impulsive period you will once again be settling into a practical, efficient, cool and competent routine.

SUDOKU MEDIUM

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS

- Showed the way with emphasis (7)
- A shoe maker in the Old Testament (5)
- Considered the matter closed? (7,2,4)
- Earthquake centre (5)
- Form of ciphers (7)
- Spoils a signal and gets into a row (6)
- How one might be cast as Captain Bligh? (6)
- Harass the debtor gone somehow underground (7)
- A leg's broken by hard blows (5)
- Stately stride - appropriate to a ruler? (8,5)
- Give someone a sharp reminder (5)
- Isn't run out but retires (5,2)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1. Eerie, 2. Sideline, 9. Gnome, 10. Alcraft, 11. Study, 12. Pen, 16. Diesel, 17. Inform, 18. Yip, 23. Means, 24. Executed, 25. Basin, 26. Entwines, 27. Alert.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

NAXNE

TURET

TBGOEL

SIMTF

DOWN

- The high point of a fling (5)
- Separate complaints department (9,4)
- Get hint about contract (7)
- Dislike writing notes before exam (6)
- Something wrong with a knot? (5)
- One must be patient with it for a long time (6,7)
- A new tropic fruit (7)
- Could be bad sign for the corporation (7)
- Sirius follows Jack (3,4)
- Eager to be camping? (6)
- French study a composition (5)
- Battle for the chairman's seat? (5)

Answers tomorrow

Jumbles: RUNNY, GLOAT, BASKET, WINDOW

Answer: The skunk Olympic gymnast was doing well until she - "STUNK" THE LANDING



Cultural organisations to protest closure of Kozhikode Town Hall

Want authorities to provide an alternative venue before closing the building for renovation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kozhikode

VARIOUS art and cultural organisations will hold a mass protest in Kozhikode on Friday, September 27 at 4:00 pm outside the Town Hall. They want the authorities to provide an alternative venue before closing the Town Hall for renovation. Protesters argue that the sudden closure of the Town Hall, without any replacement, threatens to disrupt the cultural vibrancy of the city, which has relied heavily on the venue for various artistic and cultural events. The Town Hall was closed for renovation a week before and the situation is exacerbated by the closure of Tagore Centenary Hall, further limiting options for hosting events. Cultural advocates say that the



The Kozhikode Town Hall gate

Town Hall has long been an important centre for the city's artistic community, and its continued neglect is impeding the city's creative growth. Despite

its dilapidated state, they argue that proper steps must be taken to ensure an alternative space is available during renovation.

Wilson Samuel, vice chairman of the joint cultural forum and a senior artist, expressed concern over the lack of timely action from city officials. "The closure without a backup plan will have a devastating impact on many artists," he stated, also urging authorities to consider allowing free use of the open stage at Mananchira Square for cultural events. Another key organiser K Salaam, warned of the potential for more delays, citing the reconstruction of Tagore Hall that has come to a halt.

If the authorities fail to address these issues, organisers have warned that the protest would grow, attracting more

artists, cultural workers, and concerned citizens. The preparatory meeting for the protest was led by Wilson Samuel, with support from key figures like Convener K Salaam, Joint Convener K Zubair, and Treasurer Sannaf Palakandi, alongside prominent participants such as PT Azad, K Nidish, and M S Mehboob.

The closure of the Town Hall follows the decision to rebuild Tagore Hall, with plans for a multipurpose complex estimated to cost Rs 55 crore. Although renovations have been completed at Thali Jubilee Hall, organisers have complained that the high rental costs make it impractical for smaller events. The uncertainty around the reopening of Town Hall continues to frustrate the local art community.

TIGER THREAT CAUSES PANIC AMONG WAYANAD RESIDENTS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@kalpetta

THE forest department has intensified efforts to capture a tiger spotted multiple times near residential areas in the district. Authorities have set up cages in two locations, Ambekkar Colony and Ammavayal, where the tiger is known to frequent. These actions follow the confirmation of the tiger's presence through images captured by 13 cameras installed in the region by the forest department. The tiger in question has been identified as WWL 106, a catalogued animal from the department's records.

The wild cat, spotted with a visible neck injury, has been causing concerns for the local residents for the past three weeks. Villagers have reported several sightings, and tension has been mounting after a string of attacks on livestock. Just a few days ago, the tiger

Forest dept now more people-friendly: Min

Malappuram: The government has succeeded in making the forest and wildlife department more people-friendly by understanding their problems, Minister A K Saseendran said in Malappuram on Monday. He was inaugurating various offices and projects completed for ₹15.68 crore using the NABARD fund in Nilambur North and South Divisions. "Through the adalats implemented by the department, it was possible to foster a friendship between the officials and the people," the minister said.

killed two cows in Kurichyad located 6 kilometres from the current focus area, though it remains unclear if this was the same predator.

The danger escalated recently when the tiger killed three

goats grazing near the Kootamunda Estate. Saji, who resides near the Ayyappa temple in Ambekkar Colony, lost his goats when he left them to graze unattended while he went for lunch. The tiger took one of the goats, and after the locals raised the alarm, forest guards installed more cameras at the scene to track the wild cat's movements. This incident followed earlier reports of another tiger killing two cows in Kunnampatta, a nearby village, further fuelling fears.

In the past few months, several acres of crops have been destroyed by wild animals in Odathode and Kunnampatta, raising concerns about the effectiveness of the forest border's fencing. The installation of fences, which is intended to keep wild animals at bay, has been criticised by locals who believe its flaws are responsible for the increased encroachment into inhabited areas.

Govt all set to accelerate Ambedkar Village devpt project, says Min O R Kelu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kozhikode

AN amendment will soon be introduced to streamline the administrative and technical approvals for the Ambedkar Village Development Project, granting authority at the district level, said SC/ST Welfare Minister O R Kelu on Monday. The minister was interacting with media persons after the district-level SC/ST projects review meeting held at the Kozhikode Collectorate.



Currently, administrative approval for projects under ₹1 crore across most departments is handled at the district level. However, the Ambedkar Village Development Scheme, which also has a project allocation of up to ₹1 crore, requires approval from the Directorate. Complaints have surfaced

about delays in project implementation due to this centralised approval process. The minister said that the amendment will delegate administrative authority to district collectors, with technical approvals handled by a committee of engineers. The committee will include engineers from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Local Self-Government Departments, along with retired engineers.

Minister Kelu also proposed changes to the eligibility criteria for the Ambedkar Village Development Scheme. Currently, the scheme requires at least 25 families in a settlement to qualify. Under the revised criteria, smaller clusters of SC/ST households will be eligible for inclusion, even if they don't meet the 25-family requirement.

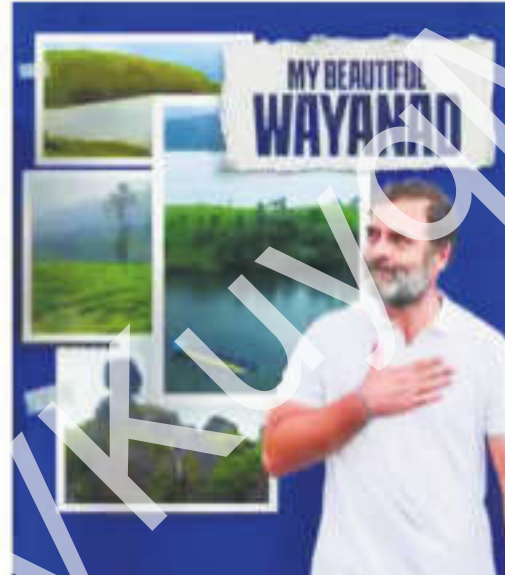
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@kalpetta

LEADER of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress scion Rahul Gandhi, who vacated the Wayanad LS seat in favour of the Rae Bareilly constituency, took to Facebook to make a strong pitch to the global community to visit the popular tourist haunt and thus enable the hilly region to regain its top billing as a must-visit destination. Wayanad was devastated by the deadly landslide that hit Chooralmala-Mundakkai near Meppadi on July 30. The landslide, though localised, led to widespread misconceptions that the entire district is un-

safe, resulting in a significant decline in tourist arrivals.

Rahul said that the landslide affected only a small part of Wayanad and that the rest of the district remained safe for travel. "Wayanad's pristine landscape is a given, but it is the compassion and kindness of its people that has always drawn me to the region," he said in the post, adding, the tourism industry was crucial to the livelihoods of thousands, who have suffered as cancellations continue to rise in the aftermath of the disaster.

"The recent tragedy affected only Chooralmala and Mundakkai, but it has caused a sharp drop in tourism across



Wayanad. I urge you to visit and experience its beauty, help revive tourism, rebuild livelihoods and restore the vibrancy of the region," he said.

EXPRESS READ

76-year-old returns home after two-and-a-half years

Kozhikode: After spending two and a half years in a government old age home, 76-year-old Lakshmi, a native of Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, has finally returned home. Lakshmi had been missing for four years before she arrived in Vellimadukunnu two and a half years ago. Her son, Kumaran, along with other relatives, travelled to Kozhikode and reunited with Lakshmi on Monday morning. The reunion was made possible through the efforts of social worker Shivan Kottoli, who took the initiative to locate her family. Shivan contacted the Tiruchirappalli Assistant Commissioner of Police, and with the assistance of the Thilai Nagar Police, they managed to trace Lakshmi's home and family. On Monday evening, Lakshmi was finally able to return to her loved ones.

Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Bid Identification No. C. C. E. Dkl. (R&B) 06/2024-25
Email Id- sedklpvd@gmail.com
Letter No. 1924 / Dt. 20.09.2024

B-337: The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road works as detailed below:

- Name of the work : Road works
- No. of works : 06 (Six) Nos
- Estimated cost : **Rs. 1.33 Crore to 6.28 Crore**
(as given in column No. 03. of table)
- Cost of tender paper : Rs. 10,000.00
- Class of contractor : 'B', 'A' & 'Special' Class
(as given in column No. 07. of table)
- Period of Completion of work : 05 (five) to 09 (Nine) Months
(as given in column No. 08. of table)
- Date and time of availability of bid : From Dt.04.10.2024 to 5.00 P.M.
document in the website : Dt.18.10.2024
- Date of opening of bid : Dt.19.10.2024 at 11.30 A.M.

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal

OIPR-34132/11/0013/2425

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LCRD/KOZHIKODE DIVISION, 1st Floor, Federal Towers, Arayidathupalam, Kozhikode-673016.
Ph: 0495-2744523, E-mail: kkldc@federalbank.co.in
Website: www.federalbank.co.in, CIN: L65191KL1931PLC000368

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Federal Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the said Act read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as Rules) issued a demand notice dated 02/07/2024 calling upon the borrowers (1) Shri. Arif P.K, S/o P.K.C Ahamedkutty, (2) Shri. Harris P.K, S/o P.K.C Ahamedkutty, (3) Smt. Pathumma, W/o P.K.C Ahamedkutty, all residing at: Parakkandy House, Unnikulam P.O. Poonoor, Kozhikode District, Kerala- 673574, (4) Shri. Anas P.K @ Anas Parakkandy, S/o P.K.C Ahamedkutty, Parakkandy House, Unnikulam P.O. Poonoor, Thamarassery Taluk, Kozhikode District, Kerala- 673574 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 68,68,566.53 (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Six and paise Fifty Three only) due from you as on 27/06/2024 under your Loan account No. 1414550009771, with Thamarassery branch of the Bank, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amounts, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on this 20th day of September, 2024.

The borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets (security properties). The borrowers in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Federal Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs. 77,50,550.53 (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakhs Fifty Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty and paise Fifty Three only) due from you as on 20/09/2024 under your Loan account No. 1414550009771 plus other charges, costs and interest thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the land measuring 7.78 Acres (19,225 Cents) together with building and all other improvements thereon comprised in Re-Sy no. 103 (Old Sy no. 3819), Block no. 1, of Unnikulam Village, Thamarassery Taluk (earlwhile Koylandy Taluk), Kozhikode District, Kerala State, Bounded as per title deed on East by: Property of Southa, West by: Property of Vijayan, North by: Choyamadam Road and South by: Property of Southa and Sulu. (Sd/- For The Federal Bank Ltd. Date : 20.09.2024 Place : Kozhikode Authorised Officer under SARFAESI Act

Retail Assets Central Processing Centre
Block Office Road, Kalpetta, Wayanad
E mail: sbi64214@sbi.co.in

Notice under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act of 2002 (54 of 2002) (Herein after called "the Act")

Home Loan - 42546690535

Mrs. Simy Benny, W/o. Benny, Veliyanamkandathil House, Manthondikunnu, Sulthan Bathery P.O, Wayanad-673592

A sum of **Rs. 35,18,954/-** (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Four Only) as on 29.08.2024 under the credit facilities granted to you from our **Sulthan Bathery Town Branch**. You have also created mortgage by way of deposit of title deeds creating security interest in favour of the Bank. You are also liable to discharge the said debt, which has been classified as Non-performing asset as on date **20.08.2024** and remains unpaid despite repeated requests made by the Bank.

A registered notice dated **29.08.2024** issued by the undersigned to the Borrower / Guarantor under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 has been returned undelivered / unacknowledged. Therefore, notice is hereby given under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 that if you fail to discharge the said debt with future interest and costs within 60 days of this notice the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of Section 13 and other applicable provisions of the Act including enforcement of the security interest created in favour of the Bank, described below.

Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act where under you can tender the entire amount of outstanding, dues together with all costs, charges and expenses, incurred by the Bank only till the date of publication of this notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding, dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred, by the Bank is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s).

Description of the immovable property

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of 2.02 Acres of land with residential building in R.Sy.No: 262/28 (Old Sy.no. 187/11A1) in Kuppadi Village, Sulthan Bathery Taluk, Wayanad District in the name of Mrs. Simy Benny, W/o Benny, Veliyanamkandathil House, Manthondikunnu, Sulthan Bathery P.O, Wayanad as per Pattayam Right Assignment Deed No 5868/2023 dated 21.12.2022 of SRQ Sulthan Bathery. **Boundary:** East: Municipal Road, West: Remaining Property, North: Property of Markose, South: 10 feet wide Mud Road.

Place: Kalpetta
Date: 29.08.2024

Authorised Officer
State Bank of India

QuoteExpress IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE > NELSON MANDELA

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanhalli Hosur Main Road Bangalore-560068

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a Housing Loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s) (DHFL, Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Vijayaraj S/ Shajitha M-QZZTH00005039912	(As described in the Loan document / property document covering 1.822 Acres in SY No- 38/2-7-1, Kuruvu Village, Perinthalmanna Taluk, Kuruvu Panchayath Molappuram, Bounded By North : Property of Chandhu South : My own Balance Property East : Property of Amino West : Property of Muhammed Ali. Another Boundaries North : In this first Annexure South : Balance Property East : My own Balance Property West : Property of Muhammed Ali / Date of Physical Possession 18- September-2024	16-October-2021 Rs. 16,45,825.00/-	Thrissur

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : September 24, 2024
Place : Malappuram

Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

ASSALAMA INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY CALICUT LIMITED
CIN: U85110KL2010PLC025727
SAS RESIDENCY BUILDING, ARAYIDATHUPALAM JN, BYE-PASS ROAD, KOZHIKODE, KERALA, INDIA - 673004
Email: sharech@abateas.com Tel: +91 495-3930123

NOTICE OF 14TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, BOOK CLOSURE AND E-VOTING

1. Notice is hereby given that the 14th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company will be held on Saturday 28th September 2024 at 03.00 pm. through Video Conference / Other Audio Visual Means, to transact the business as set out in the Notice convening the said meeting, in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 & Rules made there under read with Circular Nos. 20/2020, 14/2020, 17/2020, 02/2021, 19/2021 and 02/2022, 10/2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Circulars"). Members will be able to attend and participate in the ensuing AGM through audio visual means and the facility of appointment of proxy will not be available. Members attending the AGM through audio visual means will be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

2. Electronic copies of the Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the financial year ended on 31st March, 2024 have been sent to all the members whose email IDs are registered with the Company/Depository participant(s). Members are requested to note that the physical copies of the aforesaid documents will not be made available to them by the Company. The dispatch of notice and Annual Report of 14th Annual General Meeting has been completed on 6th September 2024.

3. Members holding Shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date of Wednesday 18th September 2024 may cast their vote electronically on the Ordinary Business (es) and Special Business (es) as set out in the notice of the 14th AGM through electronic voting system of Central Depositories Services (India) Limited from a place other than the venue of the AGM ("remote e-voting"). All the members are informed that

- The resolutions as set out in the Notice of AGM may be transacted through voting by electronic means.
- The remote e-voting shall commence on Wednesday 25th September 2024 (at 9.00 am).
- The remote e-voting shall end on Friday, 27th September 2024 (at 05.00 pm).
- The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means is on Wednesday 18th September 2024.
- Person who acquires shares of the Company and becomes the member of the Company after the dispatch of Notice of AGM and holding shares as on cut-off date i.e., 18th September 2024 can follow the process of generating the login ID and password as provided in the Notice of AGM.
- Members may note that a) The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL after the aforesaid date and time for voting and once the vote on the resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently; b) The member who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again; c) the facility for voting through e-voting shall be made available during the course of AGM for those who have not voted previously; and d) a person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owner maintained by the depositories as on cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the AGM through e-voting.

VII. In case of any queries members refer Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) s and e-voting manual available at: www.evotingindia.com under help section or write an email to: sharech@abateas.com or helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com

4. The Company has appointed Mr. K. P. Sathesaran, Practicing Company Secretary, (Membership No. F4173) of Calicut, Kerala as Scrutinizer to scrutinise the e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner. The Register of Members and Share transfer register in respect of equity shares of the Company will remain closed from Thursday 19th September to Saturday 28th September 2024 (both days inclusive).

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD
FOR ASSALAMA INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY CALICUT LIMITED
SD/-
MOHAMMED KUTTY ARIKUZHIYIL
CHAIRMAN
DIN: 02007636

DATE : 05-09-2024
PLACE : CALICUT

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HC: Hear daughter's objections before donating Lawrence's body

Petitioner Asha Lawrence said that her consent had not been sought for donating the body • She argued that her father's body cannot be a subject matter of politics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

KERALA High Court on Monday directed the Principal of the Government Medical College, Kalamassery, to consider the objections raised by Asha Lawrence regarding the handing over of the body of her father, veteran CPM leader M M Lawrence, to the medical college for medical research. While disposing of a petition filed by Asha Lawrence, the court directed to consider the objection raised by the petitioner before taking a decision on the consent alleged to have been given by the deceased and the affidavits given by her siblings on the issue.

The state government informed the court that after taking possession of the body, it would be preserved for some time. The authorised officer will be permitted to take possession of the body, subject to the decision to be taken after considering the petitioner's objection.

Asha Lawrence pointed out that her siblings, M L Sajeewan and Sujatha Boban, had informed the media of their decision to hand over the body to the medical college. According to Asha, the decision was made unilaterally by her siblings and the Ernakulam district secretary of CPM. The petitioner argued that her father was a politician, but his body cannot be a subject matter of politics.

The court observed that the consent of the deceased need not necessarily be in writing and can even be orally expressed in the presence of two or more persons.

Counsel for Sajeewan and Sujatha Boban informed the court that they filed an affidavit before the authorised officer stating that their father had ex-



Former CPM central committee member and LDF convener M M Lawrence's daughter Asha Lawrence is seen with her father's body at the Ernakulam Town Hall on Monday | A SANESH

pressed an unequivocal desire that his body be handed over and used to conduct anatomical examinations. Then the court asked, should not the deceased have expressed his consent in writing? The counsel replied that it was not in writing, but the deceased had made clear his wish to not only his children but many of his colleagues and followers. The counsel added that the petitioner previously filed two cases against her father.

The state attorney pointed out Section 4A of the Kerala Anatomy Act, 1957, which stated that the written consent of the deceased is not mandatory.

In her petition, Asha said that though her father was a member of the CPM, he was not against religion or religious beliefs. Her siblings and the CPM leadership took the decision claiming that the late Lawrence had orally told Sajeewan that his wish was to hand over the body to the medical college.

Asha refuted the claim arguing that her father never expressed such a wish, either verbally or in his recently published autobiography. The CPM took this decision to keep the image that their leader was an atheist.

Asha further stated that her father was a member of the parish and had consistently followed Christian rites and rituals throughout his life. He was not opposed to Christian religious faith. The decision to donate the body was politically motivated, and her siblings were pressured into following it. Moreover, she highlighted that as a daughter, her consent had not been sought, making the decision illegal. Donating the body without burying it in the church would cause her irreparable loss. She also requested police protection for her to bury her father's body at St Francis Xavier Church, Kathrikadavu, Kallor, following Christian faith and rituals.

Unfortunate that Asha is creating a controversy, says Lawrence's son

CONTINUED FROM P1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @KOCHI

EARLIER in the day, Asha had visited the Town Hall when the body was laid for public homage. She returned to the hall after the High Court decided in favour of donating the body to the medical college. She wished for her father to be buried at the St Francis Church in Kathrikadavu, Kallor, where his wife, Baby, had been laid to rest. Asha accused the CPM of using her father for political gain and raised suspicions about the decision to donate his body to the MCH.

In a Facebook post on Sunday, she expressed her frustration, saying her father never instructed them to donate his body to the



Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan pays tribute to M M Lawrence. Industries Minister P Rajeev is also seen | A SANESH

'Decision politically motivated'

Asha Lawrence said that the decision to donate the body was politically motivated, and her siblings were pressured into following it. She also claimed that Donating the body without burying it in the church would cause her irreparable loss. Asha also requested police protection for her to bury her father's body at St Francis Xavier Church



It is unfortunate that Asha is creating such a controversy and telling all sorts of lies regarding my father being a practising Christian. He never prevented us from going to church

M L Sajeewan, Lawrence's son

Updated guidelines to be released to prevent mpox in state: Minister

Test result of mpox suspect turns negative

Alappuzha: The test result of a 54-year-old man who was suspected to have mpox has turned negative providing a huge respite to the Health department. The 54-year-old man arrived from Bahrain and was admitted to Alappuzha Government Medical College Hospital on Saturday with suspected symptoms of mpox. According to a health department official, the test carried out in the virology institute in Alappuzha turned negative on Monday.

1 more tests negative for Nipah

Malappuram: Health Minister Veena George on Monday announced that the tests conducted so far on samples collected from individuals in the contact list of the Nipah victim from Thiruvallur have returned negative results. On the same day, the health department reported that one more person tested negative for the disease. So far, a total of 79 people in the Nipah contact list have tested negative. No new individuals were added to the victim's contact list on the day. A total of 267 people remain on the contact list of the Nipah victim.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @TPuram

IT has been identified that the 38-year-old man from Edavanna in Malappuram, who is under treatment for mpox, is infected with the Clade 1b strain of the virus, making him the first such case in the country. Top officials of the Health department of officials were tight-lipped about the test result. A statement from Health Minister Veena George regarding the test result is expected on Tuesday. She however convened a meeting of state-level Rapid Response Team (RRT) to assess the situation when mpox cases increase. Clade 1b strain of the virus is more infectious than Clade 2 and it is currently behind the global outbreak.

In a statement, the minister said that updated guidelines would be released for prevention and effective treatment of mpox in the state. "If the cases increase, it has been instructed to take appropriate action. Isolation facilities have been established in all districts. Surveillance has been strengthened, including at airports," said the statement.

She gave directions to the officials to increase the number of testing centres from the present five, if required. She advised those arriving in Kerala from other countries to inform the Health department if they have symptoms and seek treatment. The minister also directed that the department should be informed if people are coming to government and private hospitals with symptoms of mpox.

The patient is currently receiving treatment at Manjeri Medical College Hospital after returning from Dubai a week ago. The man sought medical attention for a high fever accompanied by visible blisters, prompting authorities to send his samples for testing. People who were in close contact are under isolation to prevent further spread of the virus, as per the protocol. He tested positive on September 18. The samples were sent to National Institute of Virology in Pune for genomic sequencing. Mpox, previously known as monkeypox, is a viral illness caused by the monkeypox virus, a species of the genus Orthopoxvirus.

Curbs relaxed in Coastal Regulation Zone II, IIIA categories

CONTINUED FROM P1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

EARLIER, the no development zone for CRZ II and CRZ IIIA was 100m from the high tide line, but now it has been reduced to 50m or the width of the waterbody.

If there is an approved structure or a road within the no de-

velopment zone of the waterbody in areas designated under CRZ II, development activities can be undertaken on the landward side of the structure irrespective of the distance.

For example, if there is a road 20m away from the high tide line, the land owners can take up construction activities on the landward side of the road.

NEW TOWN PANCHAYATS

T'Puram: 9
Alappuzha: 2
Ernakulam: 10
Thrissur: 1
Kozhikode: 22
Malappuram: 4
Kannur: 11
Kasaragod: 7

CRZ UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN

CRZ I A: Ecologically sensitive areas which play a role in maintaining the integrity of the coast. Mangroves with 1,000m area will have a 50m buffer zone.

CRZ IB: Intertidal zone between Low Tide Line and High Tide Line, which is a no development zone

CRZ II: Developed Land areas up to or close to the shore line within existing municipal limits or legally designated urban areas. Area up to 50m from high tide line or approved structure to be earmarked no development zone

CRZ III A: Areas with population density of over 2,161 person per sq km. No development zone of 50m from high tide line

CRZ III B: All areas with population density less than 2,161 person per sq km. No development zone up to 200m from high tide line.

FROM THE HIGH COURT

HC seeks govt's view on filmmaker's plea

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Monday sought the state government's view on the anticipatory bail petition filed by filmmaker Akhil Marar, who was booked in connection with his statements against contributing money to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund following the Wayanad landslides. The filmmaker argued that he had posted his suggestion on social media and did not create hatred among the public. The Kollam City police have booked Akhil under Sections 45 and 192 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and Section 51 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

HC closes actor Jayasoorya's bail pleas

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Monday closed the anticipatory bail plea filed by actor Jayasoorya in two separate cases relating to outraging the modesty of women and sexual assault respectively. The Court noted that offences alleged against the actor are bailable offences since the alleged incidents occurred before 2013. Section 354 (Assault or use of criminal force against a woman with the intention of outraging her modesty) of the IPC was amended in 2013 to make it non-bailable. The court said that "the bail applications are closed, reserving the right of the petitioner to work out his remedies in accordance to law."

FILM PRODUCTION CONTROLLER FOUND DEAD IN HOTEL ROOM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

A production controller in the Malayalam film industry was found dead inside the bathroom of a hotel, on MG Road in Kochi on Monday evening. The deceased is identified as Shanu Ismail, a native of Thiruvananthapuram. Following the incident, the Ernakulam Central police initiated an investigation and booked a case for unnatural death.

The Museum Police in Thiruvananthapuram had booked a

case against Shanu based on a sexual harassment complaint from an actor.

The actor, who hailed from Thiruvananthapuram, alleged that in 2018 Shanu sexually assaulted her in a flat under the pretense of offering her a role in a Malayalam film. The Ernakulam police are tight-lipped on this case.

The SHO of Ernakulam Central police station said Shanu and two friends had checked into the hotel room on September 12.



Shanu

His friends had left two or three days earlier, leaving Shanu alone in the room when the incident occurred. As he was scheduled to vacate the room on Monday, a hotel staff member approached the room after receiving no response from Shanu.

Upon further inspection by hotel employees, Shanu was found dead in the bathroom.

"After being alerted by the hotel staff, we arrived at the scene and initiated the inquest procedures. The family members of the deceased have been informed and they are on their way," he said.

A NEW MILESTONE

With 10L followers, BJP upstages CPM, Cong in FB outreach

K S SREEJITH @TPuram

CLIMBING the ladder of mass popularity in the country's last citadel of communist rule, Kerala, the BJP has achieved a milestone of a million followers on the social media platform Facebook. As BJP Kerala, the party's official Facebook page, completed 10 lakh followers on Saturday, its closest rival CPM has only 7.72 lakh followers and the Congress just 3.52 lakh.

Considering the BJP growth story still has some way to go to catch up with the CPM and the Congress on the ground, the state leaders attribute the so-

cial media swell to the party's successful Christian outreach programme and the 'Modi magic'. The development comes amid BJP's membership campaign.

This surge in numbers was set off just after the general elections where the BJP performed well, winning the Thrissur constituency and finishing first in several assembly constituencies. The two ministers from the state in the Narendra Modi government too boosted the party's outreach to sections which were earlier unresponsive to the BJP.

BJP convenor-in-charge of social media S Jayasankar attributes these gains to Prime Minister Modi's acceptance and popularity among a wider section of society.

"We have always been working on PM's single agenda of development," Jayasankar told TNIE. "We might have indulged in attacking the opposition parties and their leaders. However, we minimised it as the national leadership instructed us to use social

media in creative ways. We had only seven lakh followers in the state before the parliamentary elections."

According to the party leadership, the Modi factor played a major role in increasing the social media following, citing that Modi has an approval rating of 40-45% in any survey conducted at any time in Kerala.

For the first time, a large section of people from the Christian community, the second largest minority in the state,

are responding positively and openly to BJP's social media posts.

"People from the Christian community were out of the party's reach thus far. Now, we are receiving positive responses. Earlier, they were in a defensive mode as many had the apprehension that if they came out openly in support of the BJP, they would be stigmatised as communalists and 'krisanghi' -- a word used by opponents for Christians inclined towards the RSS-BJP ideology. However, that changed completely when the party gave George Kurian a berth in the third Modi cabinet," Jayasankar said.



People from the Christian community were out of the party's reach thus far. Now, we are receiving positive responses — S Jayasankar, BJP convenor-in-charge of social media



Rajeev Chandrasekhar @RajeevRC_X
To understand PM @narendramodi ji's policymaking/execution, look no further than Indias semicon sector. Just 3yrs ago, Indias semicon footprint was near zero - tdy we are one of fastest growing, trusted players in global semicon ecosystem #NewIndia.

2 collapse as T'Puram-Ekm trains burst at seams

Women passengers faint inside Venad Exp due to overcrowding; many forced to travel in unsafe spots, including doorsteps & washrooms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

THE first working day after Onam vacation brought significant challenges for rail passengers travelling to Ernakulam, particularly on the Thiruvananthapuram-Shoranur Venad Express. The train, known for its severe overcrowding, saw two women collapse due to the packed conditions. Passengers reported being forced to travel in unsafe spots, including doorsteps and washrooms.

"Passengers are struggling to get inside the train. Monday was especially chaotic when women were seen running from one coach to another looking for an entry. A day before a woman passenger was hurt while trying to get inside a crowded coach. It is also common to see people giving up travel plans after seeing the crowd as the choice is to hang by the door handle or give up the travel plan. Both are not easy decisions," said Liyons J, Secretary of Friends on Rails, an organisation of passengers.

"As the people keep pushing the railway guard has to wait for giving clearance. The prob-



A jam-packed coach of Venad Express (right) One of the women passengers who collapsed on Monday

lems get worse as the train reaches Kottayam, resulting in delays." According to the passenger organisation, there are at least 3,000 employees from Infopark who are dependent on trains.

'Venad not detained'

The statement from the Thiruvananthapuram Railway Division said Palaruvi Express passed Piravom Road at 7.53am, and Vande Bharat Express passed at 8am. "Venad Express departed from Piravom Road at 9.32am after its one-minute stoppage. There were no instances of it being detained for precedence or delays at Piravom Road," it said. The Railways clarified that Railway personnel at stations as well as on board trains are always ready to assist passengers requiring medical attention. This morning, a female passenger was given first aid after she felt unwell at Tiruvalla station, it said.

The railway division maintained that no incidents of fainting were reported at local stations and claimed that Venad Express operates with high punctuality. However, commuters, particularly those from Infopark, expressed frustration with the situation, as the three main trains serving the area-

the MEMU, Palaruvi Express, and Venad Express-remain insufficient for demand.

Palaruvi, which starts from Kottayam at 6.58 am is a bit early for office-goers. Yet, the train is crowded even after the Railways recently augmented four general class coaches. Venad Express which comes 90 minutes later is already packed by the time it reaches Kottayam. Many passengers complained that the erratic time has made it difficult for office-goers to reach their destinations at 10 am.

The passengers demanded that the Railways introduce a MEMU train between Palaruvi and Venad Express. "The MEMU should start from Kayamkulam after Vande Bharat leaves the station. As an emergency measure, they should at least start a MEMU from Kottayam at 7.45 am," said the forum.

The passengers demanded the Railway end the practice of detaining Palaruvi Express at Mulanthuruthi for 30 minutes to facilitate the passage of Vande Bharat Express.

Friends on Rails said the detention caused suffering to pas-

sengers in an overcrowded situation. They also wanted the railway to detain the train at Tripunithura so that passengers disembark and find other modes of transport to reach their destinations in Ernakulam.

Thiruvananthapuram Railway Division, however, contested these allegations and claimed that the trains were never detained and punctuality was maintained.

The division, however, stated that no incidents of fainting were reported at Piravom Road, Mulanthuruthi, or Tripunithura stations on Monday.

"Train No. 16302 Venad Express is a commuter train that is closely monitored to ensure punctuality. The train was upgraded with LHB coaches having higher passenger carrying capacity long ago. Anticipating the high demand during Onam, the train was augmented to its full capacity (22 LHB coaches), with the addition of one unreserved coach from September 19. This additional coach has been continued after Onam also and not withdrawn," said a statement from the division.



Former chief secy V Venu to bolster Biennale board

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

FORMER chief secretary V Venu has been appointed as the chairperson of the Kochi Biennale Foundation's board of trustees. Kochi-Muziris Biennale president Bose Krishnamachari, who is also a trustee of Kochi Biennale Foundation, said Venu will be "coming on board pro bono, on an honorary basis".

The Kochi-Muziris Biennale, which is conducted by KBF, has won national and international acclaim as India's premier mega-art event.

Venu has been associated with the Kochi-Muziris Biennale from the first edition, playing a key role in establishing

the partnership between the Foundation and the state government. He was in close touch with the Foundation in subsequent editions as well.

Venu joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1990, and had served as director-general of the National Museum in New Delhi. The Biennale is expected to benefit from his rich experience from a variety of assignments in the national and state cultural and tourism sectors.

Notably, Venu served as secretary of the state's cultural affairs ministry from 2007-2011, during which the International Theatre Festival of Kerala was established.



KSEB mulls monthly billing system

CYNTHIA CHANDRAN @T'Puram

POWER Minister K Krishnankutty's claim to introduce monthly billing instead of the existing bimonthly billing is expected to give a fillip to the cash-strapped KSEB. Even though the employee cost will go up by 2 paise for having more staff for meter reading, the board will be getting one month's power bill as advance from the consumer where the monthly interest alone would enable them to reap rich dividends.

For quite some time, both the domestic and non-domestic consumers have been urging the KSEB to go for monthly billing. At the recent public hearing held by the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (KSERC) in five districts, a section of the consumers had highlighted this issue. This led the board to hold an impact study on coming out with the monthly billing scheme following the KSERC's verbal directive. A senior KSEB official told TNIE that if

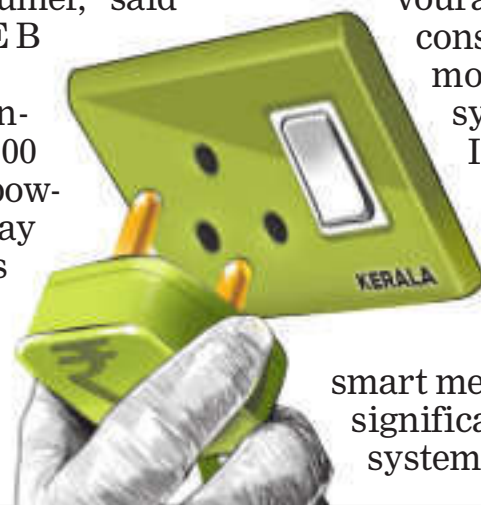
the monthly billing system is implemented it will see an increase of 2 paise which will be reflected in the bill.

"KSEB will incur more money in terms of increasing the billing staff and printing cost. The drawback for the consumer is that the interval of the bill cycle will come down, by the time the consumer pays the bill, the next bill will be ready. If the monthly billing scheme is implemented, the KSEB tends to gain more as we are bound to get one-month advance payment from the consumer," said a senior KSEB official.

Currently, a consumer who uses 200 units - 400 units of power, he/she has to pay Rs 8.20 per unit as per the telescopic rates (Energy charge is calculated in telescopic style for domestic

customers who consume more than 200 units of power). If the monthly billing system is brought in and the consumer uses 200 units and more, the consumer still ends up paying the telescopic rate of Rs 8.20 per unit.

A top board official confirmed to TNIE that high-level discussions were going on regarding the implementation of the monthly billing system. He further added that if the board did not face any financial commitment, they would take it up favourably. This means, the power consumers will end up paying more if the monthly billing system is brought into force. It's reliably learned that initially it would be the non-domestic consumers who will be provided with the monthly bill. Interestingly, once the smart meter project is taken up, the significance of the monthly billing system will no longer be valid.



Activists raise concern over move against jailed Maoist leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kozhikode

CULTURAL leaders and activists have expressed concern over the Kerala police's move to slap more cases on Maoist leader Roopesh, whose jail term is expected to end within a few months.

In a statement, Justice P K Shamsuddin, K Satchidanandan, B Rajeevan, Sebastian Paul, MLA K K Rema, M Karasseri, Kalpetta Narayanan and others termed the move "extremely alarming" and asked the government not to proceed with the attempt.

The statement alleged that the crime branch and the Anti-Terrorism Squad are planning to frame another case against Roopesh in connection with the attack on a granite factory at Mukkam in Kozhikode in 2013. "It is gross injustice to take revenge against a political prisoner who has been in jail for about 10 years," the statement said.

TAMILNADU TEXTBOOK AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CORPORATION					
<div></div> <div>'E.V.K. Sampath Maaligai', No.68, College Road, Chennai - 600 006. Phone : 044-28275852, Fax No: 044-28224493, E-mail : jdtntbsc@gmail.com</div>					
RC.No.5253/PUR-1/2024		NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER		Date : 23.09.2024	
1	Description of four separate E-Tenders		Supply and delivery of (i) Shoes (ii) Socks (iii) School Bag (iv) Footwear (Velcro Sandal) for the students studying in Govt. and Govt. Aided Schools in Tamilnadu for the year 2025-2026.		
2	Pre-Bid meeting date & time Place: TamilNadu Textbook & Educational Services Corporation, Chennai-6		1) Shoes	08.10.2024	11.30 a.m.
			2) Socks	08.10.2024	12.30 p.m.
			3) School Bag	08.10.2024	03.00 p.m.
			4) Footwear (Velcro Sandal)	08.10.2024	04.00 p.m.
3	Last Date and Time for Submission of E-Tenders (Shoes, Socks, School Bag & Footwear (Velcro Sandal))		24.10.2024 at 05.00 p.m.		
4	E-Tenders Opening Date & Time. Place: TamilNadu Textbook & Educational Services Corporation, Chennai-6		1) Shoes	25.10.2024	11.30 a.m.
			2) Socks	25.10.2024	12.30 p.m.
			3) School Bag	25.10.2024	03.00 p.m.
			4) Footwear (Velcro Sandal)	25.10.2024	04.00 p.m.
5	Tender Document and other details are available in the Websites and can be downloaded free of cost		a) http://www.textbookcorp.tn.gov.in b) http://tntenders.gov.in		
<div>Sd/- Managing Director Tender Inviting Authority Tamilnadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation, Chennai-6.</div>					
DIPR/3833/TENDER/2024					

MAHARASHTRA HOUSING & AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Reference No.: ICT Cell/AE-Tender/05/24

Online electronic bids in prescribed format for below mentioned work are invited by Chief ICT Officer/ICT Cell/MHADA on behalf of Maharashtra Housing & Area Development Authority, Government of Maharashtra from bidders with proven experience. Tender Documents are available for online bid preparation & Submission on Mahatender portal (<https://mahatenders.gov.in>) from date 24/09/2024 to 08/10/2024. The time schedule for various bidding phases is given in the detailed tender notice, which is also available on Mahatender portal as a part of the Tender documents.

Name of Work: Selection of Service Provider (Cloud Hosting and Managed Service) to Setup, Migrate, and Manage Data Centre (DC) and Disaster Recovery (DR) site for MHADA on Cloud. (For Three Years)

Tender Fee: ₹20,000/- (Rs. Twenty Thousand only) + 18% GST

EMD Amount: ₹1,60,00,000/- (Rs. One Crore Sixty Lakh only)

Start Date & Time for Online Bid Downloading: 24.09.2024 at 11:00 A.M.

End Date & Time for Online Bid Downloading: 08.10.2024 at 06:00 P.M.

(Those concerned kindly note that the e-tender reference No. ICT Cell/A/ E-tender/04/24 published in this newspaper in this regard on 21/09/2024 has been cancelled.)

Sd/-
Chief ICT Officer, ICT Cell/ MHADA
MHADA-Leading Housing Authority in the Nation

CBRIC

सी एन ए फ़िंगरप्रिंटिंग एवं निदान केंद्र

CENTRE FOR DNA FINGERPRINTING AND DIAGNOSTICS

Inner Ring Road, Uppal, Hyderabad - 500 039,
Telangana, India दूरभाष : Tel: +91-40-2721 6199

फ़ैक्स : Fax: +91-40-2721 6006 ईमेल : <http://www.cdfd.org.in>

PHD-I-2025 ADMISSIONS

The Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, invites applications from highly motivated candidates for admission to its PhD Program. Keeping in view the interdisciplinary nature of modern biology, we especially encourage persons from diverse backgrounds to apply. Those admitted as PhD Scholars would be encouraged to register under the Ph. D. program of Regional Centre for Biotechnology.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible for Admission to the CDFD PhD-I-2025, the candidate must have:

- A Master's degree in any branch of Science, Technology, or Agriculture OR MBBS from a recognized University/ Institute.
- Qualified for a Junior Research Fellowship from CSIR / UGC / DBT / ICMR / INSPIRE / UGC - RGNF or any other similar examination with fellowship.

Candidates having qualified for Project - JRF under the ICMR funded project Scheme [which is only for a period of two years] OR DBT JRF NET with a B.Tech. [Biotechnology] degree OR DBT JRF NET under DBT - B category list OR LS-NET qualification only in CSIR-UGC (NET) examination are NOT eligible to apply.

(Please see CDFD website (<https://www.cdfd.org.in>) for details).

Selection Procedure

Admission to PhD-I-2025 at CDFD will be based on a two - step selection process.

I Round: Interview for the first round via video conference; scheduled to be held in the third week of December 2024 (the exact dates will be informed along with the list of candidates shortlisted for the interview) and

II Round: Interview for the second round "in person" at CDFD during late January, 2025, (the exact dates will be informed along with the list of candidates shortlisted for the interview)

(Please see CDFD website (<http://www.cdfd.org.in>) for details).

Interested candidates who fulfill the above conditions may register their names for PhD. - I - 2025 admissions by applying in the prescribed application form online. The link for the application form is available at <http://cdfd.org.in>.

The Online application facility will be closed on 10.11.2024.

Visit the CDFD website <http://www.cdfd.org.in> for detailed advertisement / general terms and conditions.

PERUVAYALSEVA NIDHI LIMITED

CIN: U65900KL2017PLN071720
Reg. Off: ROOM NO. 8/488,
SEVASAMITHI AUDITORIUM BUILDING
PERUVAYAL P.O.
KOZHIKODE KL 673008 IN
PH: 9446338516

E-Mail: grasethkumarperuvayal@gmail.com

NOTICE OF AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 3rd Annual General Meeting of M/s PERUVAYALSEVA NIDHI LIMITED will be held on Monday, 30th September 2024 at 11:00 A.M. at registered office of the Company. The Financial Statements of the Company can be inspected at the registered office of the company and financial statement with enclosures is affixed in the notice board of the company. Member is entitled to vote either in person or through proxy. Copy of notice & all relevant documents are available at the registered office. By the order of the Board For and on behalf of PERUVAYALSEVA NIDHI LIMITED.

Sd/-
PUTHANCHERI GIREESH KUMAR
MANAGING DIRECTOR
I DIN 09368474

Place: PERUVAYAL
Date: 08/09/2024

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Change of Name and Date of Birth and House name

I SINDHU S K legally wedded wife of No.10291049H1 Sep Unnikrishnan K P residing at Saravananadom House, Menalady, Nilambur Post, Malappuram Dt Kerala Pin 679329 hereby state that my name and date of birth is wrongly recorded in service record of my husband name of SINDHU K S and PPO date of birth as 14-01-1967. My correct name is SINDHU S K and date of birth 01-05-1974 as per my SSLC certificate Aadhar Card, Pan Card vide affidavit date 19-09-2024.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, REKHA VARADAN, daughter of T V GOPALAN NAMBIAR, legally wedded spouse of EX NO.676539G. SGT. VARADAKSHAN PADINHATAYIL, presently residing at "Varadam", Near S S Temple, Payyanur P.O., Kannur, Kerala-670307, have changed my name from REKHA VARADAN to REKHA K P and my correct date of birth is 30.05.1973 as per Affidavit dated 19.09.2024 before Advocate & Notary, Vijayan P P, Kannur.

(Sd/-) REKHA K P

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY

E & M DEPARTMENT

MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION

NO-EM/MMP/OHP-08/2024/22
DT- 12/09/2024

Name of the work - Procurement of 3000 Meter Steel Cord Conveyor Belts, Estimated Cost - Rs.2,59,52,850/-

Last Date & Time of Submission - 03/10/2024 1800 Hrs,

Log on to Gem Portal: www.gem.gov.in

Sd/- Sr. Dy. Materials Manager
Paradip Port Authority

PPA/PR/382024-2025 Dtd.19.09.2024

COFFEE BOARD

(Ministry of Commerce & Industry)
Department of Commerce
Government of India

#1, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi
Bengaluru-560 001, Karnataka, India.
Phone : +91- 80 - 2226 6991 - 994

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: No. Extn./P&C Cell/ ICDP/ Tender-MECH/2024-25/126
Date: 20.09.2024

Coffee Board, a statutory organization under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce, Government of India, Head Quatered at Bengaluru has invited Short Term-Tenders for empanment of manufacturers or its authorized distributors for supplying different machinery suitable for use in coffee estates directly to the farmers under back ended subsidy scheme of ICDP Component 'Farm Mechanization' during 2024-25 and 2025-26. The detailed Short Term E-Tender documents viz., Tender Notification, Specifications, Eligibility Criterion, Crucial Date & Time etc., in this regard can be downloaded from Coffee Board's Website- www.coffeeboard.gov.in & <https://procure.gem.gov.in/procure/app> The last date & time for submission of Short-Term E-Tenders is 24th October 2024 at 3.00 PM. The Technical Bids submitted through CPP will be opened on the next day at 3.00 PM.

Sd/-
CEO & SECRETARY

PATIENT DEALING WITH LANKA CALLED FOR AS COUNTRY TURNS LEFT

WHEN a Marxist party that got only 3 percent of the votes in Sri Lanka’s presidential elections in 2019 wrests the mandate in 2024, it indicates a foundational shift in popular choice. Anura Kumara Disسانayake, the 56-year-old candidate of the National Peoples’ Power coalition, achieved this with the narrowest of margins as second-preference votes came into play for the first time in eight presidential elections since 1982. Till now, his Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna was at the political fringe, having led armed insurrections twice in the 1970s and 80s. Over the years, Disسانayake managed to temper the party’s radical streak and make it more acceptable. His party was briefly in power in coalitions led by presidents Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga and Mahinda Rajapaksa. However, the transition from an agitational frame to one of leading the government is not easy, as the new president will soon find out. His ability to deliver on his promise of lowering taxes and enhancing ease of living while aligning with IMF’s conditionalities is yet to be tested.

Lanka has decisively taken a left turn, spurred by Disسانayake’s promise of cleaning up the system and ensuring probity in public life. He became the prime beneficiary of the youth uprising in 2022, better known as the Aragalaya movement, following a severe shortage of food, fuel and foreign exchange at a time when the Covid pandemic had sucked out tourism revenue and reduced the nation to a basket case. The riots that followed ejected the arrogant and corrupt Rajapaksas from power. But the wily Rajapaksas installed their proxy Ranil Wickremesinghe in the presidential palace. In the first polls after Aragalaya, all of them were blown away by the tempest of democracy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was quick to greet Disسانayake, saying he looked forward to working closely with him to strengthen the multifaceted bilateral cooperation. It was India’s \$4-billion bailout that saved the bankrupt island in 2022. But anti-India rhetoric was the president’s calling card in the run-up to the elections. The corollary is his pro-China leaning, as can be expected from a Marxist party. India will have to play the waiting game, as it did with Maldives, and give Disسانayake time to realise that India is a benevolent regional power and the first responder in times of crisis as against the usurious other.

INDIAN CHESS’S GOLDEN GENERATION GETS GOING

SPORTS is replete with extraordinary feats that mere mortals are rarely capable of dreaming. Certain epochal moments in sports will forever be ingrained in our memories. India’s gold in the open and women’s categories at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest would be one such image. India won without the need for messy tiebreaks, the first such show of dominance since 2014 when China secured gold with a two-matchpoint advantage. India had a four-matchpoint lead over its nearest rival—no team has won by such a big margin since the new scoring system was introduced in 2008. The open team of D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi and P Harikrishna, ably led by captain Srinath Narayanan, bagged 21 out of the 22 possible matchpoints—another record.

India also secured a record four individual golds. Gukesh and Erigaisi in the open and Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agrawal in the women’s. Gukesh’s 9/10 points—a 3000+ rating performance—and Erigaisi’s 10/11 (2968) are probably the best performances ever in an Olympiad. While Arjun has now climbed up to World No 3 in live ratings, Gukesh is not far behind at No 5. When one considers the age of the players, the achievement seems even more astounding. Among the five players in the open, two are teenagers—Gukesh at 18 and Pragg at 19—while Erigaisi is just 21. Among the women, Divya is 18 and Vantika 21, while R Vaishali is 23.

It was not a flash-in-the-pan either. Over the last two years, these players had been sounding the bell. Pragg entered the World Cup final while Gukesh won the Candidates and will be playing Ding Liren in the World Championship in Singapore later this year. The result ahead of the biggest match of his life would give him confidence and he would enter as the favourite.

The revolution that Viswanathan Anand started more than two decades ago—as Magnus Carlsen called it last year—is bearing fruit now. The sport’s popularity has grown, especially in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Delhi. Academies have mushroomed. Though there is a lack of sponsors, one is sure the power centre of chess is shifting from the West. This is the beginning of a golden generation.

QUICK TAKE

NO SCOPE TO MISREAD POC SO

THE Supreme Court’s ruling that downloading and watching sexually explicit material involving children is an offence under the POC SO Act is a much-needed clarity. The bench called the Madras High Court ruling it set aside an “egregious error”. Also welcome is the pointer that ‘child pornography’ is a misnomer as it dilutes the heinous nature of the crime; the top court directed all judges to instead use the term ‘child sexual exploitative and abuse material’. It’s baffling that even more than a decade after the POC SO Act was notified it continues to be misread by some parts of the judiciary. We hope the top court’s clarification will banish the scope for misjudgement.

A series of events have occurred or been orchestrated by different elements in the erstwhile state of J&K, now a union territory since August 5, 2019. That was the fateful day when Article 370 was abrogated and the ongoing proxy war found a new and energetic Indian approach towards countering it. Combined with this are many nuances, from demographic, political, social and security angles, that present one of the most confounding electoral situations in India.

Have polls in recent years achieved anything in the quest for peace? Seven years after Pakistan initiated the proxy war in J&K (1989), India resorted to using one of its strongest credentials to seek stabilisation and peace. In 1996, the strength of terrorists in J&K was still abnormally high, but the terror pipeline from the Russia-Afghanistan war was drying up and our security resources were sufficient.

However, where India was on the backfoot was in the domain of human rights, after the US-backed campaign cast allegations against us through 1994-96, forcing us to face the ignominy of defending ourselves at Geneva at the first UN Human Rights Council meeting in June 1994. Therefore, India’s decision to conduct elections in J&K in 1996 was also to ward off alleged blotches on its track record.

It was the right decision. It restored much of the world’s positive perception about the handling of J&K. Five years after wholesale changes were executed constitutionally, holding elections is a prudent step even though a conducive security environment in the Jammu region may not fully exist. From 1996 to the 2014 assembly polls and the recent 2024 parliamentary elections, the scenario has remained dynamic, with low and high turnout conveying certain signals contingent on how separatism and the proxy war fared. The recent Lok Sabha polls seemed to suggest a more positive local outlook, although none could guarantee foolproof takeaways about the Kashmiri mindset.

While taking the decision to conduct polls despite advice from some quarters about the dangers posed by violence in the sub-region south of the Pir Panjal mountain range, the government has obviously been influenced by a few factors. First, the dividend from the 2019 decision would finally fructify with self-rule through the installation of an elected government.

The challenges of conducting polls in a combat zone are many. The dividend from Article 370’s abrogation is likely to flow when an elected government takes charge

NAVIGATING THE MINEFIELDS OF J&K ELECTIONS

LT GEN SYED ATA HASNAIN (RETD)

Former Commander, Srinagar-based 15 Corps; Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir



MANDAR PARDIKAR

Second, the chief grouse of the public in both segments, Jammu and Srinagar, has been the dilution of status from state to UT; reversing this has been a major demand. Successfully conducting polls will add legitimacy to a future decision to reconvert to a state. A majority of people in Jammu who have never supported separatism felt vilified due to the downgradation and will feel far more motivated after the polls.

The challenges of conducting elections in a combat zone have indeed been high. Terrorist presence may be lower today by comparison, but that takes away nothing from the foolproof arrangements that must be ensured. Elections are always an opportunity for terrorists to communicate their

ability to influence local sentiment.

In earlier years, diktats were accompanied by threats to local populace and poll officials, making it risky for people to emerge from their homes and move to polling booths. Although the first phase has gone by peacefully, nothing can be taken for granted, especially in the villages and small townships located in the vicinity of jungle and mountain hideouts.

The intent here would not be a mass disruption of polls as attempted in 1999, when numerous polling stations were targeted with rocket fire and hand grenades. The projection of relevance through a few strikes or even kidnapping officials could be attempted. That is enough to convey that resistance is

THE SUIT vs SARI CONFUSION

PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTY

Chairman, All India Professionals’ Congress

public office—including as Reserve Bank governors and chief economic advisors—in a fully conflict-free manner.

Buch sought public office for impact, power and authority after satiating her financial needs through the private sector. But she either does not want to or chooses not to recognise the demands of greater transparency and integrity of public office.



Expectations of probity increase when a business leader (figuratively, a suit) takes up public office (sari/safari). Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch’s perplexity at the allegations against her shows her cognitive dissonance between her suit and sari avatars

Standing to gain through stocks or funds even remotely linked to Adani—which Sebi was supposed to be investigating—while also being its regulator would be deemed a conflict of interest in any country, regardless of when the investments were made or if there was an explicit *quid pro quo*. It’s puzzling that this simple fact eludes Buch and her ilk.

The same set of people that defend Buch also, rightfully, scream conflict when people move from public office to private-sector positions after retirement. Former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley cautioned against judges’ conflicts of interest by saying, “The lure of a post-retirement job may corrupt their pre-retirement verdicts.”

If even an unknown future event can be construed a conflict, why should Buch’s known past investments in entities she regulates not be? Buch’s defence that there is no straight-line connection between her duties

as Sebi chief and the income she and her husband earn is tone deaf, and misses the point that she has to be seen and believed as trustworthy by millions of stock investors.

Buch and her husband seem bewildered and enraged that their freedom to earn can even be questioned. Their response implies that as alumni of IIM Ahmedabad with decades of leadership experience in blue-chip companies, they have every right to legally earn however and whenever they want. Bolstering this argument, their IIM classmates issued a letter in support, alluding that the government should be grateful to have an extraordinary talent like Buch willing to move from the private to the public sector. Some other private sector executives have sermonised how it is against the nation’s interests to cast aspersions on Buch because this will prevent other private sector professionals or alumni of elite colleges from offering their services to the nation.

Buch and her sect epitomise what Harvard philosopher Michael Sandel calls the ‘tyranny of merit’. Meritocratic societies foster a deep sense of entitlement in successful individuals because they are led to believe they earned their success entirely by individual merit. Sandel posits that because they have emerged at the top through a ‘meritocratic filter’ of competitive examinations and organisational battles, there is a feeling of privilege and of deserving their rewards. By corollary, those who are not successful through this system are deemed deserving of failure.

In this hierarchy, the implicit premise is that the private sector is superior to public office, and hence ethical standards are different for people transitioning public-to-private versus the other way. Buch and her friends are blinded by the meritocratic halo and are unable to come to terms with the expectations of public office.

As one who transitioned from an Ivy-League-educated corporate honcho to a politician, I went through a similar confusion in reconciling with the demands of public life. I acutely understand how humbling and complex it can be for Buch to be caught in a meritocratic trap and suddenly be made to feel she is no longer special. The figurative solution to the suit-to-sari (or safari) transition is to have a uniform dress code for all.

(Views are personal)

yet alive. It’s the local J&K police at the core and the CRPF that have to ensure security. Unlike anti-terrorist operations, where the army’s Rashtriya Rifles invariably takes the lead, the army keeps a distance of at least one kilometre from polling booths as it cannot be employed for direct booth security, lest there be allegations of forced voting or other intimidation.

Unlike earlier years, when the number of parties was limited and their ideologies and agenda well known, the dynamics are a little different this time. Predictions can be awkward, which is why very few are being made publicly. The BJP is strong in Jammu, but one can hardly predict the mind of the electorate in the Poonch-Rajouri belt where greater demographic balance exists. The complete Jammu region is bereft of any well-known personalities, especially with the Democratic Progressive Azad Party of Ghulam Nabi Azad being hamstrung by Azad’s absence from campaigning due to ill health.

What has thrown a spanner in the works is obviously Sheikh Abdul Rashid or engineer Rashid’s party, the Awami Ittehad Party. Rashid defeated the J&K National Conference’s Omar Abdullah in the parliamentary election from North Kashmir. The party has fielded 34 candidates as independents since its an unregistered party and appears to have had an agreement with the banned Jamaat-e-Islami, which too has fielded nine independent candidates. These 43 cannot win all or form a government, but they can seriously disrupt the clean-line majorities we may have expected.

The Awami National Congress-Indian National Congress combine was expected to do well in the Valley. Those prospects got eroded by Rashid and the Jamaat’s presence. Rashid has little following in central and south Kashmir, but enough to eat into the vote banks of the NC-Congress and the People’s Democratic Party. So unless we see a complete transformation of voting, it’s a deeply hung assembly that seems to be on the cards.

The X factor of Rashid could well be the major outcome here. Knowing Rashid well, I can vouch for his commitment towards those he represents, but it’s his separatist leaning that remains the grey zone. More than the polls, it’s the post event dynamics that will be interesting.

(Views are personal)
(atahasnain@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Census essential

Ref: *Census must be done at the earliest for effective policymaking* (Sep 23). The editorial is a timely wake-up call to the government to conduct the next census without any further delay. The Census provides the latest population frame, from which samples could be drawn for several studies during the intercensal period.

N Rama Rao, Chennai

Probing laddugate

Ref: *Need fair probe on laddu row to allay concerns* (Sep 23). The ruffled feathers of Hindu devotees of the Tirumala Venkateswara temple must be smoothened. A high-level investigation must be initiated. The special probe announced by the TDP government will hopefully bring out the wanton anomalies perpetrated during the YSR Congress rule in AP.

K R Parvathy, Mysuru

Why Gujarat?

The issue of unacceptable ingredients found in Tirupati laddus hurts the religious sentiments of devotees. But one wonders why the report was released so late. Why was the test done in Gujarat instead of Chennai or Hyderabad? Will these doubts be clarified?

A G Rajmohan, Anantapur

Sufi legacy

Ref: *The holiest man of the age in undivided India* (Sep 23). The author beautifully narrated Sufi saint Mian Mir’s stories. Mian Mir’s teachings emphasised the ‘unity of existence’, attracting followers from various backgrounds. His mausoleum, built by Dara Shikoh, remains a pilgrimage site for both Muslims and Sikhs, reflecting his legacy of unity and tolerance.

Sujal Sharma, Delhi

Lanka’s choice

Ref: *Sri Lanka picks Disسانayake as prez to fix economy* (Sep 23). With a country seeking to emerge from economic collapse, the election serves as a crucial moment for shaping Sri Lanka’s recovery trajectory. Disسانayake’s anti-corruption message and promise of change in political culture resonated strongly with young voters, who have been demanding a systemic change since the economic crisis.

P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Sporting history

Ref: *Twin towers: Men, women create Olympiad history* (Sep 23). Kudos to our men and women for winning maiden golds at the Chess Olympiad. It is definitely a dream come true, not only for the players but for the country as a whole as well. The present crop of Indian chess players are world-class and are here to call the shots in the years to come.

Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada

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Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda
The saddest thing is that today the number of tribals in many areas of Jharkhand has decreased from 44% to 28%. What kind of administration is this



Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
INDIA is going to restore the basic facilities which the people of the state have been deprived of by the BJP govt by ending the statehood of J&K



D. Raja @ComradeDRaja
This first-time victory for the Left in Sri Lanka will undoubtedly have a positive impact on South Asia and also on the political course of the world

Modi meets Palestine president

In New York, PM also holds talks with his Nepal counterpart and Kuwait Crown Prince

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi held separate talks in New York with world leaders, including Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Nepalese PM KP Sharma Oli and discussed various facets of bilateral ties and reaffirmed that India supported peace.

"I reiterated India's support for early restoration of peace and stability in the region (West Asia). We exchanged views of further strengthening the long-standing friendship with the people of Palestine," said PM Modi after the meeting.

Last week the UN General Assembly passed a resolution urging Israel to withdraw from Palestinian territories within 12 months. As many as 143 countries voted in favour of the resolution. India was among the 43 countries that abstained while 14 voted against the resolution. "We have been strong advocates of dialogue and diplomacy. We believe that there is no other way to resolve conflicts," said Ambassador P Harish, India's permanent representative to the UN in India's explanation of vote after abstaining.

"Our position on the conflict has been clear and consistent.



PM Narendra Modi with Palestine's President Mahmoud Abbas in New York | PTI

We unequivocally condemn the terror attacks on Israel on October 7 last year and condemn the loss of civilian lives. We call for immediate ceasefire and release of hostages," Ambassador Harish said.

Meanwhile, PM Modi also met other world leaders including the Prime Minister of Nepal KP Oli and the crown prince of Kuwait. Oli is in the US on his maiden foreign visit to attend the 79th Session of the UNGA, breaking the tradition of visiting a neighbouring country first. "Had a very good meeting with PM Oli. The India-Nepal friendship is very ro-

bust and we look forward to adding even more momentum to our ties. Our talks focused on issues such as energy technology and trade," said PM Modi.

The Nepalese PM also spoke about his meeting with PM Modi, saying they had discussed bilateral relations.

Modi also accepted Nepal PM Oli's invitation to visit the Himalayan nation. Nepal Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Debbarma's press advisor also confirmed that PM Modi accepted Nepal's invitation.

During his meeting with the crown prince of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-

Over 41K Palestinians killed, 95K hurt in 1 yr

India has underscored its commitment towards a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the Israel-Palestine issue and reiterated that only a two-state solution achieved through direct and meaningful negotiations between both sides will lead to enduring peace. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), citing Ministry of Health in Gaza estimates, has said that between October 7, 2023 and September 16 this year, at least 41,226 Palestinians have been killed and 95,413 injured.

Sabah, PM Modi spoke about giving an impetus to bilateral trade and cooperation.

"We discussed how to add vigour to India-Kuwait ties in sectors like pharma, food processing, technology and energy," said PM Modi. Earlier in the day, Modi interacted with the top tech leaders and CEOs of the US in a roundtable conference. He addressed the Indian diaspora at the packed Nassau Veterans Coliseum on Long Island in New York before it.

Modi reached New York on Sunday after attending the Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, Delaware.

After oath, Dissanayake says will lead by example in Lanka



DILRUKSHI HANDUNNETTI
Award-winning journalist and lawyer, founder and director of the Colombo-based Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR)

COLOMBO: Anura Kumara Disanayake, 56, who won Sri Lanka's keenly fought presidential polls on September 21 took oath as the ninth president by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya at a brief, simple ceremony on Monday at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo.

In a seven-minute inaugural address during the 15-minute ceremony, Disanayake noted that Sri Lanka was facing multiple challenges that required a massive effort and genuine contributions. "Because of what had taken place in recent history, people have lost trust in politics and politicians. Such a negative response did not augur well for a democracy. To restore public faith, I promise to lead by example and win people's trust. I will allow people to experience democracy and trustworthy politicians to restore their faith," he said.

On Saturday, Disanayake



emerged victorious following an intense battle, polling 5.74 million votes and 105,264 second preferences beating Sajith Premadasa who got 4.53 million votes with 167,867 second preferences. Disanayake is the country's youngest executive president and garnered 42% of votes, the lowest polled by a winning president. The Constitution requires 50% plus 1 vote to declare a winner in the first round, and its absence resulted in the count of second preferences.

At a simple ceremony attended by senior officials, diplomats and party leaders, he said: "To face the current challenges, it takes much more than an individual or a single political

movement. I am no magician, but a concerned citizen. There are things I know and things I do not know. There are things I can do and cannot do. What I can do and will do is to gather the diverse talent that's available and pool all of that for Sri Lanka's benefit. Leading a country is collective work."

Our democracy has raised me to the status of the country's president. I am mindful of the political reality of the September 21 vote. There are many people who voted for me and a large section of the population did not. We want to win the trust and support of those who did not believe in our work plan; and we will make it a lived experience so that they will gradually be convinced by what they see and experience, he said.

Acknowledging that Sri Lanka requires the international community's support, Disanayake said, "We have no plan to live in isolation or rule in isolation. We will engage with everyone with Sri Lanka's best interests at the core of all engagements."

Disanayake also thanked the outgoing president Ranil Wickremesinghe for a smooth transfer of power.

Parliament standing committees await names as TMC drags feet

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THOUGH the government has constituted certain parliamentary standing committees after hectic parleys with the Opposition parties, there has been no official notification on the chairmanship of the panels yet.

According to sources, though most of the Opposition parties have forwarded the names of the leaders to head the committees it has been assigned to lead, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) drags its feet on the names, causing further delay of the notification of the panels. An opposition leader, on the condition of anonymity, said that TMC is delaying the process as its Lok Sabha leader Sudhir Bandyopadhyay is away in the US. "All the other parties have forwarded the names of the leaders to head the committees. Though TMC has been offered the chairmanship of the panel on chemicals and fertilizers, they are yet to give the name as their LS leader will be back from the US only on 25th," said the leader.

Incidentally, TMC leader Derek O'Brien on Sunday alleged parliamentary standing committees had not been formed despite the new Lok Sabha completing 100 days since its constitution and said



Parliament was being turned into a "deep, dark chamber".

In a post on X, he said seven out of 10 Bills were sent to department-related standing committees of Parliament in the 15th Lok Sabha while only two out of 10 Bills were sent to the panels in the last Lok Sabha.

According to sources, the TMC may get the chairmanship of the standing committee on chemicals and fertilisers in the Lok Sabha and Commerce and Industries in the Rajya Sabha. The TMC has 29 seats in Lok Sabha and 12 in the Upper House. In the previous Lok Sabha, both panels were headed by the Congress.

It was after hectic deliberations that consensus was reached between the opposition and the government over the chairship of key committees such as external affairs, defence,

Chairmanship of Chemicals & fertilisers

According to sources, the TMC may get the chairmanship of the standing committee on chemicals and fertilisers in the Lok Sabha and Commerce and Industries in the Rajya Sabha. The TMC has 29 seats in Lok Sabha and 12 in the Upper House. In the previous Lok Sabha, both panels were headed by the Congress.

es, finance and home. The Opposition has been critical of the government for not setting up parliamentary standing committees despite the 18th Lok Sabha completing 100 days. While Congress got the chairmanship of four panels, DMK has two and Samajwadi Party (SP) one. The Congress will chair the Department Related Standing Committee on External Affairs; Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing; Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in the Lok Sabha; and Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports in the Rajya Sabha. Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor will head the panel on external affairs and Digvijaya Singh will head the panel on education. Former Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi will lead the committee on agriculture.

MAYANK SINGH @ Nyoma (Eastern Ladakh)

THE Indian Army troops on Sunday displayed multiple tactical tank exercises in the icy heights of eastern Ladakh. The exercises took place in Nyoma by the armoured unit that included modern war horse T-90, T-72 and BMP-2. They passed through rapid enemy assault in the undulated surface of the valley. Nyoma stands at a height of about 13,700 ft and is around 30 km inside the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Speaking to this newspaper, soldier Tradesman Manoj Kumar showed confidence in the machine and their ability to knock down the enemy. "We are fully prepared to destroy our enemy at this altitude. It can be deployed anywhere and remove its obstacles to cross the area. It is capable of deep-fording (a technique used to cross deep water by driving a vehicle on the riverbed, lakebed, or seabed)."

Talking about the T-90 tank Manoj said, "This is one of the best tanks in the world. We are very proud that this tank is being manufactured in India." The war machine is effective in any weather condition and day and night.

A total of 3 men handle this tank — driver, gunner and commander. This tank is fitted with a 1000hp engine and can cross



Tactical edge: Bhishma deployed at over 13K ft

India's front-rank Bhishma T-90 tank is equipped with 'hunter killer' capabilities -- combat power, reconnaissance capability, and survivability. It is effective in any weather condition and day & night. Deploying T-90s at Nyoma at a height of about 13,700 ft is a tough task. Nyoma is around 30 km inside the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The LAC runs through eastern Ladakh for 832 km and is dotted with open valleys. The deployment of T-90s was meant to gain tactical surprise over the adversary, forcing it on the back foot.

any obstacles anytime. It can be deployed in deserts and marshy land.

The gunner is mandated to keep an eye on the enemy and fire on them. There are two armaments equipped in this tank. The main is a 125-mm bore gun that can fire four types of ammunition. The second weaponry system is a 7.62-mm machine gun which is for infantry tar-

gets. To destroy aerial targets, the tank has a 12.7-mm gun.

The third member of the crew is the commander. This tank works on the principle of 'hunter killer'. The commander can also fire on the enemy.

The LAC runs through eastern Ladakh for 832 km and is dotted with open valleys. The Indian Army had to induct a significant number of T-72 and

T-90 tanks in operational areas, gaining tactical surprise over the adversary, forcing it on the back foot.

These areas are dotted with multiple open high-altitude valleys. The temperature there can plummet to minus 40 degrees Celsius, with gusts of high wind impacting the performance of men and such machines. This gets aggravated by the rarefied air (with low oxygen level), affecting the performance of tanks.

"When the temperature dips at night, we have to start the engine 2-3 times so that it can remain functional," says Kumar.

With the Chinese People's Liberation Army troops moving in large numbers, the Indian Air Force had to swing into action pressing its strategic airlift transport fleet.

Over 68,000 troops were moved within a limited period to forward locations and 90 tanks, 330 Infantry Combat Vehicles, the Russian BMPs, and several artillery guns, were airlifted -- a total load exceeding 9,000 tonnes.

Work on the indigenous Indian light tank 'Zorawar' designed to operate from the high altitude area is going apace. It will be highly transportable for rapid deployment to meet any operational situation. Earlier this month it successfully conducted the preliminary automotive trials.

Sex education must to cut down crime, says SC

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

TAKING a firm stand in dispelling the misconceptions surrounding sexual health, the SC on Monday highlighted the importance of promoting a comprehensive understanding of the benefits of sex education, terming it "essential" for reducing the incidence of sexual crimes in the country.

In India, the court observed, the misconceptions about sex education were widespread and contributed to its limited implementation and effectiveness. A three-judge bench, led by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud, said several people, including parents and educators, hold conservative views that discussing sex is inappropriate, immoral or embarrassing.

The SC stressed the need to address misconceptions around sexual health and added that promoting a comprehensive understanding of the benefits of sex education was essential for reducing the incidence of sexual crimes in the country.

"Implementing comprehensive sex education programs that include information about the legal and ethical ramifications of child pornography can

ALSO IN TOP COURT

Marital rape: SC to hear pleas today

The SC on Monday said it listed for hearing on Tuesday, the batch of pleas challenging the marital rape exception under the new criminal law. The pleas for early listing and hearing were mentioned by senior advocate Karuna Nundy, appearing for a litigant which told her that the pleas were already 'listed tomorrow'.

Kolkata rape case: SC to SMC on Oct 1

The top court on Monday said it will hear on October 1, the suo motu cognisance case it has initiated on its own following the rape and murder of a resident doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. A lawyer, told the apex court and urged it to take it up for hearing next week, due to some urgent reasons.

help deter potential offenders. These programs should address common misconceptions and provide young people with a clear understanding of consent and the impact of exploitation," the bench observed.

The apex court noted in the verdict that in India, the misconceptions about sex education were widespread and contributed to its limited implementation and effectiveness.

"Rising awareness about the realities of child sexual exploitative material and its consequences through public campaigns can help reduce its

prevalence. These campaigns should aim to destigmatize reporting and encourage community vigilance," the court said.

It also said that identifying at-risk individuals early and implementing intervention strategies for youth with problematic sexual behaviours (PSB) involves several steps and requires a coordinated effort among various stakeholders, including educators, healthcare providers, law enforcement, and child welfare services. Educators, healthcare professionals, and law enforcement officers should be imparted training to identify signs of PSB.

'On UAPA, stick to timeline for prosecution nod'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday held that the timeline stipulated for recommendation and grant of prosecution sanction under the anti-terror law UAPA has to be strictly adhered to as without such limitations, power will enter the realm of the "unbridled" which is "antithetical to a democratic society."

Rules 3 and 4 of the UAPA guidelines provide a seven-day period within which the authority concerned has to make its recommendation on the basis of materials gathered by the investigating officer and a further seven days for the government to grant sanction for prosecution. The top court said timelines in such cases are "unquestionably important."

A bench of Justices CT Ravikumar and Sanjay Karol ruled that the validity of prosecution sanction under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) should be challenged at the earliest instance available before the trial court.

Om Birla says legislative bodies should make governance more responsive

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

IT is imperative that legislative bodies discuss and share schemes for welfare of the society's last person through use of technology, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Monday.

He was chairing the Plenary Session of the 10th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), India Region, on Parliament premises.

Calling India's Constitution the "strongest example" of the spirit of inclusive governance, Birla asserted that the legislative institutions should be more reflective and responsive to welfare schemes for the people. He also stressed the use of technology to improve the efficiency and functioning of the legislatures. The legislative bodies, the Speaker said, should discuss on various platforms and shape welfare schemes for the welfare of the last person in society through technology.

The 10th CPA conference began here on Monday, with the theme of "The Role of Legislative Bodies in Attainment of Sustainable and Inclusive Development".

He also underscored the vital



role of public representatives in devising practical solutions to obstacles and challenges on the path of sustainable development. Dwelling upon the spirit of the Constitution, Birla said that India's constitution is the most example of the spirit of inclusive governance which inspires.

Stating that India's future lies in building a system in accordance with hopes and aspirations of the people, he further stressed that the country can emerge as a model democratic nation through inclusive engagement and creation of a responsible system within the

rapidly changing world.

On the legislative institutions, the Speaker said that the legislative institutions happen to be the most important in achieving the goal of sustainable development and inclusive governance. He also observed that democratic institutions, by ensuring accountability and transparency of the Executive, make the governance more responsible and efficient.

"It is the responsibility of public representatives and legislative bodies to come up with solutions to the challenges and obstacles on the path of inclusive development", he said.

They have collectively lost a ₹1.8 lakh crore in past three years or nearly ₹2 lakh per person

93% of f&O traders made losses

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

A new study by market regulator Sebi has found that only 7% of future & options (F&O) segment traders made money while the vast majority of them or as much as 93% lost heavily between FY22 and FY24.

They have collectively lost a whopping ₹1.8 lakh crore in the past three years or nearly ₹2 lakh per person.

While 3.5% of such trader lost to the tune of ₹28 lakh per person, only 1% of them managed to earn profit exceeding ₹1 lakh, after adjusting for transaction costs, the regulator said. Despite consecutive three years of losses, more than 75% of loss-making traders continued trading in F&O.

“Updated study reveals that as much as 93% of individual traders have incurred losses in the equity F&O (futures and options) between FY22 and FY24 and their aggregate losses exceeded ₹1.8 lakh crore over this three year



period,” Sebi said Monday.

Earlier this year in January, the regulator had done a similar study on the segment and had found 89% of retail traders in F&O segment lost heavily to the tune of ₹1.25 lakh each in FY22.

This had led to the regulator setting up a committee this June to suggest measure to wean away retail investors from this segment. The measures suggested included capping expiry by exchanges and

increasing the lot by fivefold among others.

With increased participation of individual investors in equity and equity derivatives markets, the current study has been undertaken to analyze profit and loss patterns for individual traders in F&O during the three years from FY22 through FY24, and for all the categories of investors in F&O during FY24.

The key findings include as much as 93 percent of over 1

Nifty nears 26,000 level

NEW DELHI: The bull run, fuelled by 50 bps rate cut by the US Fed, is likely to push Indian equity market benchmarks to newer milestones. Experts say if the current optimism prevails, Nifty may soon conquer 26,000 mark and even cross 26,200 level. Osho Krishan, senior analyst - technical & derivatives, Angel One, said as market is headed into uncharted territory, projecting resilience seems a bit challenging.

crore individual F&O traders have incurred average losses of around ₹2 lakh per trader (inclusive of transaction costs) during the three years from FY22 to FY24.

Of these the top 3.5% of loss-makers, who number around 4 lakh, had an average loss of ₹28 lakh per person over the same period, inclusive of transaction costs and that only 1% of individual traders managed to earn profit exceeding ₹1 lakh, after adjusting for transaction costs.

PUBLIC ISSUE

Casagrand Premier Builder files for IPO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

CASAGRANT Premier Builder Limited, a Chennai-based residential developer, has filed a draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with market regulator Sebi to raise ₹1,100 crore through initial public offering (IPO). The developer has a market share of nearly 24% in terms of launches and about 20% in terms of demand during the period from January 1, 2017 to March 31, 2024.

The IPO with a face value of ₹2 per equity share is a mix of fresh issue of up to ₹1,000 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to ₹100 crore by promoter selling shareholders. The OFS consists of sale of equity shares up to ₹50 crore each by Arun MN and Casagrand Luxor. Incorporated in 2003, under the leadership of Arun, Casagrand has expanded its presence across key micro-markets in Chennai, offering a diverse range of residential projects. These include apartments of various sizes and independent villas, catering to luxury, mid-range, and affordable segments, all under the “Casagrand” brand, with a particular focus on mid-range offerings.

Casagrand has extended its operations to other South Indian cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Coimbatore. As of May 31, 2024, it had completed 101 projects with a saleable area of 21.45 million square feet and was working on 42 ongoing projects spanning 33.60 million square feet, and had 17 upcoming projects with an estimated saleable area of 13.15 million square feet. The company, in consultation with the book-running lead managers, may consider a further issue of equity shares via a preferential offer or any other method aggregating up to ₹200 crore.

Telecom sector is robust, should have four service providers, says Scindia

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

COMMUNICATION Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday advocated for at least four telecom operators in the country, emphasizing that the telecom sector is very robust.

The minister noted that very few countries have four major players in their telecom markets, with India being one of them.

Following the Supreme Court's rejection of a curative petition filed by telecom service providers seeking a re-computation of their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues, Scindia mentioned that supreme court orders need to be executed.

The minister stated that the government is currently examining the implications and repercussions of the court's order and acknowledged that it must be executed.

“So, the Supreme Court's judgment has just come out. Whatever its order may be, it must be executed. We are still in the process of examining it and assessing its potential repercussions. But let me say this: our telecom sector is extremely robust. It's a sector where we have four players. There are very few countries in the world that can boast of having four

players within their telecom sector. India is one of those,” said Scindia.

Scindia highlighted India's fastest 5G rollout, with 4.5 lakh base tower stations installed and 97% of cities covered with 5G. The telecom sector's robustness enabled this achievement, with ₹4.26 lakh crore invested in capex over two years.

Regarding 4G coverage in uncovered villages, a total of 7,101 4G mobile towers have been commissioned by the telecom service providers including Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and BSNL, under various Digital Bharat Nidhi-funded 4G schemes, including the 4G saturation scheme.

Out of these, 2,618 towers have been made operational since June 2024.

Our telecom sector is extremely robust. It's a sector where we have 4 players. There are very few countries that can boast of having 4 players within sector. India is one of those

Jyotiraditya Scindia, Communication minister



GoM to discuss rate rationalisation on Sept 25

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

THE Group of Ministers responsible for goods and services tax (GST) rate rationalisation is set to convene on September 25 in Goa to deliberate on potential adjustments to tax slabs and rates.

The six-member Group of Ministers (GoM), led by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary, last convened on August 22.

They submitted a status report to the GST Council on September 9. The government aims to finalise the process of GST rate rationalisation by the end of

the year, as per sources.

According to sources, the panel is likely to deliberate on the possibility of merging 12% and 18% goods and services tax slabs into a single unified rate, though no formal proposal has been put forward yet. Meanwhile, the Centre is also concerned about the revenue generation -- the average GST rate at about 12% is below the revenue-neutral rate of 15.3%.

“The revenue-neutral rate is crucial as it represents the level at which government revenue remains stable following

the implementation of GST. The lower-than-anticipated average rate has raised concerns about the government's ability to generate adequate revenue, leading the Group of Ministers (GoM) to initiate discussions on possible adjustments to the existing tax rates. However, not all states are in agreement with the idea of altering the goods and services tax structure,” a top source told TNIE.

Notably, both West Bengal and Karnataka have voiced their concerns and are hesitant to support any immediate

changes to the tax slabs.

Following the August meeting, West Bengal finance minister Chandrima Bhattacharya expressed her opposition to changing the current goods and services tax rates, advocating for the preservation of the existing structure.

In a similar vein, Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda remarked that the GST system has largely stabilized over the past few years, warning that any alterations could upset this equilibrium. He also mentioned that the Group of Ministers (GoM) would revisit this topic in their next meeting.

Festive sale: Amazon hikes content creator commission

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

AHEAD of the festive sale, e-commerce company Amazon has announced an increase in its standard commission income rates for key categories within its network of more than 50,000 influencers engaged with it.

The platform said the revised commission structure offers influencers a substantial increase ranging from 1.5x to 2x across a wide range of product categories, including fashion, beauty & personal care appliances for active creators working with Amazon.

“By significantly increasing commission rates across key categories and offering additional resources via programs like Creator University and Creator Connect, we're providing

creators with tools and incentives they need to thrive during festive season and beyond,” said Zahid Khan, director of shopping initiatives for India and emerging markets, Amazon.

In addition to fee changes, as part of Amazon Live program, hundreds of creators will run over a 1,500 live streams across categories including mobiles, home appliances, home décor, fashion and beauty among many others for Amazon Great Indian Festival (AGIF).

Meanwhile, Flipkart is gearing up for the festive season by offering a diverse mix of petrol and electric two-wheelers from leading brands including Hero, TVS and Bajaj, among others. Demand for two-wheelers on Flipkart has soared by 6x in August 2024 over last year.



SpiceJet raises ₹3,000 crore via QIP, faces another insolvency plea

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

SPICEJET said on Monday that it has raised ₹3,000 crore via qualified institutional placement (QIP). In addition to ₹3,000 crore, SpiceJet claims it will receive an additional ₹736 crore from the previous funding round, boosting its financial stability and growth plans.

“The QIP, which opened on September 16 and closed on September 18, received an overwhelming response from qualified investors, demonstrating strong confidence in the company's growth prospects,” the airline said in a statement.

It said the QIP attracted a diverse pool of top-tier institutional investors and mutual funds, “reaffirming the market's belief in SpiceJet's ability to navigate industry challenges and capitalise on the growing



demand in the aviation sector.”

The fundraising development comes on the same day when the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) issued notice to the carrier over the plea filed by one of its operational creditors. An NCLT bench has directed SpiceJet to file a reply and list the matter for the next hearing on November 14.

New insolvency plea The latest petition is by Tech-jockey Infotech, an operational creditor, filed under section 9

of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, through Karanjawala & Co. Techjockey Infotech claimed a default of ₹1.2 crore owed by SpiceJet against software services availed by them and requested to initiate a corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) against the carrier. It contended that its debt has been acknowledged by SpiceJet, though it has not been yet complied. SpiceJet is already facing several insolvency petitions from creditors.

Rupee snaps 6-day gaining streak

New Delhi: The rupee pared its early gains to close lower by 2 paise at 83.54 against the US currency on Monday, snapping its six-day gaining streak due to a strengthening dollar in overseas markets and an uptick in crude oil prices. A decline in India's Services PMI also affected the investor sentiment while gains in domestic equity markets capped losses in the local unit, forex traders said. ENS

Goyal seeks inflow from Aus funds

Mumbai: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday sought investments from Australian pension funds in sectors such as renewable energy, manufacturing, education, fintech, and agritech. The minister is in Australia to participate in the Joint Ministerial Commission of the two countries. He also held a meeting for the critical minerals sector. ENS

nGovern raises concern over delay in Rel AGM

New Delhi: Proxy advisory firm nGovern has raised concern over Religare Enterprises postponing its 40th annual general meeting “without any valid reason” and has sought a Sebi probe into the matter, but the company termed the report manipulative. The regulator may examine the decision-making processes that led to the delay, as well as the company's actions regarding share allotments and ESOPs. ENS

Vi fundraising will complete in 8 weeks: Akshaya Moondra

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

VODAFONE Idea (Vi) on Monday announced that the company's ongoing efforts to raise debt funding are expected to conclude in the next two months.

Vi chief executive Akshaya Moondra, during an analyst call, mentioned that Vi has begun fresh dialogue with the government regarding the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues issue following the Supreme Court's order.

Last week, the apex court dismissed the telecom service providers' petitions seeking a re-computation of their AGR dues. The court's decision will require Vi to pay ₹70,000 crore to the government as AGR.

“We expect the bank funding to conclude in the next seven to eight weeks,” Moondra said.

“We have initiated fresh dialogue with government on likely remedies... The outcome of the cured petition is disappointing, it does not have any impact on the long-term business plan of the company and its existing liabilities.”

The apex court's ruling has come as a significant setback for the telecom sector, particularly Vi, which owes ₹2,03,430 crore to the government. This amount includes ₹1,33,110 crore in deferred



The outcome of the cured petition is disappointing, it does not have any impact on the long-term business plan of the company and its existing liabilities

Akshaya Moondra, Vi CEO

spectrum payments and ₹70,320 crore in AGR liabilities as of March 31, 2024.

Vi's CEO, Akshaya Moondra, also mentioned that he expects another round of tariff hikes in the telecom sector to occur in the second half of 2025, which is anticipated to boost the telco's cash flow generation.

In July, all the private telcos -- Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea -- have hiked its tariff between 12% and 25%. On 22 September 2024, Vodafone Idea, India's third-largest telecom service provider, announced a deal worth \$3.6 billion (about ₹300 billion) with Nokia, Ericsson, and Samsung for network equipment supply over three years.

Vodafone Idea emphasized that its top priority is to expand 4G coverage to 1.2 billion Indians. “We have got 5G spectrum in 17 circles, we will be launching 5G in all the circles,” he said.



EXPRESS READ

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Production at TN plant restores to normalcy: Samsung



Strike at Chennai factory, now in its 15th day. The impact of the strike is minimal now, and the company expects production to be near normal starting this week

Samsung

Contractual staff hired

Initially, production at the plant was hit by nearly 50%, but the company has since hired contractual employees, and production is now nearly back to normal.

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

SAMSUNG on Monday said production at its Sriperumbudur plant in Tamil Nadu has returned to normal capacity despite the ongoing employee strike. Employees at the plant, which manufactures consumer goods like televisions, refrigerators, and washing machines, have been protesting for better pay and reduced working hours for the past 15 days.

Initially, production was hit by nearly 50%, but the company has since hired contractual employees, and production is now nearly back to normal. “The strike at Chennai factory, now in its 15th day, hit the production of consumer goods such as televisions, refrigerators, and washing machines initially. However, the impact of the strike is minimal now, and the company expects production to be near normal starting this week,” said Samsung.

The plant is a crucial production unit, accounting for one-third of its annual revenue in India, about \$12 billion. The strike, began on September 9, was driven by workers' demands for higher wages, a raise from ₹25,000 to ₹36,000 over the next three years, and official recognition of their union, backed by the Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU). Samsung has taken legal action, approaching a district court to obtain a temporary injunction against the union to prevent protests near the factory. The court asked the company for a swift resolution to the dispute instead of issuing a direct order. In an email to employees, it deemed the strike illegal and implemented a “no work, no pay” policy from September 9, 2024, until the workers resume their duties.



Thought Ding would sit out, wanted to give Pragg, Gukesh a rest and asked them to mute notifications: The inside story

India captain Srinath explains behind-the-scenes ups and downs at the chess Olympiad

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

THE Open team at the Olympiad were quite sure that Ding Liren, the reigning world champion, would sit out of China's all-important clash against India. When what they suspected happened, D Gukesh was in a proper slugfest with Wei Yi. Srinath Narayanan, who helped break down each of the 11 rounds on the morning after the gold medal, confided that it took a while for him to figure what Gukesh's plan even was during that seemingly drawn endgame. The captain, after seeing the scores of congratulatory messages he received after the 10th round, also urged all five players of the Open team 'to mute notifications or stay away from your phones for one more day'. Here's Narayanan's thoughts on how all 11 rounds went from his unique vantage points.

Round 1 | bt Morocco 4-0; Round 2 | bt Iceland 4-0

GUKESH and Praggnanadhaa had played in St. Louis while the others were coming in a bit colder, in terms of Classical events. So the idea was to give all of them some game time. That's why Gukesh didn't feature in the first round while Pragg sat out the Iceland match. In terms of how both those matches went, it was a very positive start from us and set us up for the rest of the tournament.

Round 3 | bt Hungary 3.5-0.5

There were few combinations that we could have with in this game but we ended up going with Arjun in three and Vidit in four. It was nice that Arjun got



India players celebrate their title triumph at the chess Olympiad | x

to play with two white pieces (he played with white even in the second round). It was kind of useful to give him that momentum to get him into form and this opponent (Peter Prohazka; a former 2600+ player) was good for him. It happened the way I anticipated.

Round 4 | bt Serbia 3.5-0.5

It was a big win, Serbia are the European champions. This was the win that showed that the team was building towards something special. By this time it was pretty clear that we were the strongest team in the tournament.

Round 5 | bt Azerbaijan 3-1

Another very positive result for us. There was an advantage

in each of the first three boards and Gukesh and Arjun had big wins for us.

Round 6 | bt Hungary 3-1

(Was this the win when you thought nothing is going to go wrong?) You never really think nothing can go wrong. When you go in with this mindset, things do go wrong. Hungary had a pretty tough team. Out of the opening, I didn't think Arjun was in a winning position. In the earlier games, when we were out of the opening, we had clear chances of winning. This game was the first when it took a while for us to be sure that we had a winning advantage.

Round 7 | bt China 2.5-1.5

We anticipated that Ding

(Liren) would sit out. It really took a while for me to understand what Gukesh was even trying to do in his game against Wei Yi, what his plan was. Was he even pressing? It was pretty deep from him actually. His persistence showed that the game he played was pretty special because the position was pretty equal.

Round 8 | bt Iran 3.5-0.5

On the 3rd and 4th boards, we had pretty good pressure right from the beginning. On the first board (Gukesh v. Parham Maghsoodloo), it was a complex position. But probably the pressure on the other boards may also have contributed for Parham collapsing from that position.

Round 9 | drew Uzbekistan 2-2

Had a big advantage for a big part of it. It looked like Pragg was under pressure and he was under pressure. Also, the move suggested by the computer (in the Pragg match) wasn't very practical to play.. it's not something you play very easily. Arjun had a winning position in one move, he was dominating most of the day.

Round 10 | bt US 2.5-1.5

It was one of the special wins of the campaign. We played a very normal game. US are a very quality team and possibly the only team on par with India. To win this game in that situation felt very good. It was fantastic work by Gukesh who outplayed Fabiano (Caruana). In the third board, Arjun has always had an edge over Leinier Dominguez Perez and he continued it.

Round 11 | bt Slovenia 3.5-0.5

They didn't check their phones. I had checked my phone and I saw it (people posting congratulatory messages). I told them to mute all notifications or just stay away from their phones for one more day. We were in jubilant mood for about 20 minutes and it was back to business after that. I felt there was some sort of personal motivation for all players in the final round. For Gukesh and Arjun, it was going for 2800 (ratings). For Pragg, it was to end on a good note (after the loss to Wesley So in the 10th round). Vidit also had an individual medal at stake. It's also a good place to be in when you have no pressure and can play a normal game.

Yesterday (Saturday) in the team meeting, we were already in the celebrations mood. I must admit after yesterday's game I was super-excited and I didn't even want to play today. I wanted to play, but I hoped there would be no game. We were all very happy, but we forced ourselves to focus and come here, do the job, and then celebrate

D Gukesh

Since what happened last time (he lost to GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov in crucial game) — we were so close as the team to win gold—this time I thought no matter what I'm going to do whatever it takes to win the team gold. I did not really think about the individual performance much, I just wanted the team to win!

It's a nice feeling but there are about 10-15 players with similar strength, so I don't want to care too much about being number three or number four. We thought Gukesh would do well on board one and I would do good on board three, because it worked out well, obviously no regrets — Arjun Erigaisi

EXPRESS READ

India beat Oz to seal Youth ODIs 2-0

PUDUCHERRY: Opener Sahil Parakh made an aggressive unbeaten ton as India U-19 brushed aside Australia by nine wickets on Monday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the 3-match youth ODIs. Parakh's 109 helped India achieve the target of 177 in 22 overs.

Lydia Ko wins Queen City Championship

MAINEVILLE, OHIO (USA): New Zealand golfer Lydia Ko extended her amazing summer run when she turned a two-shot deficit into a rout by closing with a 9-under 63 to win the Kroger Queen City Championship for her third LPGA Tour title of the season.

Nadal, Alcaraz named for Davis Cup Finals

MALAGA: Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz were named to Spain's roster for the Davis Cup Finals, raising the possibility of a renewal of their 'Nadalcaraz' doubles partnership from the Paris Olympics. Spain will take on the Netherlands in the quarterfinals from Nov 19-24.

Worlds selection trials at akhara for wrestlers? Lack of preparation, surface behind B'desh's toil

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

THE Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is expected to hold selection trials to pick up teams for the World Championships (senior and U-23) on October 6 and 7. The trials may be held in an akhara in Narela, on the outskirts of New Delhi as the WFI is finding it difficult to pay the fee charged by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for its facility.

The U23 World Championships is scheduled in Tirana, Albania from October 21 to 27 while the Seniors World Championships in Non-Olympic Weight Categories will be held at the same city from October 28 to 31. In an Olympic year, the senior Worlds is organised in non-Olympic weight categories only in all three styles (men's and women's freestyle and men's Greco-Roman).

"With the Haryana elections on October 5, the WFI decided to hold the trials in the next two days as any more delay could af-

fect the procurement of visas," a WFI source told this daily.

Usually, the trials in New Delhi are held at the IG Stadium but the WFI has chosen an akhara for the purpose this time due to financial constraints. "The fee SAI charges is astronomical so we could hold the trials in an akhara. The venue has been almost finalised. The final schedule and eligibility criteria will be announced in a day or two," added the source.

It is learnt that the top four of the U23 nationals in each weight category will be eligible to compete. As the WFI has yet not organised senior nationals this year, it may consider medallists of the two nationals held for the previous year — one by the federation and one by the ad-hoc committee formed to look after the day-to-day affairs of the WFI. Besides, medallists from the Federation Cup and U-23 nationals may also gain eligibility for the senior trials.

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

BANGLADESH were noticeably an upbeat side before landing in India. Having pulled off an eye-catching Test series victory over Pakistan, their confidence had risen massively and they had high hopes of putting up another eye-catching performance against India going into the two-match Test series. However, they were handed a reality check as they lost the opening Test in Chennai by 280 runs within four days.

One of the reasons behind their poor output was their lack of preparation. The Chandika Hathurusingha-coached side reached Chennai just a few days before the opening Test. That meant they did not get the time to play any practice games. Moreover, the visitors would have expected the Chennai surface to aid spin. Instead, they were greeted by a red-soil surface that offered good bounce and carry.

While their pacers found a fair amount of joy during the match, it seemed like their batters were undercooked to adapt to the surface. It was largely



Bangladesh players celebrate a wicket during the first Test vs India | ASHWIN PRASATH

thanks to Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja's stand in the first innings that helped India cruise to victory.

Playing practice games before the start of the series is usually the norm for most top teams. In fact, the Bangladesh team that had toured Chennai two years ago had undergone the same. They had played some practice games against a quality Tamil Nadu side in both red-ball and white-ball format. Shadman Islam and Mominul Haque were part of the team then.

Bangladesh skipper Najmul

important to bat (strongly) in the first innings of a Test match. And as a top-order batsman, there will be a challenge. So it is important how we cope with it. The batters are working towards this but the result is not coming. I hope it will come. I think there was a challenge on the wicket but I don't want to give this as an excuse. We have to face this challenge," he said.

Despite the crushing defeat, Shanto has also taken notes of the positives. He expects his batters to put up an improved performance in the second Test at Kanpur. "I am not going to compare as I think both the teams (Pakistan and India) have qualities. I think with the new ball, they (India) bowled really well. And from day 2 to day 3, I think the spinners came to play. It is important to spend time at the wicket but it wasn't enough on Sunday. Still, it will help for the second Test. It was very important for the openers to put on 62 runs (partnership). That's one thing we can look forward to in the next Test match," said Shanto.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Roma stroll past Udinese as fans protest De Rossi sacking

AGENCIES @ Milan

ROMA cruised past Udinese 3-0 on Sunday to earn their first win of the Serie A season as fans made clear their fury at the sacking of coach and local hero Daniele De Rossi. Goals from Artem Dovbyk, Paulo Dybala and Tommaso Baldanzi gave Roma a comfortable three points against Udinese who had been surprise league leaders before this weekend but drop down to third, a point behind Torino. Roma now moved

up to ninth on six points.

Supporters hurled abuse at the team from the stands while the entire Curva Sud section of the Olimpico, where the hardcore supporters stand, was empty for the first half an hour of the match. Fans unfurled in the empty stand a banner which accused the club's American owners, the billionaire Friedman family, of not respecting "our values or our legends".

Leverkusen come back

Leverkusen (Germany): Vic-



tor Boniface's added-time goal lifted Bayer Leverkusen to a 4-3 comeback win over Wolfsburg

in the Bundesliga as the German champion produced another of its trademark late

breakthroughs ahead of facing Bayern Munich next week.

Barcelona win

Barcelona extended their perfect start to the Spanish league season but lost goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen with a serious knee injury. Barcelona routed host Villarreal 5-1 on Sunday night to pick up its sixth straight victory in the competition, but saw their captain Ter Stegen leave the match on a stretcher just before halftime.

Cummings' late strike seals dramatic win for Bagan

AGENCIES @ Kolkata

MOHUN Bagan Super Giant secured a dramatic 3-2 victory over NorthEast United FC, overturning two deficits to exact revenge on the Durand Cup champions in a pulsating Indian Super League clash at the Salt Lake Stadium. The game exploded into life early, with three goals in the opening 24 minutes as both sides traded blows. The Moroccan duo of Mohammed Ali Benammer (5th) and Alaedine Ajaraie (24th) were on target for the visitors, while the

talented Dippendu Biswas scored his maiden ISL goal with a looping header to level the score in the 10th minute.

Putting aside their nightmare memories from the Durand Cup final, where they squandered a two-goal lead, Mohun Bagan equalised with Subhassish Bose's controversial goal in the 61st minute. Second-half substitute Jason Cummings then sealed the victory with a decisive strike in the 87th minute, securing the first win for last season's League Shield winners.



HEMANT KUMAR ROUT @Bhubaneswar

ON September 21, a 38-year-old software engineer died by suicide at his home in Chennai. His wife had found him tangled in a live wire. The father of two had recently taken up a new job and was reportedly facing work pressure. Prior to this incident, a young chartered accountant from Kerala working at E&Y in Pune died just after a few months of joining the firm. The woman's mother alleged that she was burdened with backbreaking work that led to her cardiac arrest. One thing common in the two incidents was work-related stress.

The tragic deaths have reignited debates on the alarming levels of stress faced by professionals in high-pressure environments. The growing crisis affects the mental health of workers, and also contributes to a worrying trend of suicides and heart attacks among young adults. According to NCRB data, in 2022 alone over 1.7 lakh lives were lost to suicides. According to a Lancet report, suicide claims more than seven lakh lives a year globally with India recording among the highest number of deaths.

Doctors at Paras Health, Gurugram, also pointed out a worrying rise in heart attacks among young adults, particularly in those in their 20s and 30s. "Traditionally considered a condition affecting elderly, heart diseases are now a serious threat to younger generations. We are witnessing 40-45 cases of heart attacks or cardiac arrests in young adults every month," said Dr Amit Bhusan Sharma, director and unit head of interventional cardiology at Paras.

As epidemiological studies blame sedentary lifestyle of professionals for the increased mortality, more particularly from cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), experts call for immediate attention to the factors contributing to this phenomenon. Dr Dibya Ranjan Behera, consultant cardiologist at Manipal Hospitals, said CVD is the number one killer in the world. It starts 10 years earlier in Indians as compared to the westerners due to various factors, key among them being work stress, sedentary lifestyle, dietary preferences and lack of work-life balance. The morbidity and mortality of CVDs in the country are also high, he said.

Factors responsible

Work-related stress manifests in various ways, including anxiety, depression, and burnout. Nearly 70% of professionals report feeling overwhelmed by their job responsibilities, according to a Workplace Burnout Survey by Deloitte. The demanding nature of the corporate world, characterised by long hours, tight deadlines, and high expectations, often leads to chronic stress. The pressure to perform often leads individuals to neglect their mental well-being, which can have dire consequences.

"The traditional risk factors are high blood pressure, blood sugar and blood cholesterol levels. Certain other factors that led to heart attacks are the 4Ss - smoking, sedentary lifestyle, stress and sleeplessness. Psychological stress in a short time increases the heart rate, blood pressure and blood sugar levels that lead to palpitation, anxiety, and headache. When it is chronic, it causes a state of inflammation in the blood vessels of the heart and brain that result in destabilisation of plaques leading to a heart attack or stroke," Dr Behera said.

Dr Sanjay Bhat, senior consultant (interventional cardiology) at Aster CMI Hospital, Bengaluru, said the rising incidence of heart attacks among young adults is a troubling trend, primarily linked to increased stress levels. The unrelenting pressure at work, along with a widespread culture of overwork, sleeplessness and unregulated use of social media play a significant role, he said.

The long-term effects of stress and burnout also have profound implications on so-



TIME TO BALANCE WORK AND LIFE

cial interactions and family relationships.

Head of the psychiatry department at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Dr Biswa Ranjan Mishra said the vulnerable age group which attempts suicide is 18-45 years. The physical and psychological exhaustion add to mental stress. Working professionals who take such drastic steps predominantly belong to nuclear families and they hardly get the family support they need to overcome the stress level, he explained.

Triggers for stress and burnout

The expectation to meet unrealistic deadlines leads to stress. Sometimes, employees feel powerless in their roles, leading to frustration and anxiety. At this point, lack of support from management or colleagues exacerbates feelings of isolation and stress.

With rising levels of expectations, as people want to achieve more in a short time, it leads to mental stress. "The cobweb of social media cripples them both mentally and physically and consumes their outdoor time, and most importantly sleeping time. They develop anxiety, sleeplessness, panic attacks and depression. In search of some mental peace, they eat more junk food full of the dangerous trans fats, alcohol and smoking. They get trapped in a vicious circle. A byproduct of this is diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases," said Dr Behera.

Dr Mishra said the change in social paradigm in the last decade has led to the rise in suicides. "Previously, people were socialising and used to share their worries with each other. Now they are more inclined towards a virtual world which does not have the natural essence of one-to-one interaction," the AIIMS psychiatrist said.

Psychological stress in a short time activates the body's fight-or-flight response, leading to increased heart rate, blood pressure, and blood sugar levels. Dr Anand Kumar, senior consultant and head of department of cardiology at Lakeshore Hospital, Kochi, said the rise in frequency of heart attacks has led the

Cardiological Society of India to add stress as one of the risk factors causing heart attacks based on several research studies conducted in the past 15 years. The workload and difficulty in earning enough to lead a decent life are contributing factors, he added.

Preventive measures, strategies

Health experts and psychologists say organisations should encourage employees to voice their concerns and seek help when needed. Along with regular check-ins to foster a supportive environment, flexibility in work hours can help employees manage their time more effectively and reduce stress. Somya Sucharita Mohapatra, chief counselling psychologist at Manam Foundation, said employers should promote physical health through wellness programmes, exercise classes, and nutrition workshops. "Organisations can plan workshops focusing on mindfulness, resilience, and time management to equip employees with tools to handle stress effectively. Providing access to counselling or employee assistance programmes can offer crucial support for those struggling with mental health issues," she advised.

Mohapatra says suicides can be prevented. "People under stress or depression should share their thoughts and talk to close friends, who can maintain confidentiality. Besides focusing on their diet and sleep routine, they can take the advice of a psychologist or psychiatrist if symptoms persist for more than a week," she said.

In case of heart attacks, the early signs and symptoms are central chest discomfort and feeling of breathlessness, excessive sweating with mild exertion. People must seek medical attention if they experience these symptoms.

Maintaining a balance

The tragic case of the CA serves as a stark reminder on the urgent need to address workplace stress. Both organisations and individuals can work towards a healthier, more balanced approach to work by recognising the factors contributing to stress and implementing proactive measures. "It's not just about surviving in the corporate world; it's about thriving in life," Dr Sharma emphasised.

WAYS TO IMPROVE MENTAL WELL-BEING

- Accept your strengths and weaknesses
- Have healthy in-person social contacts with like-minded people
- Lessen the usage of gadgets and social media
- Prioritise healthy food and sleep habits
- Practice open communication at workplace
- Set boundaries on work hours
- Maintain hobbies

Know the causes

Extreme dissatisfaction with self

Failing to fulfill parental or spouse's expectations

Inability to cope with work stress

Pressures, demands and lack of conflict management skills in personal and professional life

Unhappiness with self because of unrealistic expectations

Social media addiction

TIPS TO AVOID STRESS

- Avoid negative content on media completely
- Exercise daily at least for 30 minutes and practice yoga
- Brisk walking is a great exercise for heart
- Breathing exercise
- Maintain a balanced diet
- Good night sleep
- Manage your time & concentrate on one task at a time
- Quit smoking
- Keep a circle of friends and spend time with them

Assistance for those with suicidal thoughts is available on Tele MANAS (toll-free) on 14416 and 1800-8914416

(With inputs from Rishita Khanna @Bengaluru, Anna Jose @Kochi and Ashish Srivastava @New Delhi)



Limitless possibilities: Integrating AI, robotic surgery with 3D imaging

As technology continues to evolve, 3D visualisation in surgery may give us a glimpse into what the future holds for healthcare, says **Dr Shravan Nadkarni**, consultant surgical oncologist at BALCO Medical Centre, New Raipur, Chattisgarh. In conversation with **Affan Abdul Kadar**, he says the possibilities are limitless if this tech can be integrated with artificial intelligence and robotic surgery. Edited excerpts:

How different is 3D visualisation technique compared to standard cancer surgery?

The current standard of care is to use computed tomography scans of the entire body which visualises various organs along with any tumours in discontinuous slices of varying thickness. Although revolutionary during its inception, it is not without imperfections since we are not visualising the body as it exists in nature. 3D visualisation recreates the entire structure of interest as it exists naturally. This gives the best perspective to the treating surgeon about the size, shape and structure of the tumour along with its relations with surrounding organs, blood vessels and nerves. Complex cancer surgeries involve removal of the tumour along with the part of the diseased organ without causing surgical injuries to surrounding structures. This improves surgical outcomes and quality of life for the patient. 3D has been utilised extensively in the west (US & Europe) and the east (Korea, Japan) for accurate planning of complex cancer surgeries of the liver, pancreas, lung etc. In India, 3D visualisation has been used inconsistently by other surgical branches.

Is this a game changer in cancer surgery? What advantage does this give over a traditional approach?

The technology is new and still in its infancy, yet powerful! This gives a glimpse into what the future holds. It will continuously evolve and change the way we use imaging for cancers, in my opinion. To give an example, it is the ability to visualise a large building in three dimensions before actually building it. Being able to see the tumour and visualise it exactly as it exists in the body before venturing into the surgery would be a boon for surgeons, especially in complex cancer cases which can ultimately lead to surgery with unmatched accuracy, faster recovery, and sooner return to routine life. This would have far reaching consequences with regard to man-hours lost due to illness. Having said that, the traditional approach has been our workhorse for decades, and 3D visualisation will have to really make a significant leap for us to start considering it to be the new normal. I can foresee the potential 3D visualisation holds in the future of complex cancer surgeries.

INTERVIEW DR SHRAVAN NADKARNI



Being able to see the tumour and visualise it exactly as it exists in the body before venturing into the surgery would be a boon for surgeons, especially in complex cancer cases for unmatched accuracy

process could be automated. The computing power of the AR headset could also be improved.

Can you share your experience in treating patients in the past and how this tech could have improved it?

I remember coming across a complex case of a large tumour of the body and pancreatic tail, in a 40-year-old woman and mother of two, which was pushing the stomach and involving the spleen. Based on the CT images, I planned a radical antegrade modular pancreatosplenectomy (RAMPS) procedure, but I was unsure if that would suffice due to the vascular relationships of the tumour with important surrounding blood vessels. The only way I could be 100% sure would have been during the surgery. This runs the risk of the tumour being inoperable, had it already invaded important vascular structures like the artery supplying blood to the liver or the small intestines. I was able to resect the tumour without an issue although it was a difficult case. However, a 3D hologram could forewarn me about the possibility of the above happening before venturing in for surgery, and also aid in individualising the treatment plan according to the anatomy visualised.

Any other advantage of using this tech?

Visualisation of 3D anatomy is a boon especially in the training of young cancer surgeons who can be trained to assess tumour characteristics, local infiltration of other organs and variations in complex vascular anatomy. This is otherwise difficult in the context of learning by watching senior surgeons operate on complex tumours. Providing a 3D hologram prior to a planned surgery can aid trainee surgeons in planning, and confirm their plans during the actual surgery.

'Many with colour blindness not aware of their condition'

SINDUJA JANE @Chennai

RAVI consistently wore outfits that were a vibrant jumble of colours, which often left his doctor puzzled. One day, he asked Ravi about his bold fashion choices. Ravi's response was a matter-of-fact, "These are just regular colours everyone wears."

It was then that the doctor realised Ravi was suffering from colour blindness.

Many people don't know they have colour blindness. It is a condition of reduced ability to distinguish between colours, particularly red, green, and blue, said Dr Amar Agarwal, chairman, Dr Agarwal's Group of Eye Hospitals.

When there is a structural defect in the eye's retina, colour blindness occurs. Some people might have mild colour blindness, but for some it will be severe. "They will have problems differentiating colours at traffic signals as they cannot distinguish between red and green", said Dr Agarwal.

Colour blindness is congenital and a common condition. It is genetic in nature and mostly affects males. "This is because mothers typically carry the colour blindness genes and pass them to

their sons. As a result, men are more likely to inherit the condition," said Dr Agarwal.

Unfortunately, congenital colour blindness is incurable. However, those affected can lead normal lives with certain professional limitations. Careers requiring precise vision, such as the air force, army, coast guard, and others, may be off-limits. Everyday tasks, like recognising red lights at traffic signals, can also pose challenges. Since the majority of this is genetic, consanguine marriages should be avoided, he added.

Dr Mohan Rajan, CMD of Rajan Eye Care Hospital, said certain eye disorders, such as advanced glaucoma and optic nerve atrophy, can have their primary causes managed effectively with timely treatment.

A simple eye test called Ishihara is performed to detect colour blindness. The Ishihara charts will have a mixture of colours with numbers. "People with colour blindness cannot differentiate numbers in the chart. If there is number 29 in the chart, the person with colour blindness will get the number wrong," said Dr Rajan.

XPLAINER



MYTH BUSTERS



Dr Sreeram Prasad A V
On Parkinson's disease

Senior consultant, neurology, Rajagiri Hospital, Ernakulam

Myth: Parkinson's disease only affects movement

Fact: Parkinson's disease is classified as a movement disease, and the most important symptoms are movement-related problems like tremors, stiffness, slowness, imbalance etc. However, Parkinson's has a lot of manifestations other than movement-related problems. They are altogether called non-motor symptoms. They include memory issues, psychiatric issues, depression, anxiety, psychosis, sleep-related problems, urinary issues, constipation, difficulty with smell, abnormal sweating, numbness of the body, pain etc.

Myth: Only the elderly will be affected by the condition

Fact: Usually, people who are above 50 are affected by Parkinson's. But it can affect the young and adolescents. When the disease occurs below 30, it is young onset Parkinson's disease and when it occurs below 20 years it is called juvenile Parkinson's disease. It can affect any age group. Usually, the disease is seen in young people due to genetic causes.

Myth: There's no treatment for the disease

Fact: It is a well-treatable disease, though it is not curable and requires lifelong treatment. There are very effective treatments for the disease from medications to injections, and surgical interventions like deep brain stimulation.

Myth: Parkinson's disease is fatal

Fact: It is not a fatal disease as such. However, it can cause disability other than fatality. Parkinson's disease can affect day-to-day activities as well as quality of life. The life expectancy of people suffering from the disease is almost the same as that of a normal person.

—COMPILED BY ANNA JOSE