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Ring set for 5 bouts in Nov ahead of '24 mega match

Barring C'garh,
All 1-Phase Polls;
Counting Dec 3

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Monday set the ball rolling for assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram — the last electoral battle in the run-up to the 2024 general election — by announcing a 24-day poll window from November 7 to November 30. Votes will be counted on December 3.

Chhattisgarh will be the only state to have polling in two phases, with constituencies in the Naxal-hit south voting on

FULL COVERAGE: P 10-13

November 7 and the northern part bordering Madhya Pradesh voting with the latter on November 17. The other three states will have single-day polls: Mizoram on November 7, Rajasthan on November 23 and Telangana on November 30.

Just over 16 crore electors are eligible to vote in 679 assembly segments across the five states. Chief election commissioner Rajiv Kumar, flanked by election commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel at the press conference to announce the poll dates, said this amounted to one-sixth of the country's voters and assembly constituencies.

Being the final round before the country goes into general election mode, these polls have often been dubbed the

60L FIRST-TIMERS AMONG 16CR VOTERS

State	Male	Female	First-Time Voters	Total Voters	No. Of Seats
Mizoram	4.1L	4.4L	50,611	8.5L	40
Chhattisgarh	1.0cr	1.0cr	7.2L	2.0cr	90
MP	2.9cr	2.7cr	22.4L	5.6cr	230
Rajasthan	2.7cr	2.5cr	22L	5.3cr	200
Telangana	1.6cr	1.6cr	8.1L	3.2cr	119
Total	8.2cr	7.8cr	60L	16.2cr	679

Figures may not add up exactly due to rounding off



CEC Rajiv Kumar along with EC Anup Chandra Pandey (left) and Arun Goel announcing the assembly polls for five states

Shivraj and Raman Singh in the fray; Vasundhara loyalists ousted

BJP's third list for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and the first for Rajasthan on Monday named Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Raman Singh as candidates while some loyalists of Vasundhara Raje failed to make the cut. The number of sitting MPs fielded by the saffron party in the three states touched 18, including seven each in MP and Rajasthan. BJP's plan is to field strong leaders in seats where it has traditionally found the going tough. The Rajasthan list featured seven MPs, including Rajyavardhan Rathore, Diya Kumari and RS MP Kiroori Lal Meena. The list includes Raje's prominent opponents while the hold of former CM Bhairon Singh Shekhawat's family on the Vidyaihar Nagar seat in Jairpur came to an end with the candidature of Diya Kumari. P 6

"semifinal" though the outcome of such contests has diverged from that of the "final" for two decades now. The result of the November battles, however, cannot be overemphasized,

► BJP's welfare plank, P 20

sed, given the implications for the morale of the combatants and the troops and the contending narratives.

► BJP's welfare plank, P 20

5 teachers among 7 dead in bus accident

At least seven persons, including five women teachers of New Manav Int'l School at Hisar were killed when a bus with 33 people on board fell into a deep gorge in Kaladhunga area of Nainital, late Sunday. A teacher's son was among the dead. P 14

Man crushed to death by lift in city

A plumber was crushed to death by a lift while fixing a waterlogging problem beneath the shaft in a building in Naraina Vihar Monday. Cops are probing if the incident was accidental. P 22

15 die in 2 fire cases in Punjab and TN

Six members of a family succumbed to burn injuries after a fire tore through their house in Jalandhar on Sunday night. Nine people died in a blast at a fireworks unit in TN's Ariyalur. TN

Auto retail sales jump 21% YoY

Automobile retail sales rose 21% last month — to 18.8L units from 15.6L in Sept 2022 — on festive demand. Two-wheeler sales grew 21%, three-wheeler 45% and passenger vehicles 18%. P 17

T20 cricket set to be included in '28 Oly

Cricket is set to be included in the 2028 LA Olympics. The inclusion of men's and women's T20 will be confirmed at IOC's session starting in Mumbai Oct 15. The Guardian reported. P 20

Soldier buried alive in Ladakh avalanche

A soldier was buried alive while three went missing on Sunday after an avalanche struck Mt Kun in Ladakh. A group of 40 soldiers was on routine training when the tragedy struck. P 13

Israel announces total Gaza siege: Food, water, power and fuel cut off

Hamas: Will Kill Hostages If Civilians Hit

Israel ordered a "complete siege" of the long-blockaded Gaza Strip on Monday, as its forces battled Palestinian assailants in border towns for a third day and launched retaliatory strikes that hit a mosque and a marketplace in Gaza. Defence minister Yoav Gallant said that "no electricity, no food, no water, no fuel" would be allowed into Gaza.

Reeling from Hamas's unprecedented ground, air and sea attacks, Israel has counted

► FULL COVERAGE: P 9 & 15

over 900 dead and launched a withering barrage of strikes on Gaza that have raised the toll there to 560 people. The Hamas attackers also gunned down scores of young Israelis at an outdoor desert dance party — media reported 260 killed there. More than two days after the incursion, a military spokesman declared that the army had regained control of border communities but acknowledged that "the-

► CONFLICT FALLOUT
► Sensex falls 483 pts, Nifty declines 141 points | P 17
► Gold prices up over 1%, price in Delhi jumps ₹300 to ₹58,350 for 10g | P 17
► Oil prices surge over 3%. Indian OMCs will suffer losses as Centre won't allow hike in view of pols | P 17
► Palestine supporters stage cyberattacks on govt websites accusing India of siding with Israel | P 9

► Amid reports that its officials helped Hamas plan the attack, Iran rejects 'unfounded' allegations | P 15
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► In relief to Lakshadweep MP Mohd Faizal, who was recently disqualified by LS SCt after his conviction was not stayed by HC, SC restores his membership to House | P 8
► Following the footsteps of Nalin & husband, another released convict in Rajiv case, Santhan, moves Madras HC seeking deportation to SL | P 8

After SC prod, govt sends 70 names for HC judges

IN THE COURTS

► NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha, held in a case under UAPA for allegedly receiving money to spread pro-China propaganda, submits before HC that allegations are 'false' and 'not a penny has come from China' | P 8
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► Following the footsteps of Nalin & husband, another released convict in Rajiv case, Santhan, moves Madras HC seeking deportation to SL | P 8
► 'Give us good news', P 20

Clip of burning man surfaces in Manipur

A seven-second video clip from May 4 of man being immolated has emerged in strife-torn Manipur, touching a raw nerve in a state racked by ethnic violence for over four months. The state government's security adviser, Kuldip Singh, said the man in black T-shirt and camouflage trousers had been identified as Laldinhangha Khongsai (37), alias Lal James, from Kangpokpi district. His body was still lying unclaimed in Imphal, he added. The case has been handed over to CBI. P 7

Will hold caste census, remove quota cap: Cong

In a decisive political shift, Congress announced that if voted to office, it will bring a law to remove the 50% ceiling on reservations and will include caste enumeration

► Cong trying to divide society, says BJP, P 6

► In the census. After a four-hour brainstorming, the CWC chaired by Mallikarjun Kharge passed a resolution that also mentioned an OBC sub-quota in women's reservation Act. P 6

Claudia Goldin 3rd woman to win eco Nobel

Harvard professor Claudia Goldin was awarded the Nobel economics prize for work that helps explain why women are less likely than men to work, and why they're likely to earn less. Goldin's prize highlights the gender gap among economics laureates — she's just the third woman out of 93 winners, and the first to win it solo. P 15



#News18IndiaAmritRatna

NEWS 18
इंडियादेश का नंबर 1
हिन्दी न्यूज़ चैनल

गिन्होने बढ़ाया देश का मान, उनके लिए सबसे बड़ा सम्मान

CO-POWERED BY
DOLLAR Finolex Reliance
AUTO PARTNER
L&G Somit
EDUCATION PARTNER
NARAYANA
INSURANCE PARTNER
ACKOScan now to
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पर
इंडिया

Source: BARC | Metric: Avg. Weekly ANA 000s | ITC, NCIS All 15+ | Period: Wk 39/23-24 Hrs, All Days | Market: All India



More needs to be done about signboards than just spell-check | 3

36.7° MAXIMUM **24.4°** MINIMUM
FORECAST Partly cloudy sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 36°C and 24°C
SUNRISE 6.19AM (WED) MOONRISE 3.07AM (WED)
SUNSET 5.58PM (TUE) MOONSET 3.39PM (TUE)

TIMES CITY 175
THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023

Exposure to bad air can lead to depression and anxiety, docs say | 5
AQI IN DELHI ON MONDAY (MODERATE CATEGORY)



Out Of Sight, Out Of Mind? How 2 DU Colleges Are Reeling Under Apathy

Located On Outskirts Of City, 2 Institutions Fully Funded By Delhi Govt Are Picture Of Neglect

Shreya.Ghosh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Walls chipping, ceilings falling. And classrooms with makeshift plywood partitions to be able to accommodate the 985 students of the college. This when there are two buildings with 20 classrooms, left abandoned due to lack of maintenance since 2005. Bhagini Nivedita College, tucked away in Kair village near Najafgarh, is a story of the result of delayed fund disbursal by Delhi government.

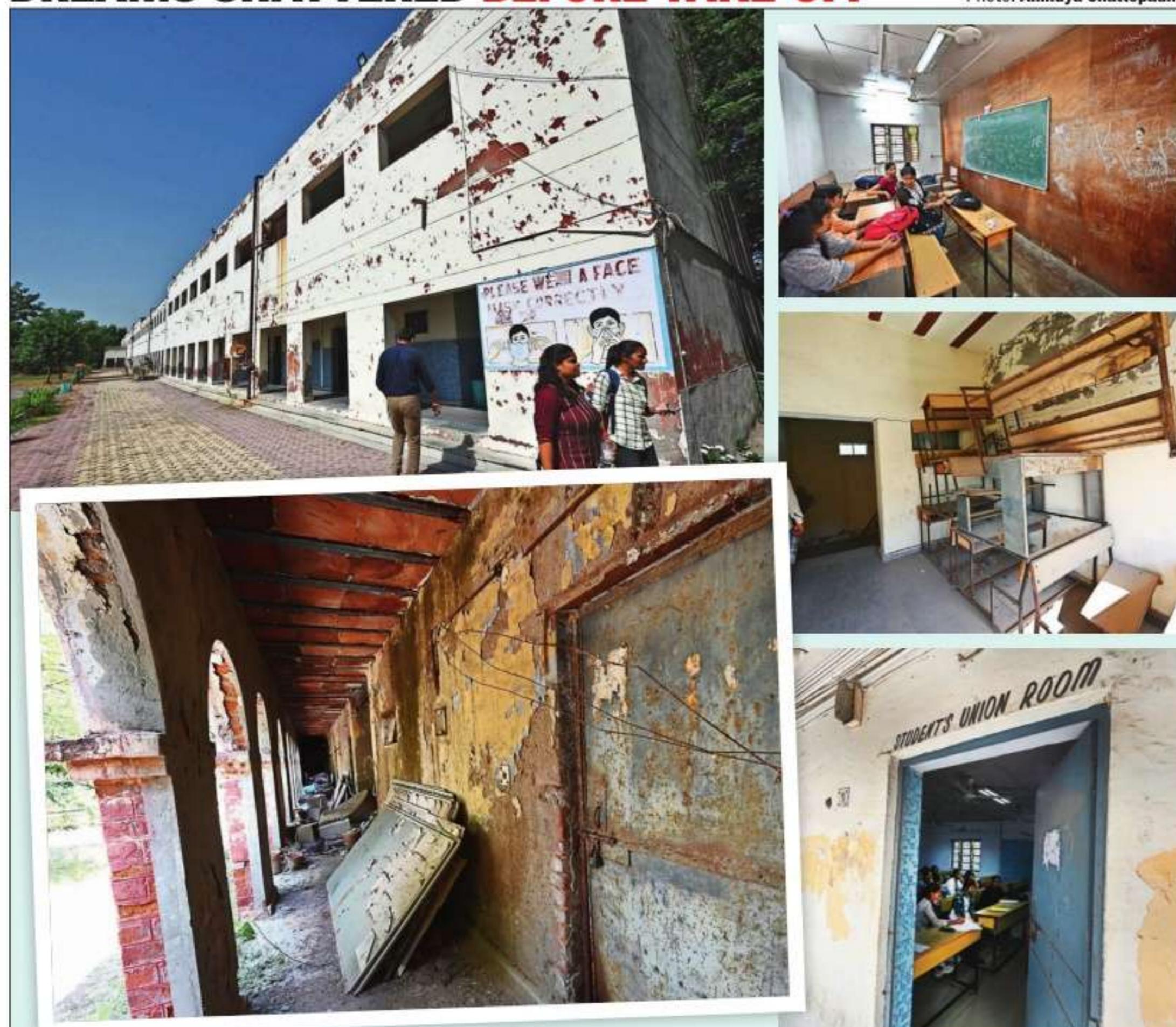
The college was established in 1993, 100% funded by Delhi government, with the noble mission of meeting the educational needs of the rural population. Amid the decay in Bhagini Nivedita, a teacher's remark captured the prevailing sentiment: "The only nice thing about this campus is the good air quality index; everything else is on the brink."

Principal Raj Bhardwaj said, "Delhi government has made no budget allocation for us so far. Only constructing a college is not enough, it also needs funds for maintenance." Bhardwaj added that while the National Education Policy championed new courses and skill enhancement, Nivedita itself couldn't help but ask if the college had the infrastructure for this four-year undergraduate programme and other diverse courses.

Professor Geeta Kaushik, the timetable convenor, struggles to allocate classroom space; even the audio-visual room has turned into a makeshift classroom. Examines are crammed into the auditorium, and as professor Vikas Chaudhary, who teaches, pointed out, "We are just about surviving with a mere 13 labs and one sports room, last equipped in 2010, and with non-functional computers at the computer centre."

Nikita Yadav has witnessed a drastic decline in the

DREAMS SHATTERED BEFORE TAKE-OFF



college infrastructure since the days when was a student at Bhagini Nivedita. Now a professor in the computer science department, she said, "The student migration rate has risen 34%. They migrate to better colleges with better infrastructure and location once they secure better marks in their second year."

The 68 teachers, 34 of them

permanent, wait 3-4 months for their salaries. With every instalment of funds released by Delhi government, the teachers said they received their outstanding salary but had to wait for several more months for the rest.

It is as bad for the students. Suman, a third-year BA Programme student hailing from Nangloj, narrated, "I travel

two hours to reach college because the special university bus only reaches us to the metro station. At exam time, the classrooms are overcrowded and claustrophobic. The washroom locks don't work. I took online admission and didn't realise this college would be a nightmare. I have adapted to the situation now, but feel embarrassed to bring

friends to the campus."

There is space, a vast unkempt expanse. There are volleyball and basketball courts, both disused. "Many of us are interested in badminton and volleyball, but we don't have coaches and the ground is in such a pathetic condition. For sports, you can't even take a walk there," said a disheartened Laxmi Yadav, a political science student.

Sports teacher Mamta Sherawat told TOI, "The sports fees collected from students amounts to Rs 1.9 lakh annually. With this amount we have to meet the costs of maintenance, equipment, technical training, refreshers, team kits. Students from Nivedita often feel inferior to other DU students because of the inferior quality of their sports uniforms. These rural students have immense potential that has yet been unexploited."

For 2023-24, the government has allocated the college Rs 400 crore, of which Rs 100 crore has been released. But the institution does not have a governing body and this is hindering the flow of funds.

TOI's effort to seek a response from Delhi government was met with silence.

According to Greenpeace, a majority of Delhi respondents (68%) were positive in their belief that the city could become their dream city in the future. Millennials (25 to 34: 76% and 35 to 44: 73%) were much more optimistic than the poll average.

The campaign seeks to radically transform spaces, mindsets and policies so that cities become places of climate action, resilience and justice," said Greenpeace in a statement.

Over 1,000 people from Delhi participated in the campaign.

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96% off ₹2,499 ₹99

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Free delivery
Top Discount on Sale



Oomph!
Wom...
₹45 ₹1,340
96% off
Free delivery by 9th Aug
Top Discount on Sale



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Where The Streets Have No Name!

Damaged, Hidden Signage Fail City

Navigation An Arduous Task; Multiple Agencies And Lack Of Uniformity In Norms To Blame

Vibha Sharma &
Siddhanta Mishra | TNN

New Delhi: All the jokes about the hilarious use of English in signage in some countries seemed to hit uncomfortably close to home when the high commissioner of Singapore recently pointed out the wrong spelling of his country on a city road sign. While the New Delhi Municipal Council scrambled to rectify the embarrassing mistake, the incident has put a spotlight on the confusion created by signboards in the capital.

"We have directed the departments concerned to check the signboards and immediately correct the spellings if required," said an NDMC official. "In fact, we have formed branches for Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and English languages to pick up standard names of any road or person and have them confirmed from academics before being put on signboards." The official added that the Singapore being spelt as 'Singapur' was a 'technical fault'.

Citizens attribute the problem of such errors to the multiplicity of agencies involved in the management of the capital and the lack of uniformity in norms for public signage. For example, in the NDMC areas, signboards on the roads are in green colour in both rectangular and triangular shapes, but as S. Velmurugan, head of traffic engineering and safety division at Central Road Research Institute, pointed out green colour in signage is meant for national highways.

2 groups clash in NW Delhi, 2 men killed

New Delhi: Two men were murdered in a clash that broke out between two groups in northwest Delhi's Ashok Vihar on Monday.

The deceased were identified as Raghu and Bhura. The injured Dablu was receiving treatment.

Police received information about the incident around 8 pm on Monday. A team from the local police station reached the spot at Jailer Wala Bagh in Ashok Vihar.

An inquiry revealed that the confrontation escalated into a violent altercation, involving gunfire and stabbing. "Dablu, known to be associated with criminal activities in the area, was present with his associates outside his residence when Raghu, Bhura, and another associate arrived at the scene. A heated exchange between the two parties ensued, ultimately leading to the physical confrontation," a senior police officer said. TNN

SIGNED OUT! WHEN THE CITY LACKS DIRECTION



In Delhi, we follow the codes of the Indian Roads Congress on signage, and according to that agency, the sign-

ge in an urban area should be white on a blue background," explained Velmurugan. "All information-based

signage should be in rectangle boards. The problem with Delhi is that most agencies are still following the rules set in 2010 for

the Commonwealth Games."

NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay said, "We use the colour recommended by

Proposals sought for coaching at 16 DDA sports complexes

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has invited proposals from professional sports coaches and agencies to conduct coaching classes in various disciplines at 16 sports complexes, according to officials.

DDA has 54,665 members, excluding dependents, at these sports complexes, and 2,72,866 individuals utilise the facilities on a monthly basis. The centres provide 159 coaching schemes that are being used by 7,612 dedicated trainees.

"The coaching contract will be awarded for one year, which can be extended annually for a maximum period of five years. However, the contract can be terminated before the stipulated period in case of unsatisfactory performance or non-compliance with the terms and conditions," said an official.

The 16 centres are Chilla Sports Complex; CWG Village Sports Complex; Poorv Delhi Khel Parivar; Dilshad Garden; Yamuna Sports Complex; Surajmal Vihar; Rashtriya Swabhiman Khel Parivar; Pitampura; Rohini Sports Complex; Major Dhyan Chand Sports Complex; Ashok Vihar; Saket Sports Complex; Siri Fort Sports Complex; Squash and Badminton Stadium, Siri Fort; Vasant Kunj Sports Complex; Netaji Subhash Sports Complex; Jasola; Dwarka Sports Complex, Sector 11; Hari Nagar Sports Complex; Paschim Vihar Sports Complex; and Dwarika Sports Complex, Sector 17.

Coaching will be provided at these complexes on a revenue-sharing basis. "For all outdoor coaching, the ratio would be 60:40 for the agency and DDA. For facilities provided by DDA and indoor facilities, the ratio would be 50:50," said the official.

Both members and non-members can avail the coaching. "There is a provision for dedicated training sessions. DDA offers the infrastructure and maintains the facilities while professional coaches or agencies provide the coaching," added the official.

As per norms, the coaching agency or professionals will need to provide mandatory free coaching to at least 10% of the trainees from economically weaker sections who show potential. "Contracts will not be extended if coaches or agencies do not impart free coaching to the minimum number of trainees. A maximum of two complexes will be awarded to any coach or agency in any discipline," said the official.

The difference in coaching rates for members and non-members at all sports complexes would be uniform, at 25% additional charges for the latter.

TOOK MANY PHOTOS OF INDIA FROM SPACE: THOMAS PESQUET

I'm keen to fly to outer space with Indian crew, says French astronaut

Surendra.Singh
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Indo-French space MoU for greater cooperation

Surendra.Singh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Indo-French space collaboration in the private sector received a boost on Monday when a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between representatives of Indian and French industries—Indian Space Association (ISPA) and French Aerospace Industries Association GIFAS—to increase cooperation between the industries of the two countries.

Lauding the MoU at the Indian Space Conclave at Sam Manekshaw Centre, French ambassador-designate Thierry Mathou said, "Indo-French space cooperation is not new but goes back to 1960s when India's first rocket launched from the Thumba station carried a satellite made by the French space agency. India and France have also been sharing a strategic partnership since 1998. We need to do much more to keep pace with the fast-changing economic environment."

At the conclave, French trade commissioner Eric Fajole laid special emphasis on enhancing space cooperation between the private sector of the two countries while informing that representatives of a huge French delegation of nearly 30 aerospace companies have landed in India to boost business-to-business (B2B) cooperation.

Virtually addressing the conclave, ISRO chairman S. Somanath said, "The integration of private industries into every facet of the space sector marks a significant milestone, opening new frontiers and sparking innovation. I applaud ISPA for fostering an ecosystem that nurtures space startups, driving the growth of our space industry."

Pesquet complimented ISRO for its Chandrayaan-3 mission, saying India's successful landing of the spacecraft on the south pole of the moon had opened a window of opportunities for everyone. As for the upcoming Gaganyaan mission, the French astronaut said, "India is on the cusp of achieving an important milestone. The Gaganyaan mission to send humans into space is extremely impressive and will be noticed by the world."

In India with a big delegation of

the International Road Sign Guide as decided in 2010. Accordingly, road signs are in green and place identity boards are in blue."

Upadhyay added, "NDMC areas have venues for international events and also many embassies. The idea of adopting the international guideline for road signs might be to be in conformity with the practices adopted internationally for the convenience of delegates visiting the city."

Dubious spellings and colour aren't the only problems. PWD, which manages a network of 1400 km of roads in Delhi, has installed most blue signboards, though these are poorly maintained in many areas. In south Delhi's Nehru Place and Greater Kailash I, TOI found that a sign on Hans Raj Gupta Marg defaced and unreadable, but PWD did not comment when queried about this.

Near Desbandhu College at Krishna Market, the signboard of the car parking is hidden by a food vend. "These boards are not serving the purpose for which they have been erected because of wrong placement," said Atul Goel, president, United RWAs Joint Action (Urja), a grouping of residents' welfare associations.

"The road signage on Ring Road from Sarai Kale Khan towards Noida is so confusing that if one is not a regular user, one could end up taking the Barapullah road instead of the DND Flyway. There are similar problems in many other areas."

MHA prematurely retires 1997-batch Danics officer

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Union ministry of home affairs on Monday prematurely retired 1997-batch Danics officer, AV Prem Nath, from service.

government has the 'absolute right to retire' government officials prematurely on the ground of lack of integrity and ineffectiveness, in public interest.

Sources said, MHA sent a separate communication to Delhi chief secretary Naresh Kumar

Prem Nath has a total of five FIRs registered against him

with the copy of the order of the premature retirement to be served on Prem Nath.

Prem Nath was posted in the urban development department of Delhi government before his suspension in October last year due to a criminal case registered against him for allegedly molesting a minor in Uttarakhand. No reaction was available from Prem Nath.

MHA in its order stated that it was exercising its powers, conferred by the sub-rule 1 of Rule 56(j) of the Fundamental Rules and Rule 42 of CCS (Pension) Rules 1965, to require Prem Nath to retire from service in public interest with immediate effect.

As per the rules, the central

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*CAQM direction No. 76 dated September 29, 2023

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MCD undertakes demolition in Jahangirpuri

New Delhi: The building department of the MCD executed a demolition drive against two pro-

perties located at Adarsh Nagar extension, Jahangirpuri. Both the properties were completely razed to the ground. They had been identified as unauthorised constructions within a 1,600 square yard area, and their status was subject to a legal case that had been decided upon by the appellate tribunal for MCD. TNN



Concerns arise over technical flaws in Indian-made iPhone 14 & 15 compared to US and China versions.



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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, South 24 Pgs Mechanical Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPH/E/EE/SMD/Net-27 of 2023-2024 and ID: 2023_PHE_570950_(1-15) for Operation and guarding of the electric operated auto/ manual control pumping machinery Different Block under SMD PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website wbttenders.gov.in. The last date for submission of tender is 30.10.2023 upto 14.00 Hrs. sd/- Ece Engineer, SMD, PHE Dte.
ICA-T20968(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. 05/SE/Pg/SD/SWM/
KMDA-2023-2024
Online two-part tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, Planning Circle, SD&SWM Sector, KMDA, Block-A, 6th Floor, Ummayan Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, from eligible, reliable, resourceful and experienced firms / companies / individual contractors, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Design, drawing & construction of Civil Components of 1 (one) no. stone water drainage Lifts/ Stairs of capacity 100 m³/min including all ancillary Civil structures & allied Civil works at 16 Bigha's Area under Maheshtala Municipality on Turnkey Basis. (2nd Call), Rate to be Quoted, % of the quoted amount; Initially Rs. 3,50,000/- to be deposited. Balance of 2% (if any), will have to be deposited by the successful bidder before signing of contract agreement, 12 months. Last date & time for online Tender Submission: 01.11.2023 upto 18.50 hrs, for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-698)
www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-T20929(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. 09/FE/MD/EE/EMKA/MD/04
Online Quotation is invited by Executive Engineer, MD-IV, E-M Sector, KMDA, Block-I, Ground Floor, Ummayan Bhavan, Sector-II, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from the eligible agencies for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Value of work, Earnest Money deposit, Time of Completion, Operation, maintenance and guarding of Electrical mechanical equipment of Clean Water Pumping Station, Sub-station, light lighting for 15 MGD capacity WTP of Lake Town under South Dum Dum Municipality for 36 Months, Rate to be Quoted, Rs.1,20,00/-, 36 months from the date of firm order. Last date & time of online Quotation Submission: 01.11.2023 upto 14.00 hrs, for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-692)
www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-T20929(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
WBW/SE/WC-II/NET-12e/2023-24, 2nd Call to e-NIT No. WBW/SE/WC-II/NET-08e/2023-24
Superintendent, Engineering, Western Circle-II invites online tender for 04 (four) nos. civil works (Construction of Bridge) in Block Derra, Daspur-I, and Sabang in Dist. Paschim Medinipur under this Circle. Amount put to tender is Rs. 731.07 Lakh, 130.67 Lakh, 791.64 Lakh and 1055.98 Lakh. Tender forms and other details may be obtained from the departmental website [www.wb.tenders.wb.nic.in](http://wb.tenders.wb.nic.in) (direct link). Last date of submission of bid or online is [Dr/- Asish Dutta], Superintendent, Engineering, Western Circle-II, & W.Dt. ICA-T20925(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. WBW/SE/NIC-II/NET-11e/2023-24
e-Tender is being invited by the undersigned from the eligible bonafide contractors for 2 (Two) nos. works under G.A.E. Div-IV, E-M Sector-II (one) nos. work under G.A.E. Division Sector-II, District Work & RIDF-XXII head respectively. Last date & time for submission of bid is 31.10.2023 upto 17.00 hrs. Other details of tender notice may be seen at website www.wb.tenders.wb.nic.in & <http://wbtenders.gov.in>. Last date of submission of bid or online is [Dr/- Asish Dutta], Superintendent, Engineering, Western Circle-II, & W.Dt. ICA-T20926(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
N.B.D.D. INVITING e-QUOTATION
Notice Inviting e-Quotation by the S.E.(E.U.)/N.B.D.D. Vide: NIQ-NO : 09 (SLNO. 01 to 10) of 2023-24, NIQ-NO : 10 (SLNO. 01 to 05) of 2023-24, NIQ-NO : 11 (SLNO. 01 to 05) of 2023-24, NIQ-NO : 12 (SLNO. 01 to 06) of 2023-24, NIQ-NO : 02 (SLNO. 08) (2nd Call) of 2023-24. Details of works to be seen in the above mentioned N.I.Q. in the website :- www.wbnorthbengaldev.gov.in & <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Electrical, North Bengal Development Department. ICA-T20931(4)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. WBW/SE/WC-II/NET-12e/2023-24
On behalf of the concerned concerned e-tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mohgrah Drainage Division. Details may be had from the office of the undersigned on working days during office hours or on website [https://wbtenders.gov.in](http://wbtenders.gov.in). Publishing date: 10.10.2023. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mohgrah Drainage Division, Baripur, South 24 Parganas ICA-T20928(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. WBW/SE/WC-II/NET-12e/2023-24
On behalf of the concerned concerned e-tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mohgrah Drainage Division. Details may be had from the office of the undersigned on working days during office hours or on website [https://wbtenders.gov.in](http://wbtenders.gov.in). Publishing date: 10.10.2023. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mohgrah Drainage Division, Baripur, South 24 Parganas ICA-T20928(2)/2023

7 Yrs On, Cops Find Last Piece Of Murder Puzzle

Main Accused In Man's Beheading Nabbed From Meerut

Siddhi.Singh
timesgroup.com

CLOSURE, FINALLY

Date of Murder
January 29, 2017

Spot Under Khajuri Khas flyover, northeast Delhi



What happened

- A man named Rajesh finds out that his friend is having an affair with his wife
- When Rajesh confronts him, the friend plots murder with three others
- Rajesh is killed during a booze party, beheaded
- Body is dumped under a flyover, set on fire

POLICE ACTION

Oct 2023 Cops are notified about Samir's whereabouts and nab him

➤ Cops begin manhunt based on Rajesh's call records

➤ Three accused arrested; Samir, who beheaded Rajesh, is at large

cops began collecting details of all persons who had been reported missing in the area. They had a breakthrough soon. The victim was identified as Rajesh, a local who had disappeared the same evening.

The cops checked Rajesh's call records and started tracking the people he had last been in touch with. On the last dialed list was Sudhir. Local inquiries suggested he was in an illicit relationship with Rajesh's wife. Police began looking for him, but he was absconding,

and so were three of his friends. Eventually, the cops caught Sudhir and two of his friends. According to police, they confessed they had hatched a plot to kill Rajesh with the help of their friend, Mohammed Samir. On January 29, they allegedly called Rajesh on the pretext of a party and murdered him.

According to the other three accused, it was Samir who had allegedly executed the murder and carried out the beheading. When cops started tracking him, his

father Rashid told them he had already left town. Police launched a manhunt to nab him but Samir remained elusive. A warrant was issued against him and he was eventually declared an absconder by the court.

After being on the run for more than seven-and-a-half years, Samir's luck finally ran out. Earlier this month, a police team led by DCP Rohit Meena received inputs about his whereabouts and the investigation again picked up pace. "It turned out that the accused had shifted from his hometown in Bijnor in UP to Meerut. Acting on a local tip-off about his whereabouts, an interstate raid was carried out at his residence in Meerut and he was finally arrested," Meena said.

Samir, the DCP said, had taken up odd jobs and worked as a labourer sometimes. To dodge cops, he had been using the alias of Sonu and changed his hairstyle too. The accused has been booked under IPC sections 302 (murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) and 34 (criminal acts by several persons in furtherance of common intention) at Geeta Colony police station.

From Oct 11, HC to stream proceedings by CJ live

Ridhima.Gupta@timesgroup.com

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Monday announced that it will start live streaming of proceedings for the public in the court presided by its chief justice from October 11.

A communication issued by the high court stated that the streaming link will be available on its official website and for now, the live streaming will be done on a case-to-case basis.

"In pursuit of greater access to justice, the high court of Delhi is going to start the live streaming of court proceedings on 11 October, 2023 at 10:30 am in Court No. 1 (comprising hon'ble Justice Mallikarjuna Iytha, founder of IDEA-Saksham, an NGO that trains the differently able to become entrepreneurs. Himself a person with locomotor impairment, Mallikarjuna was awarded for the 'Best Entrepreneurship Skills' by Delhi government on Monday, being one of the 11 others who were similarly honoured.

In addition to the 11 PWDs who were awarded for excellence in various domains, four paralympic athletes were felicitated and two hospitals, Dr Ambedkar Hospital and Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, honoured for specialising in services for PWDs.

During the event, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal also launched a mobile app called 'Dharohar' that aims to provide all pension beneficiaries with important notifications.

Among the awardees was 35-year-old Monika Dankar, who has a locomotive disability in one arm and one leg. She is a nursing officer with Delhi government. Last year, when she wanted to apply for a nursing tutor's post at Lady Hardinge Medical College, she found that she wasn't eligible because only a single leg disability was a criterion.

Dankar filed a case in the Court of Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities against this and recently received a verdict in her favour.

"Apart from the physical challenges, society poses many challenges to people with disabilities. Our only hope is to fight those odds," the note said.

The communication clarified that the live-streamed content is for information purpose only and shall not constitute the official record of the court proceedings.

The court no. 1 of the high court generally deals with public interest litigations. The live streaming of proceedings will soon also start in the court no. 39 where another division bench conducts its proceedings.

In January, the high court notified the rules for live streaming and recording of proceedings.

The rules, which apply to the Delhi high court and to the courts and tribunals over which it has supervisory jurisdiction, say recording means audio and video data of proceedings stored in electronic format, whether it is live streamed or not.

As per the rules, all proceedings will be live streamed by the court, excluding matrimonial matters, child adoption and child custody, cases concerning sexual offences and gender-based violence against women, and matters registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.

At present, litigants and lawyers can access video-conferencing links to attend court proceedings.



RECOGNISING THEIR EFFORTS: CM Arvind Kejriwal felicitated 11 people with disability who have excelled in various domains

A WINNER SAYS

Apart from the physical challenges, society poses many challenges to people with disabilities. Our only hope is to fight those odds

friendly, the full reality hasn't been achieved."

Pooja Gupta, who suffers from thalassemia, and Yashika Bhatt who has intellectual disability, were awarded the 'Best Sports Persons with Disabilities' titles.

Addressing the awards ceremony held at Shah Auditorium in north Delhi's Civil Lines, Kejriwal said, "It is a very emotional and spiritual experience for me to give away these awards.

The story of each individual who has received the award is extremely inspiring.

All these people have converted their disabilities into their strengths. While one of them plays badminton while sitting in a wheelchair, some are motivational speakers, others play handball and create paintings. These individuals possess different kinds of talent."

The chief minister continued, "It is well said that when god takes away something, he gives another thing in return. I congratulate each person and salute each of the awardees. One thing everyone might have noticed is how even after achieving this much, they still have the hunger to do something for the betterment of society. Some of them said they wanted to convert their silver medal into a gold medal, others asked for a medal in exchange for work with Delhi government and yet others wanted to speak at motivational sessions in Delhi government schools. They still have a great passion to do something more."

Kejriwal added that Delhi government is focused on all individuals with disabilities.

"Our government has many plans for the elderly, pensioners and people with disabilities," he claimed.

"If more plans are needed, we will create them. The government has no shortage of funds. In the entire country, Delhi government is the only government whose budget is not in deficit. We have a surplus because we run an honest government."

The court of Ajay Goel stated that the management has "clearly committed an unfair

labour practice by employing the workmen as daily wagers for performing the permanent nature of work of a driver and continued them for years 1996 and 2000 with Municipal Corporation of Delhi (then South Delhi Municipal Corporation) from their date of joining.

The corporation had regularised their services 6-8 years after their date of joining, opposing which the workers filed a petition before the court and sought regularisation from the date of their joining.

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labour practice by employing the workmen as daily wagers for performing the permanent nature of work of a driver and continued them for years 1996 and 2000 with Municipal Corporation of Delhi (then South Delhi Municipal Corporation) from their date of joining.</p

Watch What You Eat: That Quick Bite May Be Inducing Depression

Diet Rich In Sugar Or Ultra-Processed Food Does More Harm Than You Think

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The next time you feel the urge to grab a packet of potato chips or a chocolate, think again. For, what you eat does not affect only your body shape; a diet rich in sugar or ultra-processed food could be a major contributing factor to depression.

A study published on September 20 by JAMA network Open showed a strong link between mental health and what people consume. The research found that on the one hand, nutrition could be key to improving mental faculties and on the other, participants with diets high in ultra-processed foods had the highest risk of depression.

Several doctors TOI spoke to stressed on a well-rounded diet that can help regulate mood, reduce the risk of mental health disorders and enhance cognitive function.

"We have been witnessing a surge in mental health issues. Nutrition is increasingly recognised as a crucial element in mental health. The gut-brain axis illustrates how the microbes in our gut can influence mood and cognition. This is also called psychobiotics. A balanced diet rich in nutrients can be a valuable adjunct to psychiatric treatment, potentially improving the effectiveness of antidepressants and reducing the risk of mental health disorders," said Dr Prashant Goyal, senior consultant, psychiatry, at Sri Balaji

WHY PROCESSED FOODS ARE NOT GOOD

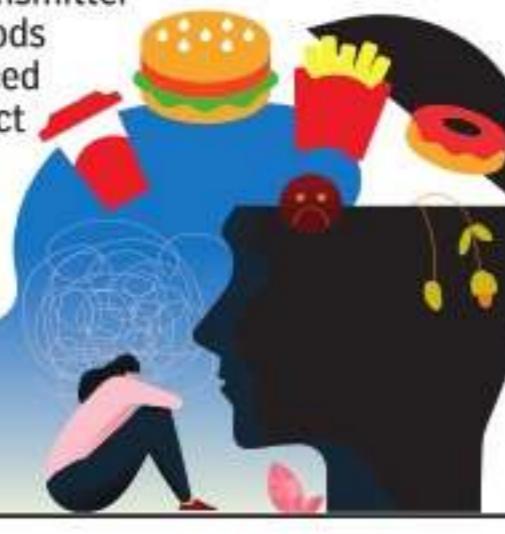
Processed foods, excess intake of sugar and sweet foods, fizzy drinks, excess use of sugar-free, trans fats are harmful for the brain

► Processed foods can increase inflammation throughout the body leading to depression and anxiety.

► Neurochemicals such as serotonin, dopamine, melatonin are produced by gut bacteria that our brain uses to regulate mood and cognition

► Serotonin is a neurotransmitter that helps to mediate moods and 80-90% of it is produced in the gastrointestinal tract

► Good bacteria helps to protect the lining of the gut, limit inflammation and helps in better absorption of nutrients



Foods that help the brain to improve mental health

- ① DIETARY MICRONUTRIENTS—research studies have identified 12 antidepressant nutrients for treatment and prevention of depression. Folate, iron, omega 3 fatty acids, magnesium, vitamin A, vitamin B6, vitamin B12, vitamin C and Zinc.
- ② Fibre coming from complex carbohydrates like whole grains, legumes, green leafy vegetables, fresh fruits and nuts etc.
- ③ Tryptophan contains food, which helps produce the serotonin. (happy hormone).
- ④ Use of healthy fats like MUFA (Mono unsaturated fatty acids) sources like olive oil, groundnut oil, mustard oil and rice bran oil.

ji Action Medical Institute.

According to Dr Ishi Kholia, a clinical and public health nutritionist, "A lot of our mental functionality is controlled by the micro flora that resides in the gut. Their composition balance and diversity determine if they work in favour or against. If the balance is positive, then they work towards making us healthy and happy, but if they are disturbed because of some environmental triggers, then the bad ones tend to flourish, resulting in a state of dysbiosis."

Dr Mukta Vashishtha, senior dietician at department of nutrition and dietetics, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said healthy eating plays a very im-

portant role in patients suffering from mental illness by maintaining gut-brain integrity. "Gut microbiome has a direct impact on our mood. Neurochemicals such as serotonin, dopamine and melatonin are produced by gut bacteria and used by our brain to regulate mood and cognition."

A combination of fresh fruits, vegetables, good fats and an appropriate amount of fluids and probiotics helps produce neurotransmitters that have a calming effect on the brain and are good immunomodulators, she added.

According to Dr Swapna Chaturvedi, senior dietician in department of nutrition and dietetics, AIIMS, "Micro-

organisms in the gut produce neurotransmitters in the brain that can affect processes like memory, learning and emotional regulations. The role of gut microbiota in modulating gut-brain interactions is through mechanisms like faecal microbial transplantation and probiotic treatment. Gut bacterial strains like *Coprococcus*, *Eggerthella* and *Ruminococcaceae* are linked to depression."

A troubled intestine can send signals to the brain just as a troubled brain can send signals to the gut, and a person's intestinal distress can cause depression, she said. Changing diet can affect the gut microbiota composition, potentially

ally improving mental health by reducing inflammation and enhancing neurotransmitter production, she added.

"A healthy diet rich in fibre and micronutrients has a positive effect on gut microbial composition, reduces metabolic endotoxemia and neuroinflammation, and is, therefore, associated with improvement in mental health," she said.

Dr Rahul Kakkar, consultant psychiatrist and psychotherapist at Narayana Hospital, said nutrition significantly influences mental health by providing nutrients needed for optimal brain function.

"The food we consume not only fuels our bodies, but also impacts our mental well-being," he said, adding that foods that are processed or high in sugar and trans fats can contribute to mood swings and depression. Conversely, a diet filled with brain-boosting nutrients like Omega-3 fatty acids and antioxidants can promote mental resilience and emotional stability.

Dr Ritika Samaddar, chief clinical nutritionist at Max Hospital Saket, said a healthy lifestyle, exercise and low intake of ultra-processed foods can reduce inflammation and be beneficial for the brain's health. Similarly, Himanshi Sharma, dietitian at Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, said, "Optimising mental health through diet is a holistic approach. Our brain relies on a balanced intake of nutrients to function optimally."

Feeling anxious? Toxic air could be to blame

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Long-term exposure to air pollution could lead to higher risk of depression and anxiety, besides respiratory disorders. People who breathe in polluted air experience changes within the brain that control the emotions and as a result their chances of developing anxiety and depression are much higher than those who breathe in cleaner air, said doctors on the eve of World Mental Health Day.

"Fresh and clean air is a prerequisite for healthy living and thinking. An optimal amount of oxygen is essential for rational thinking," explained Dr Ashish Kumar Mittal, senior consultant psychiatrist, Columbia Asia Hospital.

"When the air gets polluted, our survival instinct starts acting and blurs our higher order logical cognitive processes and simultaneously disturbs our emotional state, severely impacting our mental health. This impact is visibly noticed in the form of a lower threshold of irritation and tolerance to frustration."

Dr Nand Kumar, professor of psychiatry, AIIMS, agreed that mental health was an important dimension of air pollution.

"Its effects range from behavioural variations to depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and other neurodegenerative disorders," he said. "The mechanism is not clear, but it is likely to trigger inflammation in the region of the brain that regulates the emotions, focusing on the hippocampus, amygdala and prefrontal cortex.

HAVING A BAD-AIR DAY?

► A study from researchers at Harvard, published in March 2023, adds to the evidence connecting exposure to air pollution (small particulate matter (PM2.5), nitrogen oxide and nitrogen dioxide) to increased risk of dementia



risk of dementia and Alzheimer's and depression

► A study published in journal NeuroToxicology reveals that people who breathe polluted air are more likely to develop mental health problems than those who breathe clean air

► Some researchers have associated air pollution with higher levels of stress, psychological distress, increased

sky causes frustration and anxieties about our health."

Rastogi said going out and exercising on heavily polluted days has to be limited, but one should ensure activity indoors, say through yoga, dance and anything that gets one moving. "Exercise helps us stay positive in an environment of doom and gloom," he said.

The review of existing literature on the subject claims that exposure to air pollution increases chances of depression by 1%, noted Harshal Ramesh Salve, additional professor, community medicine, AIIMS. Like any other body part, air pollution, particularly particulate matter, can hit the brain, causing depression, he said, adding that neurodevelopment-related diseases are also associated with exposure to air pollution.

Teachers hold protest against transfer policy in MCD schools

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Several teachers on Monday protested outside the Civic Centre against the MCD's transfer policy in their schools. Recent changes in the policy calculate teacher requirement based on attendance instead of the total number of admissions.

"Based on a survey, MCD had shown that there were 597 'surplus' teachers. On the contrary, there are still thousands of vacancies," said Kuldeep Khatri from Akhil Delhi Prathmik Sikshak Sangh.

After the protest ended at 5pm, Khatri said they were called by AAP's MCD in-charge and MLA Durgesh Pathak. "We demanded that no surplus teacher should be transferred and the actual vacancy position of teachers should be shown on the transfer portal as per student-teacher ratio and enrolment of students," said Khatri.

The teachers also demanded cashless medical facilities and payment of dues and salaries. "Pathak said he will call a meeting with the education minister and the director of education in a couple of days. Till then, the online transfer portal will be put on hold," said Khatri.

Earlier, the teachers were joined in their protest by leader of opposition Raja Iqbal Singh and eight BJP councillors.

"The number of students in Nagar Nigam schools is down 40%, indicating a decline in the quality of education, for which AAP is responsible. To conceal this, the party has declared 500 teachers as 'surplus' and is transferring them here and there, forcing teachers to protest. We demand that instead of declaring teachers as surplus, AAP should work towards increasing the number of students in these schools by improving the quality of education."

There was immediate response from AAP to the issue.

FIR ordered against builder for duping man of ₹1.3 crore

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

THE PETITION SAYS
The accused represented that he had extensive goodwill and experience in building construction line and being a man of repute in the said field, he would develop the said property

Rs 1 lakh. The petitioner added that the property was later sealed by MCD.

"Qureshi represented that he had extensive goodwill and experience in building construction line and being a man of repute in the said field, he would develop the said property, including the third floor with all fitting, fixtures, flooring, etc, in a time-bound manner," the petitioner stated.

Following this, Alam agreed to purchase the third floor

of the said property for Rs 1.3 crore and gave Rs 10 lakh as advance money in August 2019. Later, Qureshi delayed the construction and sought extensions on one pretext or the other. Despite the delay, Qureshi kept pressuring Alam to make the payments, threatening to cancel the agreement to sell and forfeit the amount paid. Having no other option, the complainant kept on making the payments to Qureshi.

In September 2021, when Alam visited the said property, he was shocked to learn that the said property had been sealed by the municipal corporation. The accused told him that there were some dues of property tax because of which the property had been sealed and that they would easily get it de-sealed by clearing the dues. However, despite repeated requests made by the complainant, the accused persons neither got the property de-sealed nor got the remaining work done.

The speed limit on the expressway is 120kmph. The daily average of supercars that hit the road is 5-6 and that of the number of cars that breach the speed limit is 500, the Vehicle Speed Detection System (VSDS) installed on the expressway shows. Around 20,000 vehicles use the expressway every day.

In the last two months, two accidents – one involving a Rolls-Royce and another a Mercedes, both being driven at over 200kmph – have been reported on the expressway in Nuh. The crashes claimed three lives.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), which had written to Haryana Police in August for help in enforcing traffic norms on the expressway, has installed VSDS and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras on the section of the highway in Gurgaon district. So, the VSDS data is restricted to what the cameras see only in Gurgaon and the number of violations would be much higher.

NHAI officials said on Monday VSDS recorded around 6,000 vehicles exceeding the speed limit on the expressway over the past 20 days in Gurgaon. Of these, around 100 were Ferraris, BMWs, Rolls-Royce, Porsches, Merces and other such high-end cars that were speeding at 200-260kmph.

Overtaking at such high speeds can be fatal. Cars moving above 200kmph can easily lose control and ram into trucks or other vehicles moving at normal speeds," an NHAI official said.

NHAI project director Mukesh Kumar Meena said it was in talks with Haryana cops to integrate the VSDS system with traffic police's.

"We are in touch with IGP

(traffic) of Haryana Police and a team has already visited our expressway control room to integrate the system

EWAY
1,380km Total length of Delhi-Mumbai expressway, under construction
246km Portion of the expressway between Gurgaon and Dausa opened to traffic in February 2023

VIOLATIONS
6,000 Vehicles were spotted speeding on the expressway portion in Gurgaon in 20 days. On average, it would mean 500 daily
100 Of the vehicles that were speeding were supercars the likes of BMWs, Porsches, Ferraris, Rolls-Royce and Mercedes

SPEED
200-260kmph Range of speed at which luxury and supercars were being driven on e-way
120kmph Maximum speed allowed



RECENT ACCIDENTS
August 22 Rolls-Royce being driven at 240kmph collides into a fuel tanker on the expressway in Nuh, killing the driver and co-driver in the tanker
September 5 Mercedes believed to be speeding hits a milk tanker. Its driver, son of a political leader, succumbs to injuries during treatment

TIMES VIEW: Driving at outrageous speeds on expressways must be checked. Such drivers not only endanger their own lives, but also put others in peril. Authorities should proactively enforce a graded punishment system immediately. For instance, a first offence could attract a hefty fine; the second, a suspension of licence.

with enforcement measures," Meena said.

He explained that NHAI manages the expressway, but it has no authority to take punitive action against motorists who flout traffic norms. "We collect data from the camera network and send alerts with details of the vehicles to police for further action," he added.

Docs remove tumour of nerve cells from 6-yr-old Somalian girl's chest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 6-year-old Somalian girl, Ruweyda Mohamed Adam (left) was not treated on time, her condition could have been precarious leading to multiple complications and inability to survive



and inability to survive.

Though the tumour (12.8x5.6x4.8 cm in size) was benign, it was growing from the network of nerves that run down the spine.

Upon admission at the hospital, the girl had swelling on the left-side of her neck and had difficulties in breathing, eating and had paraly-

sis of her left arm. A CT scan was done and she was thoroughly evaluated, after which the decision to conduct a surgical resection was taken. A surgical resection (a certain tissue or an organ is removed) is the gold standard of treatment for such tumours, carrying around 4% risk mainly due to lung involvement.

Giving details of the case, Dr Dhir said, "This kind of tumour is commonly present at the back side of the neck, but in this case, it was spreading to the front and middle portion of the neck, making it a complex procedure." He added that the tumour had engulfed all the major vessels. The surgery of this tumour required extreme meticulous dissection and precision as it involved major arteries, veins and nerves.

A team of doctors led by Dr Udgade Dhir, director and head of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurgaon performed the surgery, which lasted for seven hours.

Giving details of the case, Dr Dhir said, "This kind of tumour is commonly present at the back side of the neck, but in this case, it was spreading to the front and middle portion of the neck, making it a complex procedure." He added that the tumour had engulfed all the major vessels. The surgery of this tumour required extreme meticulous dissection and precision as it involved major arteries, veins and nerves.

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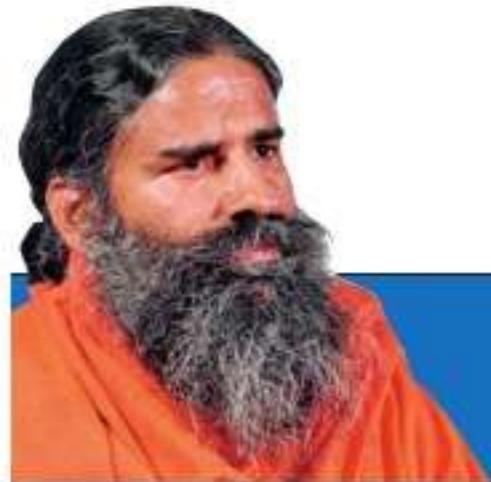
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Cong urges LG to declare dry day on November 19

New Delhi: Delhi Congress on Monday urged LG VK Saxena to declare 'Chhath Puja' festival on November 19 as a 'dry day'. A delegation of senior Delhi Congress leaders including state president Arvinder Singh Lovely, two former ministers Haroon Yusuf and Rajkumar Chauhan, ex-speaker Subhash Chopra and former MLA Mukesh Sharma met Saxena and submitted a memorandum. The Congress functionaries expressed concern about the spread of dengue and requested the LG to ensure round-the-clock power and water supply and cleanliness around religious places, specially during the festive season. TNN



SC SEEKS RESPONSE FROM CENTRE & IMA IN RAMDEV'S ALLOPATHY REMARKS CASE

Shivraj & Raman in BJP's third lists for MP, Chhattisgarh polls

Rathore, Diya Kumari & 5 Other MPs Nominated For Rajasthan

Akhilesh.Singh
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New Delhi: Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and former Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh were named as BJP candidates as the party released its third list for the two states on Monday. The first list for Rajasthan featured seven sitting MPs, including former Union minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Rajasmand MP Diya Kumari and Rajya Sabha MP Kirori Lal Meena, the most prominent face from the community in the state.

Chouhan has been fielded from his traditional Budhni assembly segment and Raman Singh from Rajnandgaon while Madhya Pradesh home minister Narottam Misra will contest from Datia.

The BJP's central election committee, comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party chief J P Nadda, home minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh and other senior leaders, had approved the names of candidates at its meeting on October 1.

Continuing with its plan



A civic worker removes hoardings from a street in Bhopal as the model code of conduct kicks in with the announcement of the poll schedule

of fielding MPs in the assembly polls as it has done in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the party nominated seven MPs in the list of 41 candidates for Rajasthan. Diya Kumari's candidature from Vidyanagar in Jaipur ends the hegemony of Bhairon Singh Shekhwat's family over the seat. The former vice-president's son-in-law Narpat Singh Rajvi had won the seat multiple times, including in 2018, and there was speculation that his son Abhimanyu will replace him.

However, by nominating Diya Kumari, the party lead-

ership has sent a strong message against nepotism and the trend of succession in politics. Rathore's candidature from Jhotwara in Jaipur is also an interesting move as he is likely to face Congress's Lal Chand Kataria, the sitting MLA and a minister.

Meena, who quit the party in 2013 but returned ahead of the 2018 assembly polls, has been nominated from Sawai Madhopur, a constituency dominated by Gujar-Meena voters. His presence is set to impact the caste equations in eastern Rajasthan, the region where the BJP had suf-

fered major losses, a key factor in the party's loss in 2018.

BJP's Rajasthan list saw several loyalists of former CM Vasundhara Raje being denied tickets and many of her detractors making the cut, an indication of the changing equations in the party. Among the loyalists denied tickets are Rajpal Singh Shekhwat, Narpat Singh Rajvi and Rohitawas Sharma.

Other Lok Sabha MPs fielded include Balaknath (Alwar) from Tijara, Bhagirath Chaudhary (Ajmer) from Kishangarh, Narendra Kumar (Jhunjhunu) from Mandawa and Devji Patel (Sirohi-Jalore) from Sanchaur. Late Gurjar leader Kirodi Singh Bainsla's son Vijay Bainsla (Deoli-Uniara) and retired IAS officer Chandramohan Meena (Bassi, Jaipur) have also been given tickets. The list of 41 for Rajasthan included candidates for Jaipur, Shekhwat and the eastern region.

In Chhattisgarh, Raman Singh and state unit president Arun Rao, also a LS MP, have been named in the list of 64 nominees. Three MPs, including Renuka Singh and Gomati Sai, figured in the list.

Voters have right to know how parties plan to fund election freebies, says CEC

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Wondering why political parties announced "freebies" only in the run-up to polls, chief election commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Monday said they came with a huge "tadka" (garnish) of populism, making it difficult for whoever was voted to power to either roll out these sops or stop the 'freebie' culture.

"One announcement in one state and another announcement in other states. I don't know why one does not remember to make these announcements through five years (in between elections) but only in the last month of 15 days," he said.

Kumar, who was fielding a query at a press conference here about "freebie"

culture", acknowledged the right of political parties to make promises in the poll manifesto, but at the same time, reiterated that the voter too had a right to know when, to what extent and how these promises would be implemented.

He recalled that it was to safeguard the voter's right to make an informed

POPULISM UNDER SCRUTINY
choice that the EC had last year proposed to revise its manifesto guidelines and include a proforma, requiring parties to adopt a standardised format for making disclosures regarding poll promises. This would include quantification of their intended physical coverage, availability of

financial resources including the possibility of a new tax or scaling down an existing scheme, and the impact on financial sustainability measured against well-defined, quantifiable parameters.

Kumar recalled that EC has already held a consultation with political parties on the proforma and that the issue was sub-judice (before the Supreme Court). "The commission will act as soon as clarity and a decision is available on this subject," he said. Stating that the voter had a right to know if the one making promises in the present was mortgaging future generations, the CEC said a balance had to be found between the two by letting the voter know the picture that emerged on the basis of financial fundamentals.

PRESIDENT: WOMEN'S ROLE IN AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS NOT RECOGNISED, NEED TO CHANGE THIS STORY



If we win, will junk 50% cap on quota, make caste study part of Census: Cong Promises Outmatch Those Of Mandal Outfits



Congress leader Sonia Gandhi with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and KC Venugopal at the CWC meet

Subodh.Ghildiyal
@timesgroup.com

Cong condems UAPA against journalists

Congress on Monday condemned Modi government's raids and invocation of the stringent UAPA on dozens of journalists and writers last week and alleged that the "conspiracy theories" floated by the government exposed its "monumental hypocrisy" in accepting donations and investments from Chinese companies, its inability to control zooming imports from China, and the Prime Minister's "clean chit" to China over denial of Chinese transgressions at the Indian borders. It also tore into the BJP for "inciting violence" against former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, likening the actions to Nathuram Godse's targeting of Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress leaders of the freedom struggle.

"The Modi government has escalated the misuse of the law and the unleashing of central agencies against those who ask questions and oppose the government's actions," a resolution adopted by the CWC said. The resolution also slammed PM Narendra Modi and BJP for having "degraded the political discourse" to a level where official posters were being released to "incite and provoke violence" against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, and alleged these were "similar to the ones commissioned by Nathuram Godse against Mahatma Gandhi and senior Congress leaders of the freedom movement". TNN

ty" to know about the population share and representation, and socio-economic status, of various communities which will aid in undertaking welfare measures. "It is a progressive and powerful step for emancipation of poor people... which will open a new development paradigm," he said.

In its resolution after the meeting in Hyderabad on September 16, the CWC had demanded a caste census and "increasing the existing upper limit for reservations" — indicating a sharpening of stance within weeks.

Rahul Gandhi termed the "unanimous" decision as "historic", telling reporters that "there was not a single dissenting voice in the room". He repeated his argument that caste census was "X-ray of the society

The brainstorming in the CWC saw Manish Tewari remark that the party should ensure it was focused on "backwardness" and not "caste". When Tewari raised concern that 50% ceiling could not be breached, senior lawyer Abhishek Singhvi told the house that the bar was not etched in stone, and that it could be relaxed if backed by data. He underlined that the Supreme Court had vacated the stay on Chhattisgarh's 58% quota law.

To substantiate the point about lack of representation, Rahul sought a show of hands from journalists who were SCs, STs or OBCs, at his press conference. When a sole attendee (cameraman) raised his hand, he said it proved why a census was required.

Congress lying, trying to mislead people, divide society, says BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The BJP on Monday fielded its prominent OBC faces to counter Congress's resolution to undertake caste enumeration as part of the decennial census.

Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Bhupendra Yadav recalled a long history of Congress's opposition to OBC quota as they alleged that the party was yet again "lying and trying to mislead" people.

"I would like to ask Rahul Gandhi that when the recommendations of the



Mandal Commission were made in the 90s, what was the stand taken by his father? He vehemently opposed it in Parliament. They were in power for so long. They never took up this responsibility. This is a tactic by the Congress to hide from the sin they committed in the past few days," Pradhan said.

He said under the guise of caste census, Congress was trying to divide society and make political gains. "From independence to UPA-2, Congress opposed caste census. Rahul Gandhi should tell why Congress did not conduct a caste census when it was in power for decades?" Pradhan asked.

Asserting that Congress's track record was poor on the issue and its guarantees had turned out to be lies, Yadav claimed the OBCs were with BJP. "This is one more lie of Congress. India is touching great heights in the world, so our OBC community is most proud of this. Therefore, I would like to tell Rahul Gandhi to stop the politics of lies, stop seeing false dreams and recognise the reality," Yadav said.

He said the 1950s Kaka Kalekar report on backward classes was suppressed by the Congress.

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TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid renewed hopes of an early conclusion of negotiations for the India-UK free trade agreement, the two countries are exploring the possibility of a visit by UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak later this month. Sunak had met Prime Minister Modi on the margins of the G20 summit and the latter had invited him to visit India again at an early date.

The two leaders had then reviewed the progress of FTA negotiations and expressed hope that the remaining issues could be addressed at the earliest so that a "balanced, mutually beneficial and forward looking free trade



CRICKET DIPLOMACY: Sunak met PM Modi on the margins of the G20 summit in September with the latter inviting him to visit India again

agreement is concluded soon".

Modi's invite to Sunak for a repeat visit was meant for a

more detailed discussion on FTA and other bilateral issues. Diplomatic sources said both sides had zeroed in on October 28 as a possible date for the visit.

If he does come, Sunak may also travel to Lucknow to watch the India-England cricket match on October 29. "Nothing is final yet. We are hoping for more progress in the FTA negotiations before the visit happens," said a source on condition of anonymity. He, however, clarified the visit won't be subject to completion of FTA negotiations.

Both sides don't want to rush through the negotiations even though they have, according to Indian government sources, finalised 24 of the 26 chapters in the proposed agreement.

"Efforts are on to resolve differences on the remaining contentious issues, like mobility of people and import duty concessions on certain items. Even if the agreement is not finalised before the visit, it will help expedite the negotiations," said a source.

Both India and the UK are keen to seal the deal in the next few months, before they go to elections next year. In April 2022, the two countries had set a Diwali deadline for concluding the FTA but the deal could not be finalised in view of differences over certain issues as well as political developments in the UK.

AFT judge pushes for pension payments, shifted to Kolkata

What's going on, asked the SC, seeking a report from the AFT chairman detailing the reasons for transfer of Justice Chaudhary soon after he issued non-bailable arrest warrants and initiated contempt proceedings against officials for repeated infraction of AFT orders

AFT Bar Association, Chandigarh, through advocate K Parmeshwar, who informed the court that Justice Chaudhary repeatedly passed orders, as many as five this year, asking the ministry of defence to implement the 2017 decision for paying up pensions due to some Naib Subedars, the lowest ranked JCOs. Justice Chaudhary is former acting chief justice of Himachal Pradesh HC.

The counsel said the ministry of defence being the administrative ministry for the AFTs, a strange order came to be passed by the AFT, principal bench of Delhi soon after he issued non-bailable arrest warrants and initiated contempt proceedings against officials for repeated infraction of AFT orders for implementation of its 2017 decision on payment of pension.

It was noted that henceforth all matters relating to implementation of AFT orders would require to be filed before the principal bench, which meant the implementation aspect of orders

submitted in a sealed cover report indicating the circumstances leading to transfer of Justice Chaudhary," the bench said, while posting the matter for Friday.

Sunak may be in India to discuss FTA & watch India-England match on Oct 29

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid renewed hopes of an early conclusion of negotiations for the India-UK free trade agreement, the two countries are exploring the possibility of a visit by UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak later this month. Sunak had met Prime Minister Modi on the margins of the G20 summit and the latter had invited him to visit India again at an early date.

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agreement is concluded soon".

Modi's invite to Sunak for a repeat visit was meant for a

Video surfaces of Manipur man in flames, CBI to probe case

Victim In May 4 Clip Said To Be Tribal From Kangpokpi Dist

Prabin Kalita &
N Benson Singh | TNN



Seizures were made on the first day of combing operations in Imphal East. Around 1,200 of 4,000-odd weapons snatched by mobs have been recovered

Guwahati/Imphal: A seven-second video from May 4 purportedly showing a man with a disfigured face and his body aflame has emerged in strife-torn Manipur, touching a raw nerve in a state that is still to heal from the horrors of the violence wrought by mobs and militants for over four months.

Manipur government's security adviser, Kuldip Singh, told reporters on Monday that the burning man in black T-shirt and camouflage trousers had been identified as Laldintha Khongsa (37), alias Lal James, from Paokhongching in Kangpokpi district.

Singh said Laldintha's body was among the victims of the ethnic strife still lying unclaimed in the morgue of Im-

phal's Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences and two other state-run hospitals.

The case is being referred to the CBI. The man was killed on May 4, the same day two women were paraded naked by a mob and the act

was captured in a video that went viral more than two months later," he said.

The video of the tribal woman being paraded naked — one of them was allegedly gang-raped after a mob killed her father and brother —

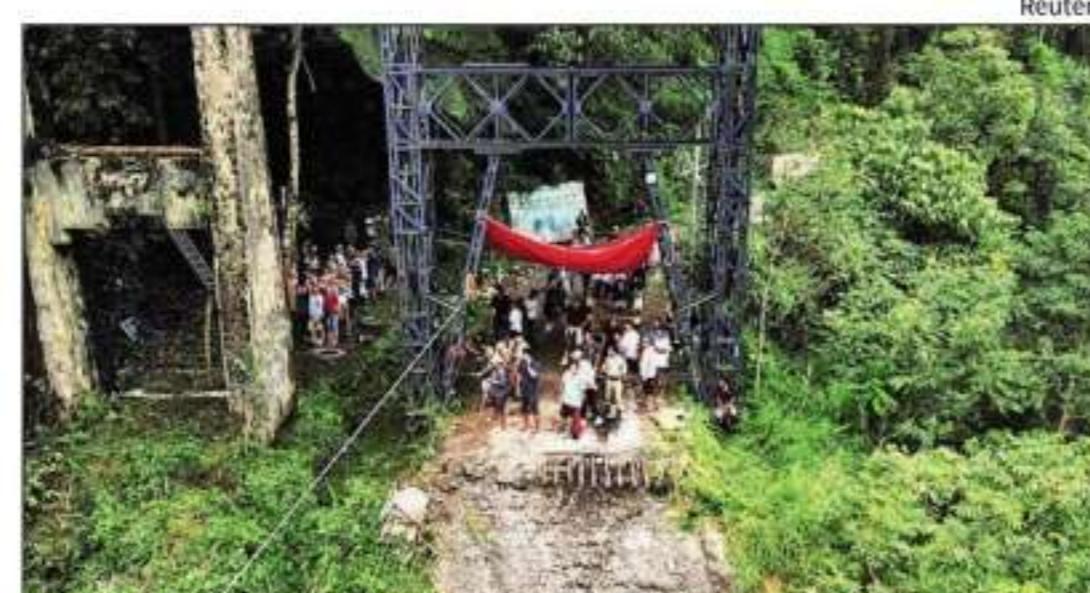
plunged the state into a fresh spiral of violence & mistrust. The emergence of a video purportedly showing a tribal man being immolated over five months ago coincides with security forces recovering a cache of arms looted from state armories during the peak of the ethnic unrest.

Singh said the seizures were made on the first day of combing operations in Imphal East, Churachandpur, Imphal West, Kakching and Thoubal districts. About 1,200 of the 4,000-odd weapons of various types snatched by mobs have been recovered.

On Sunday, the state government issued an order banning processions, rallies, protests, gatherings and all public meetings using loudspeakers in six districts without prior official consent.

Army copters make several sorties in Sikkim, rescue 380 stranded tourists

Tamaghna Banerjee, Nisha Chhetri & Roshan Gupta | TNN



Stranded tourists & locals were brought to safety, from where they could make their way to NJP station or Bagdogra airport for their journey home

Kolkata/Kalimpong/Siliguri: A fleet of Army helicopters made multiple sorties during aerial rescue operation for stranded tourists and locals in Lachen, Lachung, and Chungthang in northern Sikkim on Monday—five days since flash floods in the Teesta river cut off the high-altitude interiors from the rest of the state.

By 5pm, over 380 tourists had been airlifted from Choden, Lachen, and Lachung. They were brought from relief camps to safer areas, from where they could make their way to New Jalpaiguri railway junction or Bagdogra airport in the foothills of Bengal for their journey home.

MI-17 and Chinook helicopters played a crucial role in the rescue. "After struggling with bad weather since the disaster occurred, process of air evacuation of stranded tourists and locals needing medical assistance started from Lachen and Lachung," the Army said.

not charge for their stay during this challenging time.

Among those rescued were Avishhek Mukherjee and his friends from Kolkata, who had been attending a pre-wedding shoot and had become stranded in Lachen. "They were airlifted and are now on their way back home," said Suvona Mondal, Mukherjee's cousin.

On Sunday and Monday, Army chief Gen Manoj Pande, accompanied by senior officers, conducted an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas. TNN

Crisis panel reviews flash flood in Sikkim

New Delhi: The National Crisis Management Committee, under cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba, met on Monday to review the situation in Sikkim even as Centre pledged additional relief funds and deployed six teams of NDRF to assist the administration in relief and rescue operations.

An inter-ministerial central team is already in Sikkim assessing the damage. Centre had announced release of Rs 45 crore last week from the state disaster relief fund and promised for assistance based on the assessment of the central team.

"Bailey bridges should be launched on priority to restore road connectivity where bridges have been washed away," Gauba told the gathering of officials that included representatives from NDRF, IMD, BRO and state government. TNN

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Directorate of Family Welfare
Delhi State Health Mission, GNCT of Delhi

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SC starts detailed study of Naidu case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday took up detailed examination of a petition by former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu, in judicial custody for his alleged involvement in the Rs 371 crore skill development scam, seeking quashing of the FIR as police did not take the mandatory sanction from the government before initiating inquiry against him.

A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi initially thought of sending the matter back to the high court as Naidu's counsel Harish Salve argued that the HC did not consider the argument that for inquiring into any decision taken by a public servant under Prevention of

Corruption Act, sanction from the competent authority has to be taken under Action 17A of the Act. Salve, however, argued that sending the matter back would serve no purpose as the HC has returned a finding that the offence allegedly committed in 2017 predated the insertion of Section 17A in PC Act, which was done in 2018. TNN



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@timesgroup.com**New Delhi:** In a big relief to Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal who was recently disqualified by Lok Sabha Secretariat after his conviction in a criminal case was not stayed by Kerala HC, the Supreme Court on Monday restored his membership to the House by staying the HC order and reviving its earlier order protecting him.

Challenging HC order, senior advocate Kapil Sibal told a bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Sanjay Karol that the first FIR lodged in the case simply said that he had hit people from a rival political party but subsequently it was mentioned that he had hit them with an iron rod. Impressing upon the court that it was a fit case to stay the conviction, Sibal also



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The court, after a hearing, issued notice on Faizal's plea and stayed the HC order. The court also directed revival of its earlier protective order passed on August 22 to pave the way for restoration of his membership during the pendency of the case.

"Issue notice. In the meantime, the operation of the interim order of the HC is stayed. In consequence, the interim order passed on August 22 is made operational," the bench said.

SC on August 22 had said that the HC was not correct in its approach in deciding the case and it

was wrong on the part of the HC to stay conviction solely on the ground that if it was not done then fresh election would be held and exorbitant cost of a parliamentary election will have to be borne by the nation.

"We set aside the impugned order and remand the matter to the HC for reconsideration of the application seeking a suspension of conviction. However, we find that from the date of this order staying his conviction till date, the respondent has continued as a MP and has, in that capacity, discharged all his duties. Since we are remanding the matter for reconsideration, at this stage, it would not be just and proper to create a vacuum, especially since we are requesting the HC to reconsider his application within a period of six weeks," the bench had said.

Go for physical as well as virtual hearings, SC tells info panels

New Delhi: After putting a two week's deadline for the high courts to set up hybrid mode for hearing cases, the Supreme Court on Monday asked the state information commissions to adopt both physical and virtual mode for hearing complaints and appeals under the Right to Information Act.

A bench headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud said providing the option of virtual mode of hearing to persons seeking information under RTI Act 2005 increases access to forums for resolution of grievances. "Access to justice is part of the fundamental right to life and right to information is part of the right to freedom of expression. Hence, it is necessary that all SICs must provide hybrid mode of hearing to all litigants," it said.

The bench asked additional solicitor general K M Naraj to arrange for a meeting between secretary, department of personnel and training, Central Information Commission and all SICs to implement the order of the court for setting up electronic platforms in the SICs for hybrid mode of hearing. TNN

Big win for Isro arm as SC junks Devas plea

New Delhi: In a big setback for the Bengaluru-based space startup, the Supreme Court has dismissed the special leave petition of Devas Multimedia related to the award of \$562.5 million made in its favour by the ICC International Court of Arbitration in 2015, reports Surendra Singh. A Mauritius-based shareholder of Devas had filed the SLP against the Delhi HC's confirmation order setting aside the award.

In his rebuttal, Sibal pointed out an SC ruling is considered valid law and has "retrospective" effect. "The 'henceforth' is a caution to all probe agencies to ensure they furnish written grounds of arrest... law can't be said to be prospective... the arrested petitioners were released by the apex court on the sole ground in that case. Law applies to every agency... not just ED or for PMLA cases," Sibal countered.

Dwelling on the allegations, SG Mehta said the case involves "serious offences" and the probe is still underway. "About Rs 75 crore-odd... investigation is on... I can show the case diary... came from a person staying in China... the purpose is to ensure the stability and integrity of this country is compromised," he said.

Sibal rejected the claims as false. "Not a penny has come from China... the whole thing is bogus," he said.

Not a penny has come from China, NewsClick founder tells Delhi HC

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com



tended the verdict was for offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act probed by the ED, and distinct from UAPA. "Case diaries show we have informed him (Purkayastha) about the grounds for arrest. We have nothing to hide," the SG contended.

In his rebuttal, Sibal pointed out an SC ruling is considered valid law and has "retrospective" effect. "The 'henceforth' is a caution to all probe agencies to ensure they furnish written grounds of arrest... law can't be said to be prospective... the arrested petitioners were released by the apex court on the sole ground in that case. Law applies to every agency... not just ED or for PMLA cases," Sibal countered.

Mehra pointed out that the police was not a party to the SC judgment, which was uploaded on October 4, while NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha was arrested a day before and "oral intimation was the law that time".

However, the SC maintained the action was "as per legal and textual requirements of UAPA" and the accused were "informed" about the grounds of arrest.

After hearing both sides, Justice Tushar Rao Gedela reserved his order on petitions by Purkayastha and NewsClick HR head Amit Chakravarthy challenging their arrests and subsequent seven-day police remand.

Making his point about the SC ruling's "prospective effect" and stressing on "henceforth", Mehta also con-

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Rajiv convict seeks Lanka deportation

Following the footsteps of Nalin and her husband Sriharan – freed convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case – another released convict, Santhan alias T Sudhenthiranraja, has moved the Madras HC seeking deportation to Sri Lanka.

Santhan submitted that since he is a Sri Lankan national, he has been detained in the Special Camp for Foreigners in Tiruchi ever since he was released from prison in November 2022. He wanted to go to Sri Lanka immediately saying his 75-year-old mother, a resident of Jaffna, was seriously ill, his counsel said. TNN

7 of 2 families die in K'taka road accident

Seven persons from two families – including a four-year-old boy – died when their multi-utility vehicle (MUV) collided head-on with an ore-laden truck and was rear-ended by another truck on NH-50 in Karnataka's Vijayanagara district, about 330km from Bengaluru, on Monday evening, reports Basavaraj Maralihalli.

The accident occurred around 4.30pm between Hosapete tunnel and Vyasanakere. The victims – Yuvraj (4), Goni Basappa (65), Kenchappa (80), and Bhagya (32), all from Ukkadakere in Hosapete city, and Bheemalingappa (50), Uma (45), and Anil (30), from mining town Sandur – had visited Kulahalli Goni Basaveshwar temple. TNN

Another twist in Faizal case, SC restores LS membership

AmitAnand.Choudhary
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'Had stepped out to get meds when fight erupted'

Kerala Couple Visiting Daughter Stranded In Israel

Vivek.Narayanan
@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Vijayakumar, 64, and his wife Usha Devi, 59, are in a rare mix of relief and tension. Relief because they are with their daughter; tension because they find themselves in a war zone. The couple from Thiruvananthapuram had travelled to Israel last month to spend time with their daughter Anagha, who is pursuing her PhD at Bar Ilan University, Tel Aviv and are now stuck in a ragging war after Palestinian militant groups unleashed aerial attacks on Israel on Saturday.

Their neighbourhood was relatively peaceful, and Vijayakumar, who has high blood pressure and a prostate problem, stepped out with his wife and Anagha's classmate Manoj Shammugadaram on Monday to buy medicines. "We were at a bus stop when sirens went off," Vijayakumar told TOI over phone from a bomb shelter in Tel Aviv. They ran into an apartment complex, but the gates were closed. "There was nobody there and we waited in the corridor for a while before going back to the University where we were living with our daughter," said Usha. "The university gates were also closed, and the security personnel had moved into the bomb shelter. We called the security and waited outside. We



A relative of an Israeli missing since the Hamas attack near Gaza border is overcome by emotion during a press conference in Ramat Gan, Israel, Sunday

could hear explosions. Those were some tense moments."

The couple were supposed to return to India on Sunday. Since Air India cancelled its flights, they got stuck in Israel. "Here the roads are empty. We have seen such attacks on television, this is the first time we are seeing it in real life. Our daughter is breaking down thinking about our safety," said Usha Rani.

Vijayakumar said he is in need of medicines. "Unlike in India, here it's difficult to get medicines. When I called the Indian embassy here, the response was poor as they themselves are in bunkers. It would be great if some Indian association in Israel gets me medicines," said Vijayakumar. Manoj Shammugadaram, who shares the shel-

ter space with Anagha's family, said the neighbourhood was silent till Sunday, the attacks started on Monday. "We were all shaken by what has been happening since then," he said.

Eswaran Lakshmanan from Palani in Tamil Nadu, who is doing his post-doctoral fellowship in a university in Kiryat Oino in Tel Aviv, told TOI how he saw missiles from their balcony. "I have been here for the past four years. In 2021, there was a similar situation. But it came under control in a week. Now I am in a bomb shelter," he said. "We felt vibrations of explosions. Our Israeli professors call us and check about our condition regularly. My parents want me to return, but I am just assessing the situation," he said.

Pro-Palestine hackers target India, pro-India groups strike back

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Israelis evacuate a site struck by a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip, in Ashkelon, on Monday

Sec, which allegedly compromised the infrastructure of Gaza-based ISP AlfaNet.

One Palestinian group, which goes by the name "Ghosts of Palestine", even invited hackers from other countries to attack the infrastructure of Israel and its allies, including India. Several other groups, including one called "Libyan Ghosts", have joined them, according to their Telegram channel.

As the Indian security establishment went on alert in the wake of the Hamas attack, cyber units upped their guard, too. The cyber wing of DRDO and CERT-IN have been tasked with thwarting attacks, officials said.

AMU students booked for rally in support of Palestine

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Agra: An FIR was registered against several students of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) for taking out a march on the campus on Sunday evening in support of Palestine and against Israel after the latter launched an offensive against Palestinians in retaliation to Saturday's missile attacks by Hamas militants that has left more than 1,300 people dead so far.

The protesting students raised slogans and carried posters and banners that read "We stand with Palestine", "AMU stands with Palestine", etc. The FIR has named five protesters while maintaining that many who are yet to be identified have been booked too.

Aligarh police said the students were booked under sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups), 188 (deliberate disobedience of an order duly promulgated by a public servant), 505 (publishing or circulating any statement containing rumor) of the IPC at the Civil Lines police station on Monday.

SP (city) Mirgank Shekhar Pathak said, "Several people held a protest march without permission and raised inflammatory slogans. A case under relevant sections of the IPC has been registered. We are probing the matter and action will be taken accordingly."



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

Sd/- (Narayanan Bhattadri K.P.)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Kerala Cong leader upset with party line on Hamas hit

Subodh Ghildiyal &
Swati Mathur | TNN



The rubble of the Yassin Mosque, destroyed in an Israeli airstrike, is seen at Shati refugee camp in Gaza City early Monday

New Delhi: Congress on Monday came under pressure from its Kerala leader Ramesh Chennithala that it take a line on the Israel-Palestine conflict that underlines the "two state" option, as he expressed resentment that the party had not reflected its traditional stance, endorsing Palestine in its statement earlier.

On Sunday, Congress had slammed the "brutal attacks" on Israel and called for a dialogue, even as it endorsed the legitimate aspirations of the people of Palestine. The CWC resolution did not mention the brutality against Israeli citizens, making party's stand contrast clearly with PM Narendra Modi's unequivocal condemnation of "terrorist" attack by Hamas.

Chennithala is learnt to

have complained that India under Indira Gandhi was very close to the Palestine Liberation Organisation of Yasser Arafat, and the proximity appeared diluted by the statement issued on Sunday. He felt that the party while condemning the attacks on Israel, could have done a balancing job for Palestine.

However, sources said a quick discussion ensued to settle the matter. Senior Ker-

ala MP Shashi Tharoor and Jairam Ramesh are learnt to have said the proximity to Palestine under the PLO did exist, and the party was still supportive of the Palestine cause. But Hamas, as a militant outfit, could not be put on a par with PLO, and that was the only difference now.

As the last paragraph of a two-page resolution, CWC said, "The CWC expresses its dismay and anguish on the war that has broken out in the Middle East where over a thousand people have been killed in the last two days. The CWC reiterates its long-standing support for the rights of the Palestinian people to land, self-government and to live with dignity and respect. The CWC calls for an immediate ceasefire and for negotiations to begin on all outstanding issues including the imperative issues that have given rise to the present conflict."

CPM tempers tone after Baby's 'Israel a terrorist state' remark

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kozhikode/Thiruvananthapuram: The CPM secretariat in Kerala appealed to the Union government on

Monday to take measures to ensure the safety of Malaysians currently trapped in Israel, issuing a statement with a more tempered tone after the party's politburo member MA Baby sparked controversy by referring to the West Asian nation as a terrorist state the day before.

The statement focused primarily on human rights and the safety of Malaysians, pointing out that the ongoing situation was exacerbated by Israel's annexation of Palestinian territories and the killing of Palestinian civilians. "Such issues should

be settled in democratic ways. There should be interventions in this direction," CPM said.

The party highlighted the importance of protecting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people by implementing the UNSC dual-state resolution.

In response to Baby's statement, BJP criticised CPM for what it perceived as minority appeasement and vote-bank politics. "He (Baby) said Hamas hit out because they were left with no other option. But this is part of the religious appeasement of CPM for a few votes," BJP state president K Surendran said, while drawing parallels between the attack on Israel and the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack.

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PhD ADMISSION

(January 2024 Session)

Applications are invited from prospective candidates for admission to the PhD Program at IISER Mohali. Applications are invited in the areas of Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Earth & Environmental Sciences and Humanities & Social Sciences for the session beginning in January 2024. Candidates interested in pursuing research in interdisciplinary areas are also encouraged to apply.

Eligibility Criteria, Other details and Application procedure: The details of eligibility criteria, online application form and application procedure are available at www.iisermohali.ac.in

Last date: The online application facility will be open till October 29, 2023 (Sunday).

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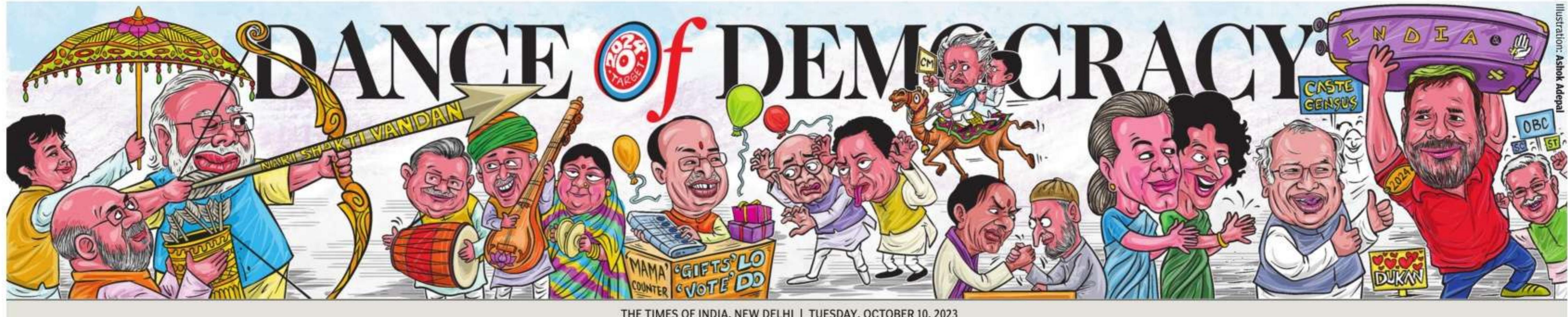
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THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023

BJP face book grows in Raj, Cong presses like for Gehlot

Saffron Party Ropes In MPs, Union Ministers To Bat In Polls

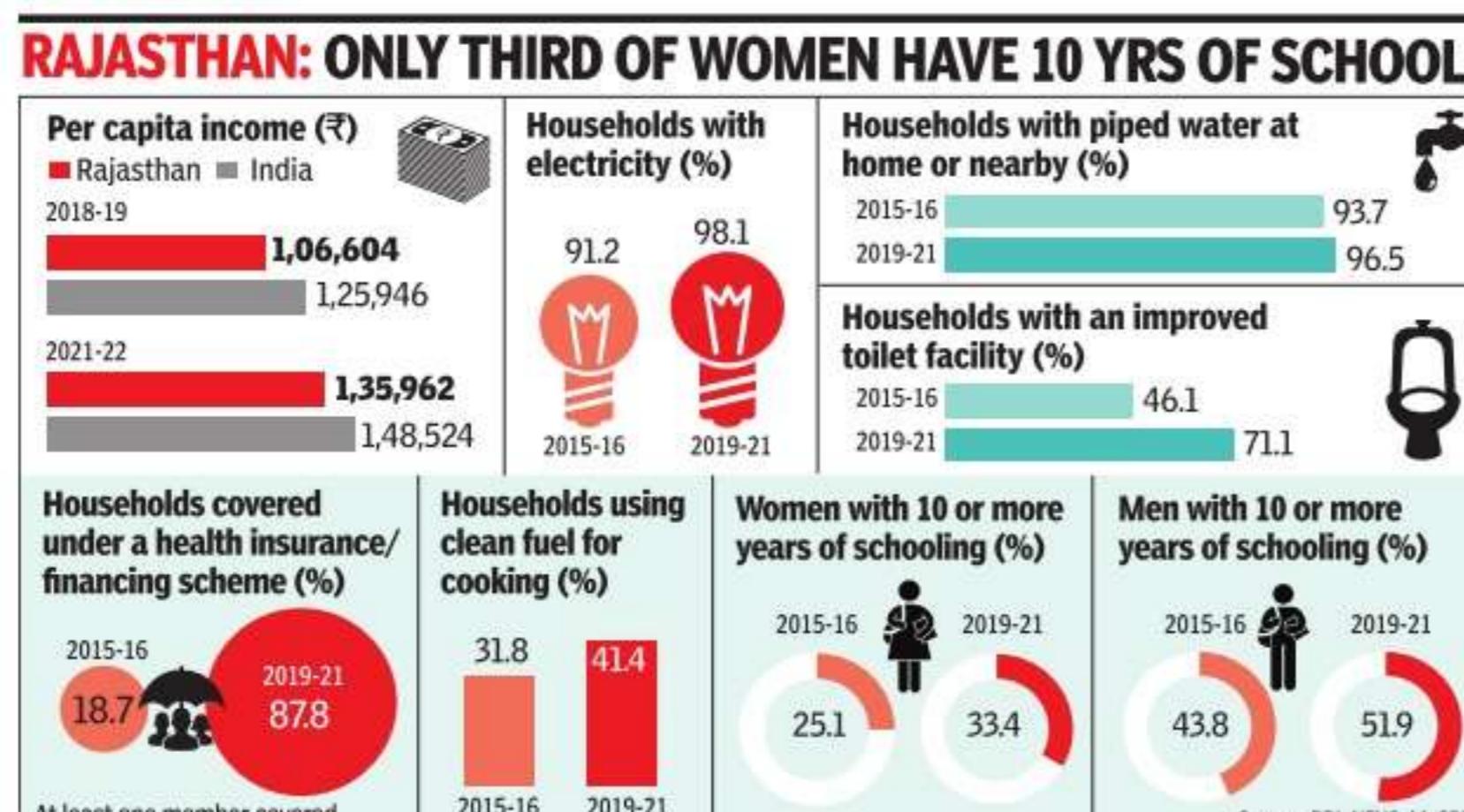
Bhanupratap.Singh
@timesgroup.com

Jaipur: Rajasthan is poised for an exciting poll battle with Congress and BJP adopting new strategies for the November 23 assembly elections. While BJP seems to be heading into the state polls without two-term CM Vasundhara Raje as its face, Congress has thrown its weight behind incumbent CM Ashok Gehlot.

Raje has been BJP's CM candidate in every election since 2008, but now, Union ministers like Gajendra Singh Shekhwat and Arjun Ram Meghwal, MPs like Diya Kumari and Kirori Lal Meena, and state leaders like CP Joshi and Rajendra Rathore are all at the forefront.

In Congress, Gehlot and Sachin Pilot have an equal stature in the 2018 election. But for the past more than a month Gehlot alone has been on Congress banners and posters across Rajasthan. Pilot has confined himself to his assembly constituency Tonk, while hardly any hoarding or advertisement shows central leaders like Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, or even state leaders like PCC chief Govind Singh Datasra.

For Congress in Rajasthan, the poll strategy seems centred around Gehlot and his government's social welfare



schemes. Every morning, Rajasthan has been waking up to front page ads with Gehlot's full-length pictures as well as special pages dedicated to his government's social welfare schemes in the Hindi papers. In their public rallies, Rahul and Kharge have sought votes for Congress while praising the Gehlot government's schemes. As an election observer put it, the grand old party now wants to play completely on Gehlot - be it victory or defeat.

"Congress in Rajasthan is fighting not just its political opponents but also the belief that the voters here dismiss the party in government. For

three decades, BJP has been replacing Congress every five years," said a party veteran. In BJP newfaces are being brought to state politics, while Raje loyalists are being sidelined. Rajasmand MP Diya Kumari, who belongs to Jaipur's erstwhile royal family and got greater importance at PM Narendra Modi's latest public rallies, has been declared party candidate from Jaipur's Vidhyadhar Nagar seat, which is a BJP bastion. Late vice-president and former CM Bhairon Singh Shekhwat's son-in-law Narpat Singh Rajvi, who is a sitting MLA from Vidhyadhar Nagar, has found no mention in

BJP's first list of candidates. Raje loyalist Rajpal Singh Shekhwat has been replaced by MP Rajyavardhan Rathore on Jaipur's Jhotwara seat, another BJP stronghold. Similarly, Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal has been getting a greater say in state politics. Senior MLA Kailash Meghwal, an ex-speaker and Raje loyalist, was suspended when he spoke against the Union minister. Party sources say Arjun Ram and Gajendra Singh Shekhwat could also be fielded in the assembly polls. PM Narendra Modi has already urged people to vote for the party symbol, thereby negating individual influences".

Will keeping Raje at bay prove costly for BJP?

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Jaipur: The Rajasthan BJP is campaigning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its face, expecting to cut through CM Ashok Gehlot's web of social welfare packages. While two-term CM Vasundhara Raje was always seen as BJP's front runner earlier, the party argues that it never projected a CM face before the elections. However, leaders privately concede that the absence of a local figure in a close race against Gehlot can be costly.

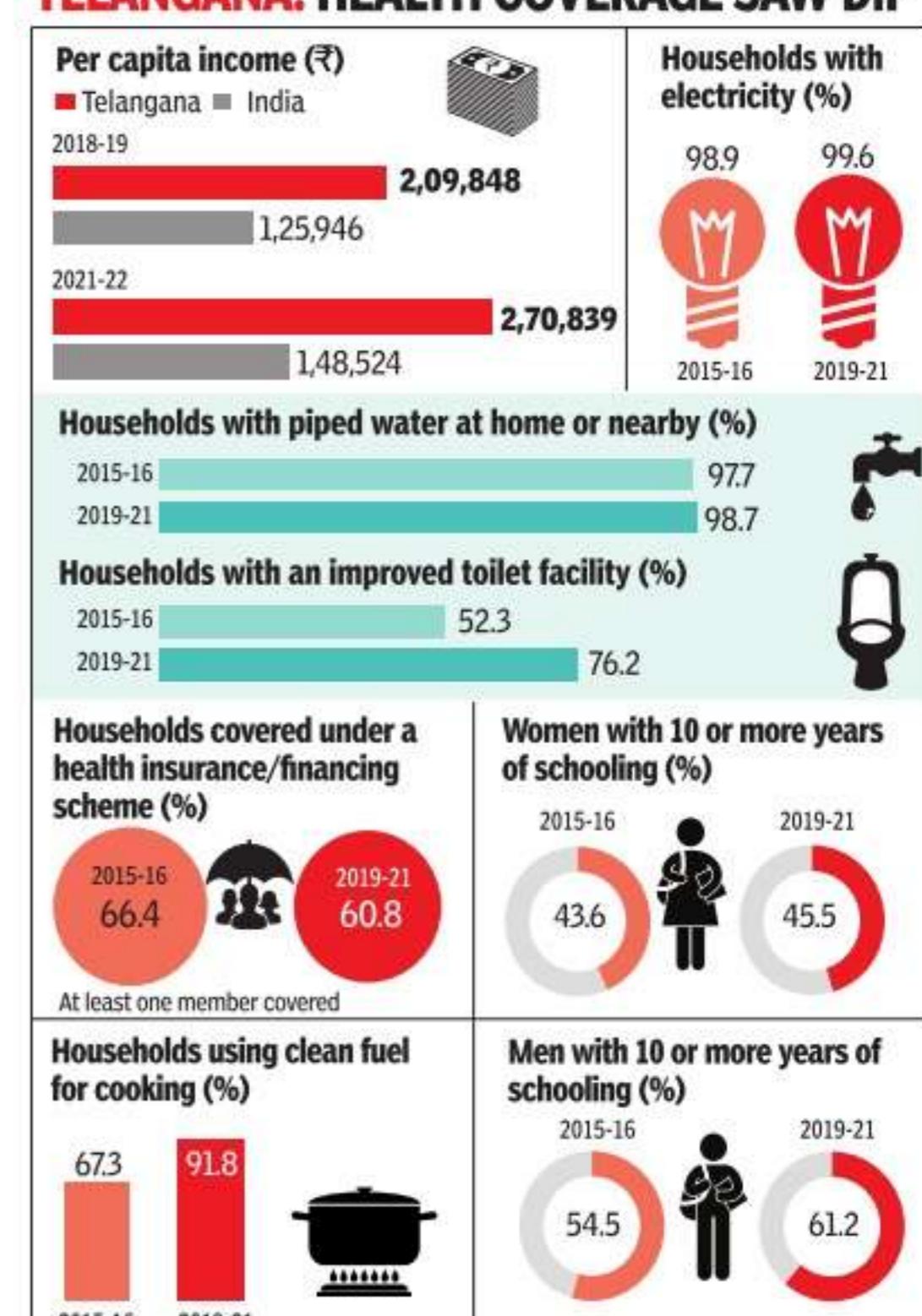
This time, BJP has given regional satraps like Union ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhwat and Arjun Ram Meghwal, leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore, and former state president Satish Poonia an opportunity to test the waters. BJP's poll campaign in the state is being run by central leaders like party president JP Nadda, party national secretary BL Santhosh, and Union minister Pralhad Joshi, while PM Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah oversee everything. Modi reminding voters that "Lotus is our candidate" on his visits to Rajasthan last month has put an end to the possibility of the party projecting a CM face.

Cong, BJP eye CM hat, KCR aims for hat-trick

BRS First Party With Candidate List, Manifesto

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TELANGANA: HEALTH COVERAGE SAW DIP



Analysts say the key question in this election is whether KCR should be given another term after being in office for two consecutive terms. The chief minister is set to hit the road from October 15, holding multiple public meetings across the state

forms. KCR will release both on October 15. While Congress had released its six assurances after the Congress Working Committee meeting on September 17 and 18, it is yet to declare its manifesto.

Political analyst Professor K Nagashewar predicts an intense political battle marked by allegations and counter-allegations. "Given the high stakes, the state will likely be flooded with money and liquor for the next 50 days," he said. "The possibility of defections and sabotage is also high, especially among candidates who failed to secure tickets."

Election Commission officials have said they will keep a hawk's eye on parties' attempts to lure voters.

While BRS is first off the blocks by announcing candidates for 115 of the 119 constituencies, the opposition Congress and BJP are holding their cards close to their chests.

Congress faces a problem of plenty - many claimants for each seat - and BJP too has seen an unending tug-of-war among its own leaders.

During his recent visit to Telangana, BJP national general secretary B L Santhosh had told many of its reluctant senior leaders, including the four sitting Lok Sabha MPs, to fight the assembly elections.

The BRS is hoping for the first-mover advantage by also being the first to release its manifesto and give out B-

forms. KCR will release both on October 15. While Congress had released its six assurances after the Congress Working Committee meeting on September 17 and 18, it is yet to declare its manifesto.

Analysts say the key question in this election is whether KCR should be given another term after being in office for two consecutive terms. The chief minister is set to hit the road from October 15, holding multiple public meetings across the state

will bring many of the upset voters back into the fold.

BJP leader Marri Shashidar Reddy claims a silent waiver for the party in Telangana, while Congress leader G Niranjan says his party is the only alternative. BRS leader KT Rama Rao is hopeful of a third term on the treasury benches.

Political strategist Errabelli Rajanikanth says that a lot will depend on whether the battle for Telangana is triangular or bipolar. The division of anti-incumbency votes between Congress and BJP will play a key role in how the BRS performs when the results are declared on December 3.

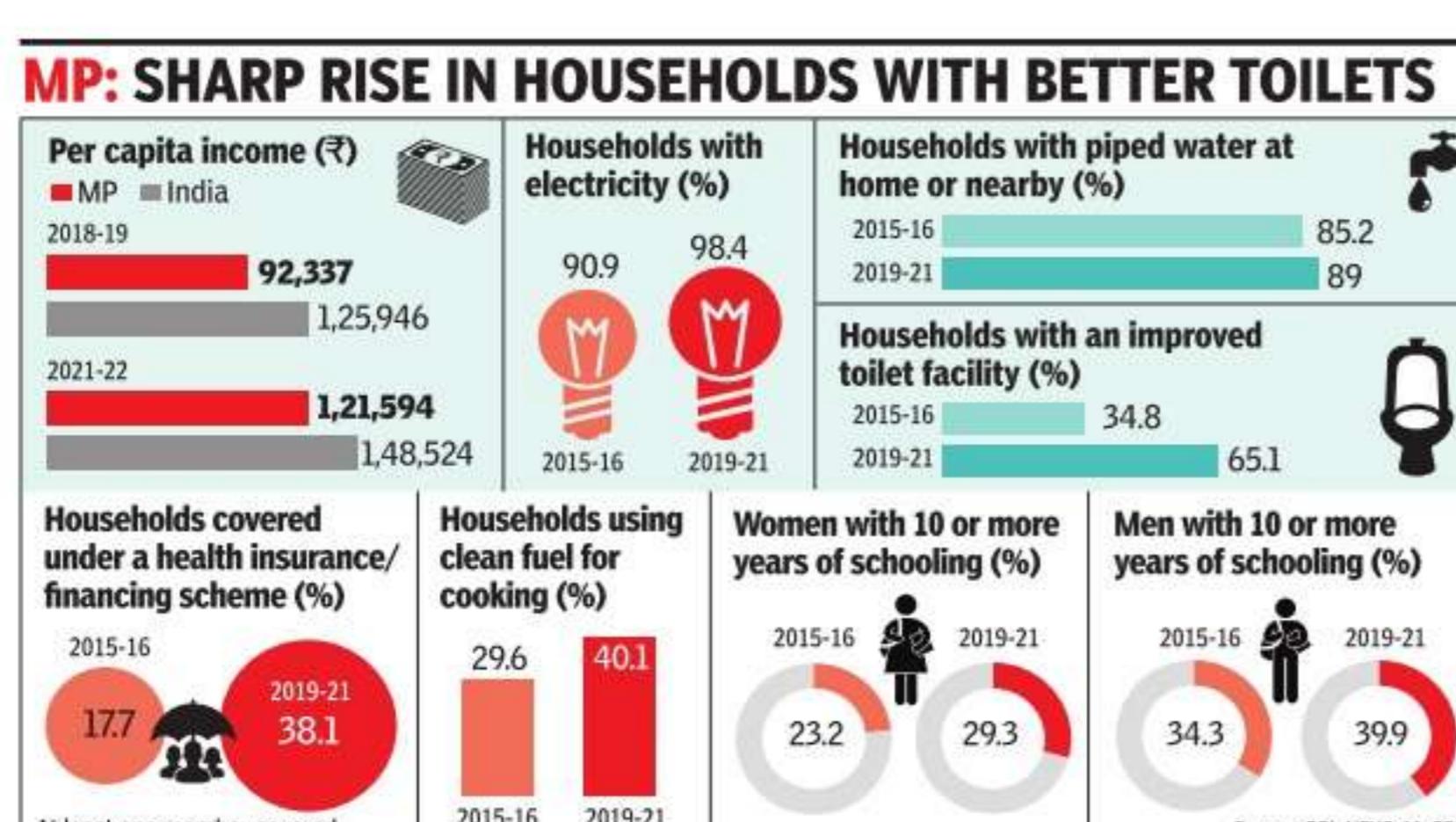
Here, Congress hopes Kamal will bloom

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Bhopal: For the first time in at least two decades, BJP is going into an assembly election in Madhya Pradesh without a chief ministerial face. Ten months before the 2003 polls, it had named Uma Bharti to take on the Congress government under Digvijaya Singh. In later elections, it projected incumbent CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan as its face, but the 2018 loss may have made it rethink its strategy.

In August, when Union home minister Amit Shah was asked if Chouhan would be the BJP's CM face again, he said, "It is our party's job and the party will decide." Shah brought senior leaders from New Delhi, including Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar, Bhupender Yadav and Ashwini Vaishnaw, for election management in MP.

The party's second list of candidates had seven MPs, including three Union ministers - Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Singh Patel and



Faggan Singh Kulaste - and BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya. At least four of them are potential CM faces.

Then, there is Union aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, without whom BJP wouldn't have formed the government in 2020. He may well be fielded in the assembly polls and is also a strong con-

tender for the top post. Sources in BJP said the central leadership has fielded big leaders to counter anti-incumbency, hoping they will not only win their seats but also influence at least 10-15 adjoining assembly segments. Who will be chief minister depends on the election results and the work put in by each of the heavyweights.

However, Chouhan is not one to step back. At a rally in tribal-dominated Dindori last Sunday, he said, "I want to ask you, am I running a good government or a bad government... Should Mama (his popular name) become chief minister or not?" Chouhan's comments threw the party off

guard but the state leadership remained tight-lipped.

With the BJP central leadership keeping mum over the chief minister question, it's a free-for-all now.

On October 5, Vijayvargiya said, "I have not come to Indore-1 seat just to become an MLA. I will be given a bigger responsibility by the party."

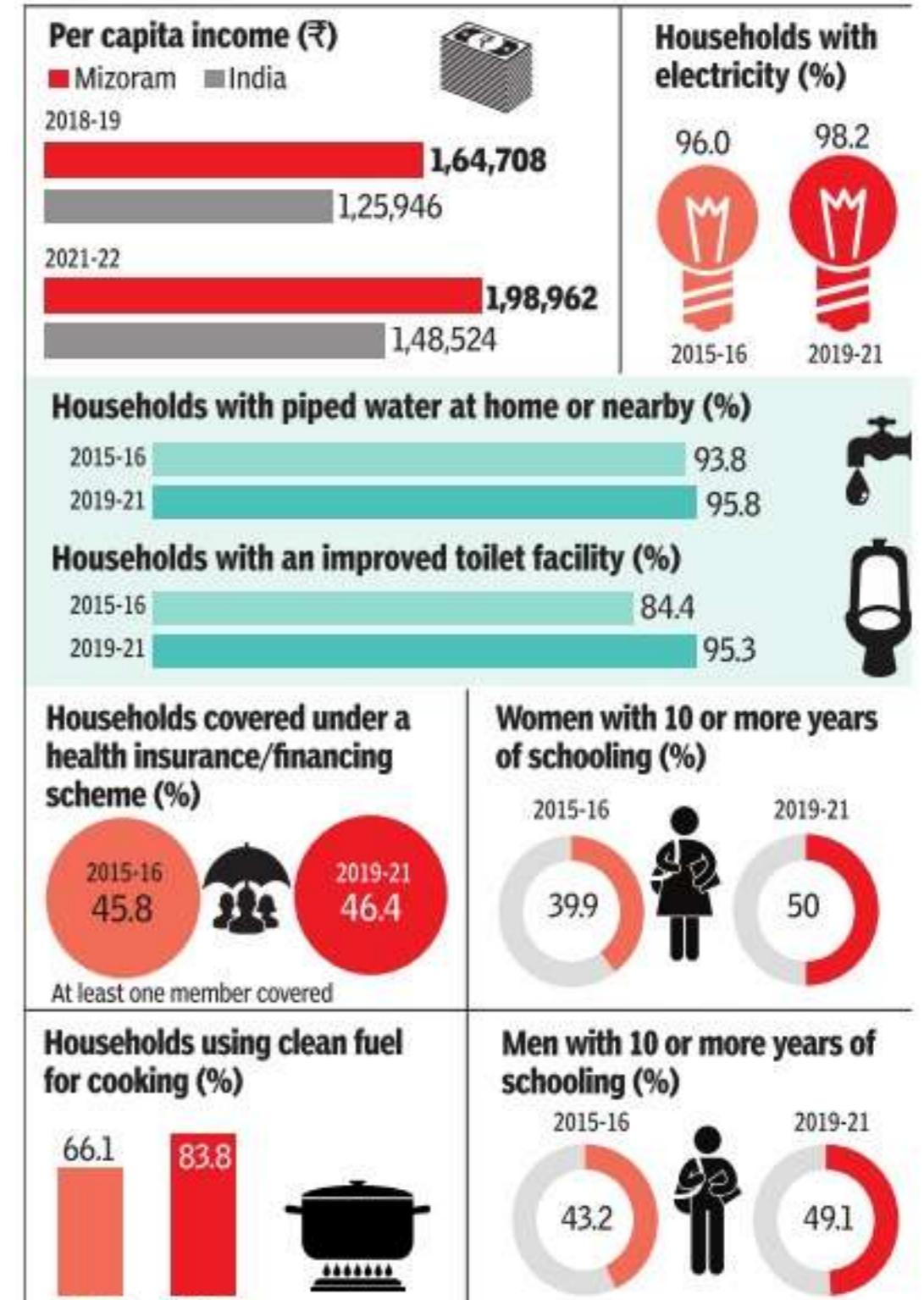
PWD minister and six-time MLA from Rehli constituency in Sagar, Gopal Bhargava, said, "BJP is fighting the election without a CM face, so I decided to contest."

In a way, the 2023 assembly election is a reversal of roles for Congress and BJP. Congress, which used to be a faction-ridden party that would not name its CM face before an election, seems united behind Kamal Nath this time. AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala has more than once said Nath is the party's CM face. Stalwarts like Digvijaya Singh, Suresh Pachauri, Arun Yadav and Kantilal Bhuria have publicly accepted Nath as their leader.

As ally MNF seeks to milk Manipur, BJP is worried

Prabin.Kalita@timesgroup.com

MIZORAM: WOMEN AHEAD ON SCHOOLING



Zoramthanga government had been facing anti-incumbency until the unrest erupted in Manipur in May.

In its seventh attempt, BJP is hoping to do better in the Christian-majority state that has over 8.5 lakh voters, more than half of whom are women.

While voting for all 40 assembly seats in Mizoram will take place on November 7, MNF and the opposition Congress have expressed strong objection to the Election Commission over counting of votes on December 3, a Sunday and a sacred day for Christians.

BJP guns for Baghel with its heavy artillery

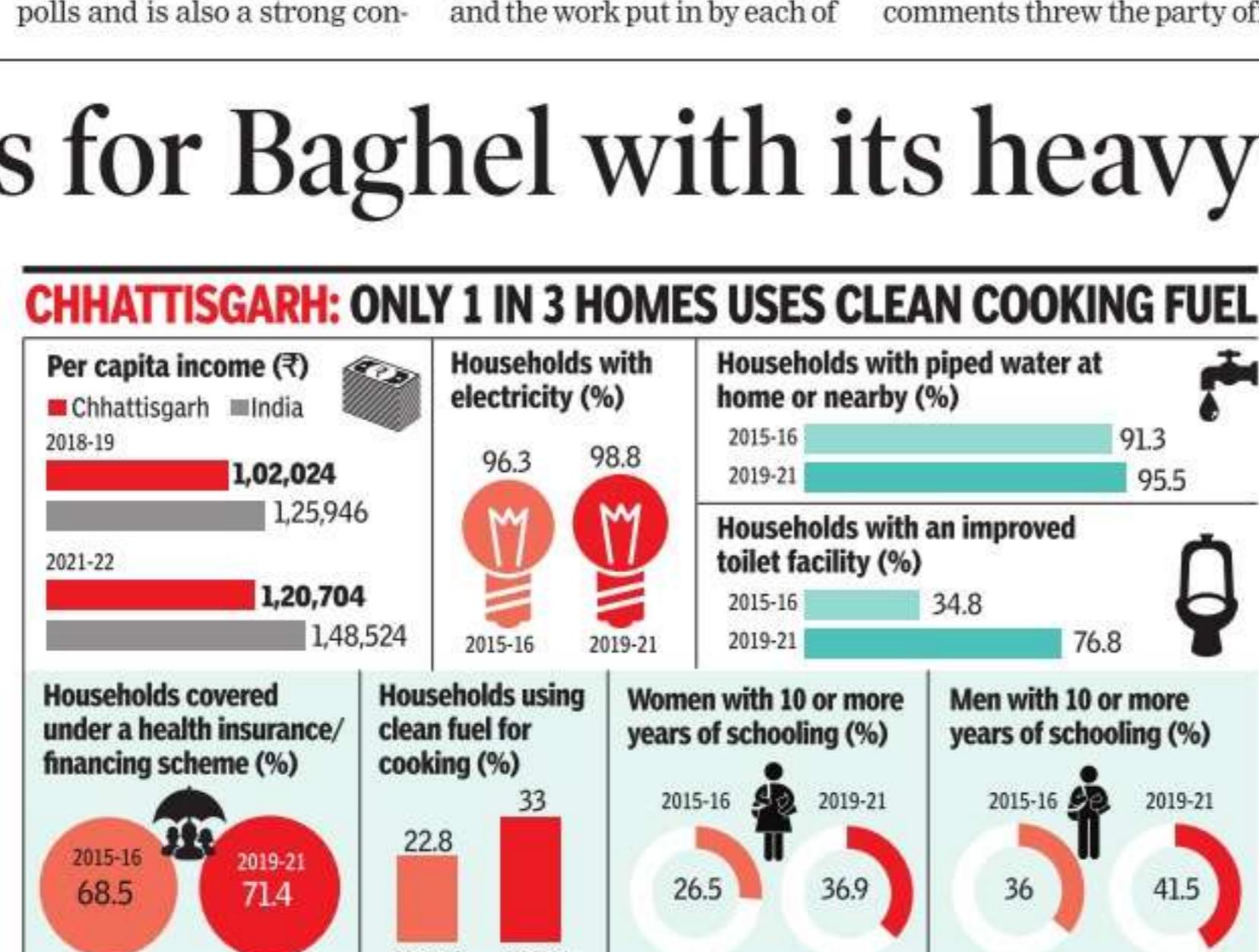
Partha.Behera
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Raipur: The goals are different - fighting anti-incumbency in Madhya Pradesh and regaining Chhattisgarh - but the tactic is the same. Instead of projecting a chief ministerial face in Chhattisgarh, BJP is fielding several heavyweights, including MPs, who may be potential names for the top post.

Congress, on the other hand, is very clear that chief minister Bhupesh Baghel is its obvious choice for a second term.

BJP's second list of candidates for the Chhattisgarh assembly polls, released on Monday, retains many senior leaders - including former CM Raman Singh - and names three MPs, including a Union minister, mirroring the pattern it has adopted in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh.

BJP vice-president and three-time chief minister Ram Singh has been asked to seek re-election from his home



constituency of Rajnandgaon. He is widely seen as the most likely CM face, but BJP isn't projecting him as such.

Among the heavyweights fielded are state BJP president Arun Sao, who is the Bilaspur MP, Union MoS for tribal affairs Renuka Singh,

and former Union minister Vishnu Deo Sai.

Sao has been fielded from Lormi, Renuka Singh will contest the Bharatpur-Sonhat (ST) seat and Sai, a former state BJP chief, will contest from Kunkuri (ST) constituency.

In the first list, BJP has sprung a surprise by naming Vijay Baghel, the Durg MP, as

the saffron candidate in Patan, his uncle and chief minister Bhupesh Baghel's home constituency. Bhupesh Baghel is a five-term MLA from Patan, and has been defeated there only once - by Vijay Baghel - in 2008.

Another heavyweight and potential CM face in the first list is senior tribal leader Ram Baghel - in 2008.

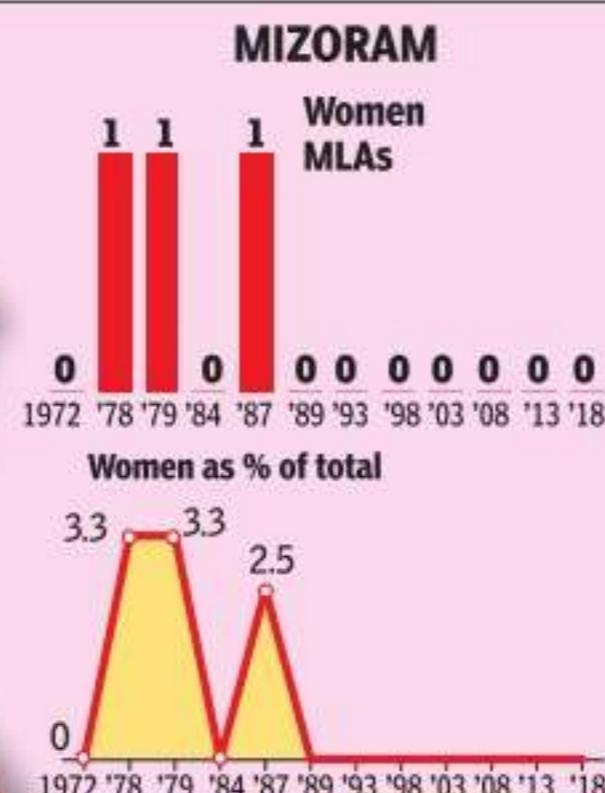
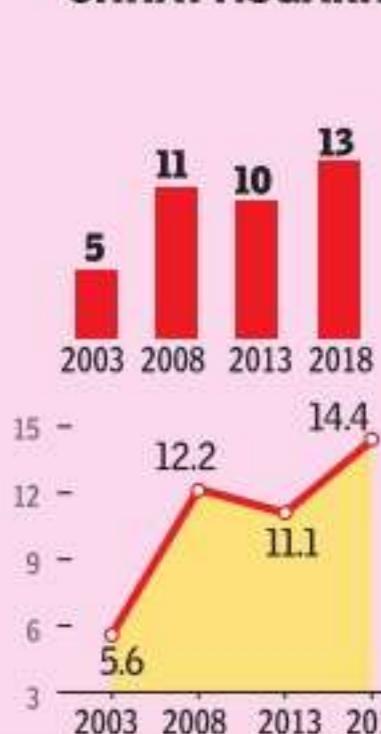
Another heavyweight and potential CM face in the first list is senior tribal leader Ram Baghel - in 2008.

Baghel is expected to seek re-election from his traditional bastion, Patan, in Durg district.

Political analysts say the

MIZORAM HAS NOT ELECTED A SINGLE WOMAN MLA IN PAST 7 POLLS

In the two elections held so far in Telangana, women's representation did not touch the 10% mark. But in Rajasthan, women have made up more than 10% of the state assembly in the past three polls. In 2018, Chhattisgarh saw the highest proportion of women MLAs - a little over 14%. But Mizoram has sent a woman representative to its legislative assembly only thrice since its first election in 1972 - in 1978, 1979 and 1987.

**RAJASTHAN****MADHYA PRADESH****CHHATTISGARH****TELANGANA**

The Farm Factor: How Will Kisans Vote?

That a big majority of voters in MP, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Telangana are farmers is not news. What's interesting is how the interplay between erratic rainfall distribution and govt support schemes will influence rural voting patterns. TOI harvests the key positives and negatives for each incumbent

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Much attention will be lavished on caste and community voting intentions in these state polls, very little on boring stuff like agriculture. Yet in MP, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Telangana, farmers are key election influencers.

The farm factor, at the base level, comes from the share of population that works in agriculture — 72.4% in MP, 70% in Chhattisgarh, 62% in Rajasthan and 60% in Telangana. Farmers are the majority of voters in every state, just as they are in India as a whole. And here's the problem for whoever's in office and whoever aspires to be in office — all these farmers produce very little output. The share of agriculture in GSDP (gross state domestic product) — 36.3% in MP, 32% in Chhattisgarh, 24% in Rajasthan and 21% in Telangana — is much lower than the share of farmers in population.

So, a lot of voters contend with low, stagnating incomes, depend heavily on government support and, given the inherent uncertainty of weather-dependent farming, can quickly move from sort-of ok situations to despair. That's how the farm fac-

tor plays out broadly. But it shape-shifts from state to state. The first point of difference is that voters in Telangana are relatively better off than those in the other three. Annual per capita income is Rs 1.3 lakh in Chhattisgarh, Rs 1.4 lakh in MP and Rs 1.6 lakh in Rajasthan. Only states like UP, Bihar, Jharkhand are poorer than these three in per capita terms. Telangana, at Rs 3.1 lakh annual per capita income, ranks high among India's states.

The second set of variations in the farm factor come from regional crop-wise differences as well as impact or the lack thereof of state-specific government support schemes. Here's a snapshot of how the good and bad news in agriculture will play out in the four states.

■ **MP:** High farm output and steady farmer income were major vote-catchers for Shivraj Singh Chouhan. This time looks different. Farm output growth has slowed. And erratic monsoon has meant a dry August and early September heavy rains, severely affecting many crops, including soybean, cotton and pulse. Take soybean. It's cultivated on 55-60 lakh hectares. MP contributes around 50% of the national soybean out-



AS GOVERNMENTS SOW, SO SHALL THEY REAP

put. That gives an idea of how potentially deep farmer disaffection may be running. Crop losses are supposed to be covered by crop insurance. But payout happens only after surveys, which takes time. Last kharif and rabi season crop insurance money was released just a few days back. This year's losses are hitting kisans as polls loom. Congress says farmer

suicides are up and farmer incomes are down. BJP has its work cut out, more so because by fielding Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar it may have given Congress an easy target.

■ **Chhattisgarh:** Bhupesh Baghel is hoping to ride on what Congress claims is the success of his paddy procurement scheme. Baghel swept to office in 2018 on the back of

a Rs 2,500 per quintal procurement price promise for paddy. He kept his promise. And added two schemes. One that gave Rs 9,000 per acre per annum to all farmers owning land in the state. And another procured cow dung and cow urine from farmers at a set price. BJP reportedly has paid close attention to the second scheme, as it's straight out of its own playbook.

Chhattisgarh, unlike large parts of MP, received more evenly distributed rain. And daddy's sowing season started a few weeks back. So, the monsoon is not playing as much of a spoilsport here. BJP, of course, is contesting Congress' claims. Piyush Goyal, among others, have challenged Baghel. Modi has promised "procurement for every grain". But Baghel, so far, looks to be managing the farm factor.

■ **Rajasthan:** As a desert state where monsoon arrives late and departs early, Rajasthan always struggles with farm production. Ashok Gehlot faces the same problem as Vasundhara Raje did — low growth in farm output; CAGR (Compound annual growth rate) over the last decade is only 2.7%. Groundwater levels are falling, and production is skewed towards seven crops under MSP: wheat, mustard, gram, groundnut, moong and soybean. Farm economists say MSP must be given to a wider range of crops to encourage farmers to diversify, because currently overproduction of the seven MSP crops is a major problem. Farmers complain, as they did during BJP's rule, of rising input and labour costs and stagnating output prices.

Warehousing and cold storage facilities remain as patchily available under Congress as they were under BJP. Rajasthan farmers aren't any happier with Congress than they were with BJP. Gehlot has a tough job.

■ **Telangana:** Kisanas have been in KCR's focus since the state was born in 2014. CAGR of farm output from 2014-15 to 2022-23 is a healthy 14%. KCR also started the DBT scheme, Rythu Bandhu, that's supposed to have been a model for Modi's PM-KISAN. The Telangana scheme gives Rs 5,000 per acre twice a year to farmers. KCR claims paddy — the state is second largest supplier of paddy to FCI — and cotton as success stories. But all's not well with Telangana's farmers. KCR's government doesn't implement the Central crop insurance scheme. Had the state's disaster relief funds been released quickly when erratic weather affected production, this wouldn't have been a big issue. But that didn't happen until this year, the election year, when crop losses due to heavy March rainfall were quickly reimbursed. How the crop insurance issue will play out is a thing to watch out for. As will be the tenant farmer issue. KCR gave ten-

ant farmers formal recognition that allowed them to get benefits like bank credit. But this process has happened only once, in 2015-16. Many tenant farmers are as of now left out of the scheme. KCR must work on the farm factor.



Reporting by Meenakshi Sharma from Indore, Amarjeet Singh from Bhopal, Joseph John from Raipur, Srikranta Tripathy from Jaipur and Sribala Vadlapatla from Hyderabad

For old guard, a make-or-break battle in Raj, MP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



New Delhi: As Congress and BJP face off in a direct contest in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the state leaderships on both sides face high-stakes make-or-break battles.

For Congress, the spotlight will be on the old guard of Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh in MP and Ashok Gehlot in Rajasthan. With GenNext knocking on the doors, the septuagenarians are vying for a final shot at glory as state satraps. In contrast, BJP satraps appear to be faced with a shrinking clout in the party's scheme of things. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan is walking a tightrope in Madhya Pradesh despite four terms while former CMs Vasundhara Raje (Rajasthan) and Raman Singh (Chhattisgarh) face a tough road to reclaim their glory.

Congress' return to state politics is ruled out. But a Congress victory would entrench his status as the lubricant in the party's MP machine, besides paving the way for his MLA son Jaivardhan Singh's further ascendance in state politics.

In Rajasthan, Gehlot has been battling a challenge from Sachin Pilot. Through his political wiles and public support, he has earned another chance and is going for glory on the wings of the famed resilience he exhibited to save his government during the rebellion of 2020. Aware that history was the biggest obstacle in his bid for a successive term, the "jadugar" has reinvented the game. He made a mountain out of the 2022 state budget, unveiled rights-based welfare schemes, announced massive restructuring of districts and has now capped the spree with a caste census.

The soft-spoken but cunning politician has been on a year-long statewide campaign to woo voters, reconnecting through rural Olympics, budget campaigns, implementation workshops on welfare schemes and cash transfers. He has never tried this hard for a re-election and is also banking on "infighting" in BJP to beat history.

Scindia's defection, going by the party's claim, has not weakened Congress in his

BEFORE 2024 BOUT, GRAND OLD PARTY LOOKS FOR CONFIDENCE BOOST

In 'social justice' and welfarism, Cong eyes its own double engine

Subodh.Ghildiyal
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New Delhi: Congress is banking on undivided Madhya Pradesh that it swept in 2018 assembly polls for an encore, optimistic that a victory here would give it the push it desperately needs to challenge BJP in 2024 Lok Sabha contest. It is, however, Rajasthan that remains a weak point in the party's national push, with many wondering if 'over-the-top' welfarism can push Congress over the line despite the political history of the desert state booting out incumbent governments.

In the Congress optimism in central India, a key difference separates Chhattisgarh and MP. The party is confident of pro-incumbency in Raipur, banking on it as it is on what it assesses is the saturation of public space with pro-farm policies, welfare, development and social engineering of the Bhupesh Baghel



RIDING ON BHARAT JODO

led regime. Just opposite in MP, it believes the anti-incumbency against the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government is too high for the party to buck the people's veto. That BJP usurping power in Bhopal with the help of mass defections from Congress barely 13 months into Congress' tenure is a factor seen as hobbling the saffron outfit in popular judgement.

In the critical end-year polls that create an atmo-

sphere for the national contest that follow, Congress had swept the three states in 2018, and was looking good for a fight till Pulwama, as many believed, turned the tide.

Based on internal surveys, grassroots organisational feedback and also opinion polls, Congress is going into the state elections with a confidence that would have been inconceivable till a few months ago. The return of Rahul Gandhi, with his Bha-

rat Jodo Yatra, as the party face, is a major difference in the post-2019 insipid Congress. The party won the northern hill state of Himachal Pradesh in December 2022. Given the campaign and demographics it confronted, Himachal was some evidence of a comeback, but was too tiny a turf to be taken as conclusive proof. However, the Congress sweep of Karnataka, despite a campaign spearheaded by PM Narendra Modi and on polarising issues, has created a serious buzz.

Congress is going into the three states with a newfound plank of "social justice", revolving around caste census.

In middle India, the issue is seen to boost the campaign, given the high population share of OBCs.

Rajasthan was always iffy, but Ashok Gehlot's "welfarism" push coupled with a yearlong outreach across the rural pockets, has made Congress hope against hope.

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Rajasthan was always iffy, but Ashok Gehlot's "welfar

MNF, Cong say no to vote count on Sunday, a day of worship

HC Vanlaluata | TNN

Aizawl: The EC's decision to schedule the counting of votes for the November 7 assembly polls in Christian-majority Mizoram on December 3, a Sunday, drew objections from both the governing Mizo National Front (MNF) and the opposition Congress on Monday.

MNF cited the sacred significance of Sunday, the day of worship for Christians in the state. "...all the government officials involved in the election process and other people engaged in the polls will want to go to the churches to worship God and offer prayers, but will not be able to if the counting of votes is conducted on this day," the party said in a statement.

MNF general secretary TC Kaphmingthanga, acting on the instructions of CM and party president Zoramthanga, wrote to EC and requested rescheduling of the counting date.

Congress state unit president Lalsawta also conveyed his objections to CEC Rajiv Kumar, urging that the counting of votes be scheduled on a weekday, between Monday and Friday. Lalsawta stressed that Sundays in Mizoram are dedicated solely to the worship of God, with no official programmes or business activities conducted on this day.

A church leader pointed out that December 3 is globally recognised as Bible Sunday, underscoring the need to respect their religious sentiments.

'Other Parties Have Expressed Faith In Process'

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

Congress alleged EC gave parties a very short notice for participating in scrutiny of EVMs

30 this year, senior advocate Naren Hooda said the EC gave a very short notice for participation of political parties in the scrutiny, thus depriving the DPCC of engaging booth level agents for the purpose.

A bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud, Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said, "It is not a case for our interference. You (Con-

gress) decided to stay away while other parties participated in the process. If we interfere, it will delay the entire process."

When Hooda persisted by arguing that the representations/complaints by Delhi Congress about non-furnishing of the unique identification numbers assigned to each EVMs did not evoke any re-

sponse from the EC, the bench said, "We are not going to cast any doubt on the process, which is a very detailed one and parties have expressed faith in it. It is replicated across India. We will not interfere."

Referring to the Delhi high court's order dismissing Anil Kumar's petition, the bench said the HC had considered all the issues relating to the process in detail. "Participation of political parties in the EVM scrutiny is part of the process. If one party does not participate, it does not vitiate the process."

Kumar's plea had said, "The procedure for first level checking and initial preparatory meetings were commenced almost nine months before and completed. The instructions issued by EC become redundant in this regard. Parties could not prepare for the FLC and were not in position to instruct the BLAs or engage properly trained persons to participate in the FLC process."

Tech to help EC monitor seizures in real-time

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com



CEC Rajiv Kumar said the ESMS results achieved during the state polls will pave the way for a cleaner 2024 election

Election Seizure Management System (ESMS), is a platform where all the cen-

tral and state enforcement agencies will be onboarded, will require them to upload details of every recorded movement and seizure of illicit cash, liquor, drugs etc, enabling real-time updates from the field as well as coordination and intelligence-sharing between such agencies.

"We have given strict instructions to all the enforcement agencies (regarding crackdown on poll induce-

ments) and we mean business," chief election commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said, adding that the results achieved in the state polls in terms of a coordinated fight against money power will pave the way for a cleaner and induce-ment-free 2024 general elections.

"With ESMS, agencies will have to report as soon as they take any action and, if they don't fill up the details, it will tell us that no ac-tion has been taken by a par-ticular agency," he said.

Seizures have rise by leaps and bounds in the past few polls. Seizures soared 3,626% from Rs 83 crore to Rs 384 crore in the recent Karnataka polls. The rise in seizures between the latest poll and election before that was 2,184% in Tripura, 1,150% in Nagaland, 6,627% in Meghalaya, 2,862% in Gujarat, 533% in HP and 200% in Uttarakhand.

INDIA bloc faces test of its 'spirit of accommodation'

Swati.Mathur@timesgroup.com



Congress remains the key stakeholder in the upcoming state polls, but some parties expect to be accommodated in the fight against BJP

New Delhi: Though most of the 28 parties on board the INDIA bloc have little stakes in the coming assembly elections in five states, the alliance's resolve to fight together against BJP for the 2024 national contest will be put to test for the first time in the November state polls.

Congress remains the key stakeholder defending its territory in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and keen to turn the tide in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana, but some partners like CPI, CPM, Samajwadi Party and Aam Aadmi Party expect to be accommodated in the fight against BJP.

CPI and CPM, for instance, have underscored the need for the "spirit of accommodation", and have pushed for at least a few seats in Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. Sources said that while talks are still under way in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, seat-sharing dialogues are at an advanced stage and Congress may consider conceding two seats each for CPI and CPM.

SP is also keen to field its candidates in three of the five states except Telangana and Mizoram. In Madhya Pradesh where SP won one and finished second against BJP in 5 constituencies in the 2018 polls, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav is understood to be keen

to field over 20 candidates. However, judging by his party's last poll performance — SP candidates forfeited their deposits in 45 of 52 seats they contested in 2018 — it appears unlikely that it will be able to wrangle a happy bargain.

"Samajwadi Party will contest the elections in MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Our claim to be accommodated in seat-sharing talks in MP arises out of a genuine claim based on our past performance. However, we are clear that we will not raise this demand in a manner that impacts the coming together of the INDIA parties," a senior SP leader told TOI.

For all parties, the eagerness to contest stems from certain concerns. For instance, having lost its national party status this year, CPI is eager to claw its way back among the elite group, where BSP, CPM and AAP sit along-

side Congress and BJP. Though AAP and CPM are not dealing with an existential crisis similar to one CPI faces, both would like to increase their foothold across states. SP too hopes to increase its reach across all Hindi-speaking states. With the odds appearing to be stacked in favour of Congress in several of the poll-bound states, as constituents of the INDIA grouping, alliance partners would also like to ride the winning wave for individual gain.

Congress, on the other hand, will want to put up a robust performance at the hustings to seal its position as the party in charge of the INDIA alliance.

The impending assembly polls will serve as a test for the extent to which Congress will accommodate its junior partners ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Shah, Nadda confident of victory in all 5 states

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Home minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda on Monday exuded confidence of winning the assembly polls in five states and said welfare of the poor, good governance and development have been the hallmark of the party's governance.

"Assembly elections have been announced in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Telangana. Welfare for the poor, good governance and development have been the hallmark of the BJP rule. I am confident that the people of these states will

bless BJP with a majority under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Shah said in a post on X.

Nadda welcomed the announcement of assembly polls and claimed his party would form governments in all the states with big majorities under Modi's leadership.

"BJP will form government in all states with a big majority under PM Narendra Modi's leadership and will work with commitment to fulfil people's aspirations in the next five years," he said on X, soon after the Election Commission's announcement of the poll schedule.

"I still continued my support to the government in Jharkhand in view of people's aspirations," he said.

In the 81-member Jharkhand Assembly, the ruling alliance currently has 48 MLAs — JMM 30, Congress 17 and RJD one. BJP has 26 members and AJSU Party three. NCP and CPI (ML) have one lawmaker each, apart from two independent legislators. PTI

Ranchi: Jharkhand's lone Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) legislator Kamlesh Singh on Monday threatened to withdraw support to the Hemant Soren-led alliance government, if Hussainabad, a sub-division of Palamu district, was not made a separate district by October 31.

Speaking to reporters, the Hussainabad MLA said, "The party had extended unconditional support to the Soren government in Jharkhand in 2020 on the condition that Hussainabad would be made a district but that is yet to be made a reality."

"If the JMM-Congress-RJD government does not declare Hussainabad a district

Jawan dead, 3 missing as avalanche hits Mt Kun

Saleem.Pandit
@timesgroup.com

Srinagar: A soldier was buried alive while three more went missing on Sunday after an avalanche struck Mount Kun in Ladakh, officials said on Monday. While the deceased soldier's body was recovered in a daring search operation, efforts to locate the missing personnel continued till the time of going to press.

Defence sources said that a contingent of around 40 Army personnel from the High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS) and the Army's Adventure Wing were involved in routine training activities near Mt Kun when the tragedy occurred. "Such exercises are standard practice during this season, aimed to provide realistic mountaineering training," a source said.

U.P. Power Corporation Limited
Smart Meter Cell, 5th Floor, Shakti Bhawan, 14-Ashok Marg, Lucknow-226001 • 0522-2288001
E-mail-smartproject@gmail.com CIN : U32201UP1999SGC024928 E-TENDER NOTICE RFP No: 01/NOSM/UPCL/PMMA-AMISP/VVNL/23 E-tenders are invited on UP e-tender portal in two parts (Part-I Technical Bid and Part II Financial Bid) for "Consultancy Services for assisting and supporting in Project Management to Purnavach Vidyal Nigam Ltd. (PVVNL), Varanasi for Smart Metering Implementation works under 'Revamped Reforms-Linked Results-Based Distribution Sector Scheme'." Bid document (RFP) is available online on <http://etender.up.nic.in> as per indicated below. Any changes in the Bid Schedule, corrigendum etc shall also be notified via same website only. Prospective bidders are therefore requested to regularly check the website for any updates.

Sn. No., Particulars, Details. 1. e-Tendering Notice no.RFP No. 01/NOSM/UPCL/PMMA-AMISP/VVNL/23. 2. e-Bid Portal (Website) <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 3. Name of Work Consultancy Services for assisting and supporting in Project Management to Purnavach Vidyal Nigam Ltd. (PVVNL), Varanasi for Smart Metering Implementation works under 'Revamped Reforms-Linked Results-Based Distribution Sector Scheme'. 4. e-Tender Cost Nil. 5. Earnest money deposit Not Applicable. However, Bid Securing Declaration to be submitted as specified in Section 6. Document sale date starts 09.10.2023 from 17:00 hrs. 7. e-Bid submission start date 09.10.2023 from 17:00 hrs. 8. Pre-Bid meeting date and place 20.10.2023, 11:00 hrs. U.P. Power Corporation Ltd., 14-Ashok Marg, Shakti Bhawan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. (226001). 9. e-Bid submission end date 08.11.2023, 17:00 hrs. 10. Opening date of e-bid part-I 10.11.2023, 15:00 hrs. 11. Opening date of e-bid part-II To be notified later. Further details are available at website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> UPCL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or cancel the bid without assigning any reason thereof. Superintending Engineer, Smart Meter Cell, 5th Floor, UPCL, Shakti Bhawan, 14-Ashok Marg, Lucknow-226001. "Save Electricity for the Nation". Sefac: 298-स.स./पाकालि/2023-13-ग.स./96 दिनांक 9.10.2023

U.P. Power Corporation Limited
Smart Meter Cell, 5th Floor, Shakti Bhawan, 14-Ashok Marg, Lucknow-226001 • 0522-2288001
E-mail-smartproject@gmail.com CIN : U32201UP1999SGC024928 E-TENDER NOTICE RFP No: 02/NOSM/UPCL/PMMA-AMISP/VVNL/23 E-tenders are invited on UP e-tender portal in two parts (Part-I Technical Bid and Part II Financial Bid) for "Consultancy Services for assisting and supporting in Project Management to Purnavach Vidyal Nigam Ltd. (PVVNL), Meerut for Smart Metering Implementation works under 'Revamped Reforms-Linked Results-Based Distribution Sector Scheme'." Bid document (RFP) is available online on <http://etender.up.nic.in> as per indicated below. Any changes in the Bid Schedule, corrigendum etc shall also be notified via same website only. Prospective bidders are therefore requested to regularly check the website for any updates.

Sn. No., Particulars, Details. 1. e-Tendering Notice no.RFP No. 02/NOSM/UPCL/PMMA-AMISP/VVNL/23. 2. e-Bid Portal (Website) <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 3. Name of Work Consultancy Services for assisting and supporting in Project Management to Purnavach Vidyal Nigam Ltd. (PVVNL), Meerut for Smart Metering Implementation works under 'Revamped Reforms-Linked Results-Based Distribution Sector Scheme'." 4. e-Tender Cost Nil. 5. Earnest money deposit Not Applicable. However, Bid Securing Declaration to be submitted as specified in Section 6. Document sale date starts 09.10.2023 from 17:00 hrs. 7. e-Bid submission start date 09.10.2023 from 17:00 hrs. 8. Pre-Bid meeting and Address 20.10.2023, 11:00 hrs. U.P. Power Corporation Ltd., 14-Ashok Marg, Shakti Bhawan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. (226001). 9. e-Bid submission end date 08.11.2023, 17:00 hrs. 10. Opening date of e-bid part-I 10.11.2023, 15:00 hrs. 11. Opening date of e-bid part-II To be notified later. Further details are available at website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> UPCL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or cancel the bid without assigning any reason thereof. Superintending Engineer, Smart Meter Cell, 5th Floor, UPCL, Shakti Bhawan, 14-Ashok Marg, Lucknow-226001. "Save Electricity for the Nation". Sefac: 298-स.स./पाकालि/2023-13-ग.स./96 दिनांक 9.10.2023

U.P. Power Corporation Limited
Smart Meter Cell, 5th Floor, Shakti Bhawan, 14-Ashok Marg, Lucknow-226001 • 0522-2288001
E-mail-smartproject@gmail.com CIN : U32201UP1999SGC024928 E-TENDER NOTICE RFP No: 03/NOSM/UPCL/PMMA-AMISP/VVNL/23 E-tenders are invited on UP e-tender portal in two parts (Part-I Technical Bid and Part II Financial Bid) for "Consultancy Services for assisting and supporting in Project Management to Daksinanchal Vidyal Nigam Ltd. (DVVN), Agra for Smart Metering Implementation works under 'Revamped Reforms-Linked Results-Based Distribution Sector Scheme'." Bid document (RFP) is available online on <http://etender.up.nic.in> as per indicated below. Any changes in the Bid Schedule, corrigendum etc shall also be notified via same website only. Prospective bidders are therefore requested to regularly check the website for any updates.

Sn. No., Particulars, Details. 1. e-Tendering Notice no.RFP No. 03/NOSM/UPCL/PMMA-AMISP/VVNL/23. 2. e-Bid Portal (Website) <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 3. Name of Work Consultancy Services for assisting and supporting in Project Management to Daksinanchal Vidyal Nigam Ltd. (DVVN), Agra for Smart Metering Implementation works under 'Revamped Reforms-Linked Results-Based Distribution Sector Scheme'." 4. e-Tender Cost Nil. 5. Earnest money deposit Not Applicable. However, Bid Securing Declaration to be submitted as specified in Section 6. Document sale date starts 09.10.2023 from 17:00 hrs. 7. e-Bid submission start date 09.10.2023 from 17:00 hrs. 8. Pre-Bid meeting and Address 20.10.2023, 11:00 hrs. U.P. Power Corporation Ltd., 14-Ashok Marg, Shakti Bhawan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. (226001). 9. e-Bid submission end date 08.11.2023, 17:00 hrs. 10. Opening date of e-bid part-I 10.11.2023, 15:00 hrs. 11. Opening date of e-bid part-II To be notified later. Further details are available at website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> UPCL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or cancel the bid without assigning any reason thereof. Superintending Engineer, Smart Meter Cell, 5th Floor, UPCL, Shakti Bhawan, 14-Ashok Marg, Lucknow-226001. "Save Electricity for the Nation". Sefac: 298-स.स./पाकालि/2023-13-ग.स./96 दिनांक 9.10.2023

Sn. No., Particulars, Details. 1. e-Tendering Notice no.RFP No. 04/NOSM/UPCL/PMMA-AMISP/DVVNL/23 E-tenders are invited on UP e-tender portal in two parts (Part-I Technical Bid and Part II Financial Bid) for "Consultancy Services for assisting and supporting in Project Management to Dakshinanchal Vidyal Nigam Ltd. (DVVN), Agra for Smart Metering Implementation works under 'Revamped Reforms-Linked Results-Based Distribution Sector Scheme'." Bid document (RFP) is available online on <http://etender.up.nic.in> as per indicated below. Any changes in the Bid Schedule, corrigendum etc shall also be notified via same website only. Prospective bidders are therefore requested to regularly check the website for any updates.

Sn. No., Particulars, Details. 1. e-Tendering Notice no.RFP No. 04/NOSM/UPCL/PMMA-AMISP/DVVNL/23. 2. e-Bid Portal (Website) <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 3. Name of Work Consultancy Services for assisting and supporting in Project Management to Dakshinanchal Vidyal Nigam Ltd. (DVVN), Agra for Smart Metering Implementation works under 'Revamped Reforms-Linked Results-Based Distribution Sector Scheme'." 4. e-Tender Cost Nil. 5. Earnest money deposit Not Applicable. However, Bid Securing Declaration to be submitted as specified in Section 6. Document sale date starts 09.10.2023 from 17:00 hrs. 7. e-Bid submission start date 09.10.2023 from 17:00 hrs. 8. Pre-Bid meeting and Address 20.10.2023, 11:00 hrs. U.P. Power Corporation Ltd., 14-Ashok Marg, Shakti Bhawan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. (226001). 9. e-Bid submission end date 08.11.2023, 17:00 hrs. 10. Opening date of e-bid part-I 10.11.2023, 15:00 hrs. 11. Opening date of e-bid part-II To be notified later. Further details are available at website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> UPCL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or cancel the bid without assigning any reason thereof. Superintending Engineer, Smart Meter Cell, 5th Floor, UPCL, Shakti Bhawan, 14-Ashok Marg, Lucknow-226001. "Save Electricity for the Nation". Sefac: 298-स.स./पाकालि/2023-13-ग.स./96 दिनांक 9.10.2023

Sn. No., Particulars, Details. 1. e-Tendering Notice no.RFP No. 05/NOSM/UPCL/PMMA-

CAD-2372
ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in



Short Notice
(For Sale of Seized Material lying at different Mining Circle)
The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. intends to sell the different grade of seized material lying at different Mining Circle through National e-auction which will be conducted by MSTC Ltd. The e-auction shall be held from 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM on dt. 13.10.2023.
For details, please visit the website of MSTC i.e www.mstccommerce.com

General Manager (S&M)

CAD-2371
ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in



Short Notice
(For Sale of unsold ore produced by ex-lessees in the auctioned mines in Odisha under Koiria & Joda Mining Circle)
The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. intends to sale the unsold ore produced by ex-lessees in the auctioned mines in Odisha under Koiria & Joda Mining Circle through National e-auction which will be conducted by MSTC Ltd. The e-auction shall be held from 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM on dt. 13.10.2023.
For details, please visit the website of MSTC i.e www.mstccommerce.com

General Manager (S&M)

CAD-2369
ODISHA SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE (ORSAC)
(Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Odisha)
Plot No.45/46(P), Jayadev Vihar, Unit-16, Bhubaneswar-751023,
Tel. 0674-2303625, E-mail: orsac2012@gmail.com / orsac@nic.in



ADVT. NO. 07 / 2023 Dt. 9TH OCTOBER 2023

Odisha Space Applications Centre (ORSAC) a State Government Agency under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Odisha, invites applications from eligible candidates from Central Government/ State Governments/ Universities/ Recognized Research Institutions/ Public Sector Undertaking organizations for filling up of 7 (Seven) posts of SCIENTIST 'C' on Deputation Basis for a period of three years. The application form containing the educational qualifications & experience profile, age limit, experience, detail service period, Scale of Pay, and selection procedure and other terms & conditions details can be downloaded from ORSAC Website (www.orsac.gov.in or www.orsacgeoict.in) or Govt. Website (www.odisha.gov.in) or can also be available from the office of ORSAC on the above address. The last date of submission of the application is 13.11.2023.

Sd/-
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

OIPR: 28007/11/0005/2324

Mail ID: - sepwdspb@rediffmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE SAMBALPUR

e - Procurement

BID IDENTIFICATION No CCENC (R AND B) /19/ 2023-24

Dtd. 03-10-2023

- The Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of Road works and Building Works as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
- No of works= 07 (Seven) (Road, Bridge & Buildings Works)
- Tender Cost: Rs. 10,000/-
- Class of contractor: "B" & "A" Class.
- Date & Time of availability in web site & receipt of Bids From 09.10.2023 to 17.00 Hours of 24.10.2023.
- Date of opening of Technical Bid 25.10.2023 at 11.00 Hours.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
- Any corrigendum/ Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Chief Construction Engineer
Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur

OIPR:34035/11/0021/2324

O-1240
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA

e - Procurement Notice for Bridge Work

Identification No - Online Tender- Bridge N.C.B. No. 321 for 2023-24.

Letter No. 5268 / Date: 06-10-2023

1. Name of the work : Bridge work under Biju Setu Yojana in the District of Mayurbhanj
2. Total No. of work : 01 Nos. (One)
3. Estimated Cost : Rs. 643.58 lakhs (approximately)
4. Eligibility of Contractor : As per annexure.
5. Period of Completion : As per annexure.
6. Other details :

● Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
● Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

Sd/-
Er. S. K. Rout
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W. Circle, Baripada
OIPR:25130/11/0057/23-24

B-1045
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE: BALANGIR

e - Procurement Notice

BID IDENTIFICATION No: CCE(R&B) BGR / 28/ 2023-24

// Dtd.07.10.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate composite bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from "B" & "A" Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

1. Nature of Work : Building Work
2. Total No. of work : 01 Nos.
3. Tender Cost : Rs. 10,000/-
4. Class of Contractor : "B" & "A"
5. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids : From Dt. 10.10.2023, 05.00 P.M. to Dt. 17.10.2023 up to 05.00 P.M.
6. Date of opening Bid : Dt. 18.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

7. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.

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

OIPR: 34131/11/0029/2324



Govt. of Bihar

BIHAR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMISSION

19, HARDING ROAD, PATNA REQUEST FOR BID THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT BIHAR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Bihar Technical Service Commission (BTSC), constituted by an Act of legislature of Bihar in 2014 specifically for recruiting technical staff & officers, invites bid for selection of agency for providing House-keeping services work at BTSC, Patna for a period of one year, extendable upto further two years in two bid system (Technical and Financial) from eligible and experienced bidders who have necessary experience. The details are as follows:-

Description of services to be hired Selection of Agency for providing House-keeping Services for Bihar Technical Service Commission (BTSC)

Tender Processing Fee INR 590.00 to be paid through NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card/ Internet Bank must be submitted along with bid through e-procurement portal <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>

Bid Cost INR 2,500.00 to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS, Credit/Debit Card & Net Banking) only. (non-refundable)

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) INR 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS, Credit/Debit Card & Net Banking) only

Date/Time of Start of download of Bidding document 10/10/2023/12:30 PM through <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>

Pre-Bid Meeting Pre bid meeting will be held on 27/10/2023 at 03.30 P.M at BTSC Office, 19, Harding road, Patna

Request for Clarification should be received till 26/10/2023 on email ID: btsc-bih@govt.in

Last Date/Time for uploading the Bid 09/11/2023 till 14.30PM Through website <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>

Date/Time for opening of Bids 09/11/2023 at 15:00PM

Name of Nodal Officer A.C. VERMA

phone: 0612-2233081/7070810413

Tender inviting authority Incharge Secretary, BTSC, Patna

For support related to e-tendering, intending bidders may contact e-proc2.0 Help Desk Address: Mjunction Services Limited, R.J. Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajuria, Ashiana Road, PS-Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014, Bihar (Toll Free Number-18005726571.)

Email-id: - e-proc2support@bihar.gov.in

उत्तम सूचना state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

Incharge Secretary
Bihar Technical Service Commission
Patna

PR-009993 (Ni.Ni) 2023-24

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से यार

India & Tanzania elevate ties to a strategic partnership

Ink 6 Pacts, Agree On A 5-Year Road Map For Defence Cooperation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



New Delhi: India and Tanzania elevated bilateral ties to a strategic partnership as PM Narendra Modi hosted Samia Hassan, President of the African country and the first head of state to visit India from the continent after the African Union became a member of the G20 at the summit here last month.

The two countries also signed six agreements and agreed to a five-year roadmap for defence cooperation, with Modi describing Tanzania as an invaluable partner also in India's Indo-Pacific efforts. He also said both sides were working on an agreement to increase trade in local currencies.

A joint statement issued after the meeting said the two leaders strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, "whenever, wherever, and by whomsoever" committed and the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism. They agreed that terrorism is

one of the most serious threats to global peace, security and stability and must seriously be ad-

dressed, it said.

The six agreements will pro-

vide for cooperation in the digi-

tal domain, culture, sports, maritime industries and white shipping information sharing.

"In today's meeting we identified several new initiatives, laying the foundation for this future strategic partnership. India and Tanzania are important partners of each other for mutual trade and investment," said Modi.

Tanzania, which backed India's candidature for non-permanent membership of UNSC for 2028-29, announced it had decided to join the Global Biofuels Alliance launched by India at the G20 summit. "Additionally, Tanzania's decision to join the International Big Cat Alliance will enable us to strengthen global efforts to conserve big cats," he added.

The joint statement said the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in maritime security in the Indian Ocean region and expressed satisfaction over the first ever India-Tanzania joint exclusive economic zone surveillance exercise conducted in July.

Govt okays increase in rates for its ads on pvt FM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Government on Monday approved a steep increase in rates of advertisements on private FM radio stations for its policies and programmes. The pricing formula for finalising the advertising rates takes into account various factors such as city population and listenership data from the India Readership Survey (IRS) of 2019, a statement by the ministry of information and broadcasting said.

"The new rates approved by the ministry in the month of September, 2023 include a 43% increase in the base rate taking into account the rising costs dynamics for the period of December 2015 to March 2023," it said. The statement added that with this increase, the gross base rate for FM radio advertisement will increase from Rs 52 to Rs 74 per 10 seconds and the adjustment was intended to maintain parity with current market rates.

Based on this formula along with the enhanced base rate, almost all private FM radio stations will benefit from the new recommended rates at varying percentages depending largely on their listenership giving value for both FM stations and the clients of Central Bureau of Communication.

The statement added that rates for 106 stations will increase by 100% as a result of the changes, while 81 radio stations will see a 50-100% increase in advertisement rates. As many as 65 stations, for which listenership data was not available, will get less than 50% increase in advertisement rates.

The rate structure committee for private FM radio stations was set up by the ministry last year to evaluate and recommend new rates.

Shah: 54 initiatives in 27 months to bolster co-op movement

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Amit Shah addresses 89th general council meeting of the NCDC in New Delhi on Monday

New Delhi: Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah on Monday said cooperatives are the only medium for economic development of the 60 crore population of the country, which do not have capital, and noted that the Centre has taken 54 initiatives in the last 27 months to strengthen cooperative movement and increase cooperatives' share in GDP.

He was addressing the 89th general council meeting of the National Cooperative Development Corporation which is an implementing agency for various schemes of the government and dovtail the subsidy component with its loan to benefit cooperative societies.

Shah said the NCDC, which has disbursed financial assistance of more than Rs 41,000 crore during 2022-23 financial across the country, is set to achieve 10 times growth in disbursement of financial assistance in the current financial year from Rs 5,300 crore in 2013-14.

He said that NCDC should now set a target of achieving Rs 1 lakh crore yearly disbursement in next three years along with targets for every quarter. "NCDC's objective must not only be to make profit but to achieve overall development of the cooperative sector," he said. The initiatives taken by the Centre to strengthen cooperative movement have special focus on strengthening the Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS). These initiatives include computerisation, making model byelaws, widening the functioning of PACS to undertake more than 30 busi-

ness activities like dairy, setting up of godowns and LPG/petrol/green energy distribution agency.

"Significant initiatives like Jan Aushadhi Kendras, PACS as Prashan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendra and PACS as Paani Samiti to undertake the work of operation and maintenance of piped water supply schemes in rural areas can provide sustainable income to the PACS and employment opportunities to the youth in rural areas," he said.

Plan to bring HEIs offering online courses under NIRF

Getty Images

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Centre is planning to rank higher education institutions (HEIs) offering online and education in distance mode as well as those offering languages in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings.

The National Board of Accreditation (NBA) is also reviewing the parameters to further strengthen the India rankings. At present universities, engineering, medical, law, management are some of the areas of study for which the HEIs are ranked annually under NIRF the list



TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023

IDEAS, LIKE LARGE RIVERS, NEVER HAVE JUST ONE SOURCE – WILLY LEY



KYLIE JENNER, 4TH MOST FOLLOWED INSTAGRAM USER, DELETES STORY IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AFTER PRO-PALESTINE COMMENTS FLOOD ACCOUNT

GRETA GERWIG REVEALS SHE 'STOOD IN THE BACK' AT THEATRES TO SEE AUDIENCE'S REACTION TO 'BARBIE', SAYS FILM'S SUCCESS 'MOVING'

Hamas threatens to kill Israeli captives if civilians hit in strikes

Tel Aviv Warns Against Harming Hostages; Bibi Vows To 'Change Middle East'; Fear Of Ground Assault As 300k Reservists Called; 'Infiltrations' From Lebanon Stopped

Gaza/Jerusalem: The Israeli military said it had called up an unprecedented 300,000 reservists and was imposing a total blockade of the Gaza Strip, in a sign it may be planning a ground assault in response to the devastating weekend attack by Hamas gunmen. After hours of intense bombardment by Israeli jets, Hamas, the Islamist group which controls Gaza, said it would execute an Israeli captive if civilian houses were bombed.

Inside Israel, Palestinian fighters were still holed up in several locations, two days after they killed hundreds of Israelis and seized dozens of hostages in a raid that shattered Israel's reputation of invincibility. Civilians on both sides have suffered a terrible toll: around 900 people, including 73 soldiers, have been killed in Israel, and 560 people have been killed in Gaza, according to media and authorities on each side.

Hamas spokesman Abu Ubaida said the group had kept the Israeli captives safe. But in return for every Israeli bombing of a civilian house without warning, it will begin executing an Israeli civilian captive and broadcast it, he said. Israeli foreign minister Eli Cohen warned against harming any of the hostages, saying, "This war crime will not be forgiven."

In Gaza, Israel pressed on with its most intensive retaliatory strikes ever. As night fell, the Israeli air strikes became more aggressive and witnesses said several Hamas security headquarters and ministries were hit. The strikes destroyed some roads and houses. In a further signal of Israel's rapid shift to a war footing, a cabinet member from PM Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party said it could set up a national unity government joined by opposition leaders within hours. Netanyahu told mayors of southern towns hit by Saturday's surprise assault that Israel's response would "change the Middle East".

The prospect that fighting could spread to other areas has alarmed the region. Israeli troops "killed a number of armed suspects that infiltrated into Israeli territory from Lebanese territory", the military said. An official with Hezbollah denied it had mounted any operation into Israel. Hezbollah, a Shia militant group, is like Hamas, backed by Iran. **REUTERS & AP**

Zelensky compares assault by Hamas to Ukraine invasion

Kyiv: President Zelensky of Ukraine on Monday condemned Hamas for its assault on Israel and likened the attack to Russia's invasion of his own country. In a speech to Nato parliamentary assembly by video link, he also criticised Iran for its support of Hamas and Moscow. It is the second speech that Zelensky has delivered in support of Israel. In another sign of backing for Israel, electronic billboards in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, were lighted with the Israeli flag on Sunday night.

Zelensky said Hamas and Moscow were "the same evil, and the only difference is that there is a terrorist organisation that attacked Israel, and here is a terrorist state that attacked Ukraine." He also compared the killings of civilians in Israel to those in the city of Bucha where hundreds of Ukrainians were tortured or killed. He also singled out Iran for its sale to Moscow of exploding drones. He noted that Iranian officials had also expressed support for Hamas. **NYT**

HOW HAMAS' SPECIALISED UNITS TOOK ISRAEL BY SURPRISE

Hamas reportedly deployed a force of about 1,000 fighters to stage the most devastating attack on Israel in decades. A look at how it was carried out

1 MISSILE UNIT

Hamas fires 3,000 rockets meant to cause shock and provide cover to fighters to break through fortified fence surrounding Gaza



3 ELITE COMMANDO GROUND UNIT

A 400-strong elite force breaks through fortified Gaza fence using explosives. Some cross over on motorcycles. Bulldozers widen holes to make it easy for teams to enter Israeli territory in four-wheel vehicles



2 AIRBORNE UNIT

Fighters on hang gliders, or motorised paragliders, fly over border and secure the terrain for ground assault. Phone footage shows the moment the unit attacked a desert festival



4 DRONE UNIT

Hamas says surveillance drones, called Zouari, paved way for infiltration



5 INTELLIGENCE UNIT

Helped identify positions and movements of Israeli soldiers and monitor their headquarters

Source: Israel Defence Forces

EU halts development aid to Palestinians

9 Americans dead; many foreigners among kidnapped, killed & missing

Nations worldwide were scrambling on Sunday to find citizens who may've been killed or taken hostage when Palestinian group Hamas launched an unexpected assault on Israel. Lists of missing people have flooded social media. The US on Monday said it had confirmed the deaths of nine Americans in the attack by Hamas, and that other Americans remain unaccounted for.

More than 100 UK citizens are feared dead or missing in Israel, the BBC reported on Monday, citing an official source.

France's foreign ministry said a French woman had died, but it did not elaborate on the

circumstances. At least eight French nationals were missing, dead or taken hostage by Hamas, a lawmaker said Monday.

Ten Nepali students have been killed and four others injured, Nepal's foreign ministry said on Monday. Twelve Thais have been killed in the conflict, Thailand said. Eight other citizens have been wounded and 11 taken captive. Two Mexican nationals were believed to be among the hostages taken by Hamas, Mexico's foreign minister said. A German-Israeli citizen Shani Louk was abducted by Hamas militants while attending an open-air music festival. **NYT & AGENCIES**

Scotland's First Minister Humza Yousaf on Monday said his wife's parents have been caught up in the aftermath of Hamas attack on Israel. Yousaf's wife Nadia El-Nakla is Palestinian and her parents, who live in Scotland, were visiting family in Gaza. Yousaf said the Israeli authorities had told his parents-in-law to leave but not guaranteed safe passage. "I'm in a situation where, frankly, ... we don't know whether or not my parents-in-law, who have nothing to do, as most Gazans don't, with Hamas or with any terror attack... will make it through the night or not," he said. He condemned the Hamas attack. **AFP**

In-laws stuck in Gaza: Scottish first minister

Beijing: US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer on Monday called on Chinese President Xi Jinping to support Israel after deadly attacks by Hamas, adding he was "disappointed" that Beijing showed "no sympathy" for the country over the weekend.

State media accounts of the meeting skirted Israel, instead focusing on the need for collaboration and mutual respect, and offering dovish remarks by Xi that could help lay the groundwork for a potential summit with US President Biden next month. In response, China's foreign ministry urged in a weekend statement the "relevant parties" to remain calm and to end hostilities to protect civilians, adding that "the fundamental way out of the conflict lies in implementing the two-state solution and establishing an independent State of Palestine".

No one was safe, she said. The roar of explosions, hysterical screams and automatic gunfire felt closer the further she drove. When a man just meters away shouted "God is great!", Alper and her new companions sprung out of the car and sprinted through open fields toward a mass of bushes. Alper felt a bullet whiz past her left ear. Aware the gunmen would outrun her, she plunged into a tangle of shrubs. Peering through thorns, she said she saw one of her passengers shriek and collapse as a gunman stood over her limp body, grinning. "I can't even explain the energy they (the militants) had, it was so clear they didn't see us as human beings," she said. "They looked at us with pure hate."

As the carnage unfolded before her, Alper pulled a few disoriented-looking revellers into her car from the street and accelerated in the opposite direction. One of them said he had lost his wife in the chaos and Alper had to stop him from breaking out of the car to find her. Another said she had just seen Hamas gunmen shoot and kill

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For over six hours, Alper — and thousands of other concert attendees — hid without help from the Israeli army as Hamas militants sprayed automatic gunfire and threw grenades. **AP**

blown through Israel's heavily fortified separation fence and crossed into the country from Gaza opened fire on Israelis who had come together for a joyous night of electronic music.

"We were hiding and running, hiding and running, in an open field, the worst place you could possibly be in that situation," said Arik Nani from Tel Aviv, who had gone to the party to celebrate his 26th birthday.

While rockets rained down, revellers said militants converged on the open field while others waited near bomb shelters, gunning down people who were seeking refuge. Israeli communities on either side of the festival grounds also came under attack, with Hamas gunmen abducting dozens of men, women and children — including elderly and disabled people — and killing scores of others. The staggering toll of the festival was becoming clear early Monday, as Israel's rescue service Zaka said paramedics had recovered at least 260 bodies. The death toll could rise as teams continue to clear the area.

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As the carnage unfolded before her, Alper pulled



A thought for today

Men think that economics is about finance, and so they take economics. Women think economics is about finance, so they don't take economics

CLAUDIA GOLDIN

Before 2024

Caste, welfarism, farm incomes are key issues in 4 big states. Some of these will figure in LS polls as well

Five states, 679 constituencies, and the last batch of assembly polls before general elections. Little wonder, Rajasthan, MP, Chhattisgarh, Telangana – there's also Mizoram – attract disproportionate attention, more so because in three states, BJP and Congress are in direct battle. That said, experience suggests it's unwise to read too much into the results. Over the last few election cycles in these states, voters have often exercised different choices in the assembly and the subsequent LS elections. However, this time there are overarching themes that will play out in LS polls too.

A framework to assess the five assembly elections is to look at them through the lens of caste, welfarism and farm issues in four states, and ethnic issues in Mizoram. Bihar's caste survey continues to reverberate. Congress has staked an unambiguous position, asking for a national survey. Ashok Gehlot has ordered one in Rajasthan and in MP Congress has promised a survey if it comes to power. BJP's stand is ambiguous, and the outcome of these polls may influence its line for the LS elections.

Welfarism has emerged as a common theme across parties and states. Brisk economic growth is not creating enough formal sector jobs. Politicians know that welfare schemes mitigate the risks of informal jobs. Congress has created a welfare strategy based on "guarantees" in Telangana, one of India's richest states with a nominal per capita GDP of ₹3.1 lakh. BJP's attempt to dent anti-incumbency in MP rests largely on its welfare architecture, led by a monthly income transfer to women. In MP, Rajasthan and Telangana, incumbents face sharper questions from farmers than Bhupesh Baghel does in Chhattisgarh. That tells its own story and perhaps explains why early readings of voter intentions indicate Baghel to be the least insecure incumbent.

There are also interesting intraparty dynamics at play. The power structure in Congress has moved towards devolving more responsibility to state satraps. BJP isn't promoting state leaders such as Vasundhara Raje in Rajasthan and seemingly not even Shivraj Singh Chouhan in MP. Also, in Telangana, Congress seems to have emerged as the better-equipped challenger to KCR than BJP. Mizoram, as our columnist points out, has a new player, the Zoram People's Movement, challenging Congress and MNF. The guaranteed outcome is that results day will see plenty of drama.

The Work Women Want

Read economics laureate Goldin's research to understand the troubles of India's female labour force

The Economics Nobel honour roll has 93 names. Claudia Goldin is only the third woman. Fittingly, she has won it for work on "women's labour market outcomes". And nowhere are the costs of neglecting such 'women's topics' plainer than in India, where women's low labour force participation rates continue to be a big drag on social and economic outcomes. While Goldin's pioneering work at Harvard has drawn largely from US data, the theoretical takeaways are very useful here.

Goldin underlines how transformative contraception is for women, both personally and in transforming society's expectations. In this context it is interesting to think about Tamil Nadu's 21.9% women's urban labour force participation rate and Bihar's 8.6%, in relation to the two states' significantly varying birth rates.

There's also much debate in India on why the number of working women hasn't increased despite rising education levels for women. Goldin's insight is that women pay a high cost for "temporal flexibility", where choosing to work fewer or more flexible hours to allow them to raise a family, costs them a wage gap. Goldin finds the wage gap to be the narrowest in US tech because it promises more flexible hours. But in a much more conservative labour market like India, with fewer flexi working options of quality, similar family needs translate into many women opting out of a paying job altogether. On top of this, there is victim-blaming. Goldin rebuts the idea that women's lower wages flow from their choice of occupations. If more men were nurses, nurses would be better paid than doctors. What yawning gender gaps boil down to is unfair distribution of family work – that's the biggest insight from this year's economics laureate.

Their unselfish gene

The agony and irony of de-extinction. The ivory too...

Rupa Sengupta

Imagine there's non-human heaven. And you're an extinct creature living happily ever after in it. Are you happy knowing scientists have sequenced RNA extracted from a Tasmanian tiger specimen – a 'first' with any long-gone animal? Or that reconstructing skin and skeletal muscle 'transcriptomes' – RNA molecules set expressed in cells or tissue – allows a rare peek into the biology of this once-bountiful marsupial?

Exterminated in your own passenger pigeon-holed past life, you're likely panicking. Because this scientific feat's tipped to aid 'de-extinction': a knock-em'-undead mission whereby genetic engineers revive vanished species, massacred life-forms prized as bio-convertible gold on this perma-defrosting planet. But then, the dead can't protest, much less resist if 'resurrection biologists' do resuscitate Tasmanian tigers (alias thylacines) or woolly mammoths – à la T-Rex in Jurassic Park.

Cloning aside, de-extinction involves sequencing extinct animals' genomes, editing their close living relatives' genomes to feature select traits, and creating and gestating gene-edited embryos. The guinea piggybacking result? A baby hybrid, the extinct fella's 'functional equivalent'. Now, will, say, woolly mammoth 'proxies' survive if surrogate Asian or African elephant mommies spurn them, smelling a (lab) rat? Alternatively, if – it's a jumbo if – artificial womb carry the so-called 'mammophants', who'll be their post-birth mommie-phants?

Otherwise, patchy-dern problems don't favor mega-fawning biotechs. Consider one company's colossal vision: animals re-born to be wild will 'rewild' nature as carbon-barfing humanity's climate warriors. Colossal Biosciences claims the beast is yet to come: mammoths will rejuvenate Arctic ecosystems; thylacines will restore Tasmanian forests' ecological balance, and back-in-Mauritius dodos will 'inspire' conservationists. Meantime? It'll rain funds for biocapitalists, dodo.

Many experts highlight the agony and ivory, er, irony of de-extinction. Shouldn't we prioritise saving the (barely) living – rhinos, vaquitas, Amur leopards, orangutans and other critically endangered unfortunates? Doesn't de-extinction entail painful, highly stressful experimentation with animal 'bio-objects'? Won't humankind's relentless habitats-hogging 'progress' give comeback creatures just parking space, not leg-space?

Well, it seems de-extinction's about Pleistocene Parks, not Free Woolly. And paisa vasool. Take geneticist George Church's reported musings on mammoth merchandise: 'tourism, meat, hair' and – tusk, tusk – 'maybe legal ivory'. Besides, with biodiversity going...going...gone, queasy humans need grand, exculpatory save-us-all projects. Else, the messy trial-and-error of 'species revivalism' wouldn't be oversold as daringly doable, hyped as ecologically desirable, and pitched as ethically justifiable. Who says the dead can't dance?

Israel Stocks Plunge 7%, Currency At 7-Year Low

Fears of a widening conflict in West Asia are threatening more volatility for investors. A **widening conflict could keep oil prices elevated.** That could complicate the picture for global policymakers who have been seeking to tamp down **inflation.** The attack has also weighed on shares of global cos with local connections, including chip and software cos. Investors avoided traditionally risky assets such as stocks and instead bought gold, bonds and the dollar. Source: Bloomberg, Reuters

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023



The Israeli shekel weakened 2%, touching the **lowest level in seven years.** The Bank of Israel is set to sell up to \$30bn of foreign currency, the central bank's first ever sale of foreign exchange, to maintain stability.

Oil Surges 5% Over Fears Of Wider Conflict
While Israel's role in oil supply is negligible, the outbreak threatens to embroil both the US and Iran. The latter has become a major source of extra crude this year, alleviating tightening markets. Increased application of **US sanctions on Tehran** could constrain those shipments

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Israel's response will "change the Middle East"—any escalation is expected to roil the markets further

Fears Of Geopolitical Stress May Hit Investor Confidence

West Asia conflict weighs on markets, sensex falls 483 pts

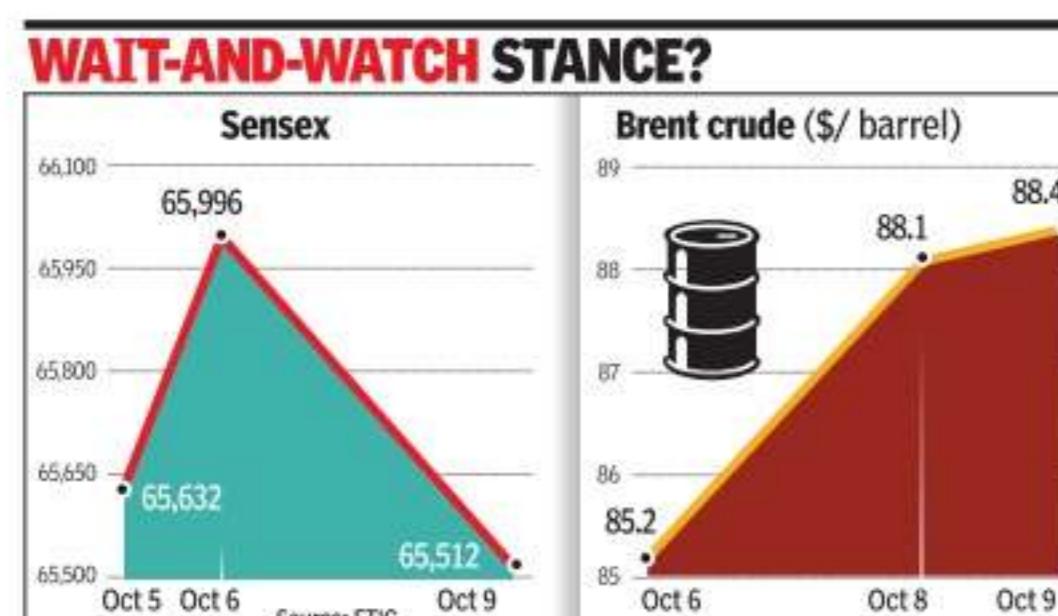
Oil Price Surge Adds To Elevated Inflation, Rate Worries

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Israel-Hamas conflict in West Asia impacted sentiment on Dalal Street on Monday with the sensex ending 483 points lower at 65,512, near the benchmark's five-week closing low mark. Financials and RIL led the slide while IT, FMCG and pharma partially cushioned the fall.

Most global markets remained steady but with a negative bias as investors preferred a wait-and-watch policy. Markets, from Nikkei in Japan to FTSE in the UK to the Dow Jones in the US, either ended marginally lower or were trading near the previous closing marks.

The escalation of the conflict in West Asia has rekindled pessimism in global markets, said Geojit Financial Services's Vinod Nair. In addition, "the rapid surge in oil



prices presents a significant threat to the global market, which is already dealing with elevated inflation and interest rates". Although analysts are positive about quarterly earnings numbers by leading companies, "geopolitical tensions could potentially disrupt this optimistic outlook", Nair said.

The impact of the conflict on crude oil prices is expected to be temporary since "ne-

Adani Ports stock falls 5% over Haifa ops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The stock price of Adani Ports & SEZ, which owns and operates Haifa port in Israel, crashed 5.5% in early trades on Monday but closed off the low at Rs 790, down 4.9%. Insiders called it a knee-jerk reaction to the news from West Asia. The company said its operations at the Israel port were unaffected since the fighting in Israel was concentrated at a different part of the country.

The stock opened at Rs 805, down 3% on the day, dipped to an intraday low at Rs 786 but recovered some ground at close. Adani Ports said its operations are unlikely to be affected since the fighting is concentrated in the south of Israel while Haifa port is in the north. It aid that currently this port contributes just 3% to the company's overall business in terms of total cargo tonnage.

The troubles in West Asia didn't impact other companies like Sun Pharma, Tech Mahindra and TCS that also have a presence in Israel.

Mundra Port completes 25 yrs of ops

Ahmedabad: Mundra Port, the country's biggest commercial port and a flagship facility of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, has completed 25 years of its operations.

Since the berthing of its first ship, MT Alpha on October 7, 1998, the port has contributed at least Rs 2.25 lakh crore to the state and national exchequer, the company said. Gautam Adani said: "The might of a nation's logistics not only lies in its ships and cargo but also in its ability to weave dreams and ambitions, and unite those who champion its cause. As Mundra Port turns 25, we raise a toast to the countless souls who have been pivotal to its success." TNN

Fuel price hike unlikely despite 5% crude spike

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Hardeep Singh Puri

India will handle this with maturity. We will navigate through this. These kinds of uncertainties only encourage people to (switch to) sustainable and cleaner fuels

Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri exuded confidence of India navigating through the situation and handling the country's energy needs. "India will handle this with maturity. We will navigate through this. These kinds of uncertainties only encourage people to (switch to) sustainable and cleaner fuels," he told reporters.

But volatility will test the government's inflation and fiscal management in an election year. Raising prices at this juncture will stoke inflation and give the opposition ground to target the ru-

ling party in polls.

This will leave the state-run fuel retailers holding the can as margins on petrol and diesel will turn negative once again on continued freeze on retail rates. The three dominant state retailers — IOC, HPCL and BPCL — had suffered a combined loss of Rs 21,000 crore in the first half due to frozen fuel prices through oil's high run.

Subsequent easing in oil

prices had turned the margins positive but the government allowed the retailers to continue the freeze on retail rates for recouping past losses, leading to healthy profits in the June quarter. Last week's sharp fall in oil prices, which came after a surge to \$97 per barrel in end-September, raised hopes of further relief, which appears short-lived.

Since India meets 85% of oil needs through imports, costlier crude will squeeze the government's leeway for social welfare spending by inflating the import and subsidy bills.

Gold, silver gain as attack boosts metals' haven status

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



dities said. In addition, there was also news that China had added to its gold reserves for the 11th straight month in September with its central bank's holdings rising by 840,000 troy ounces, it said.

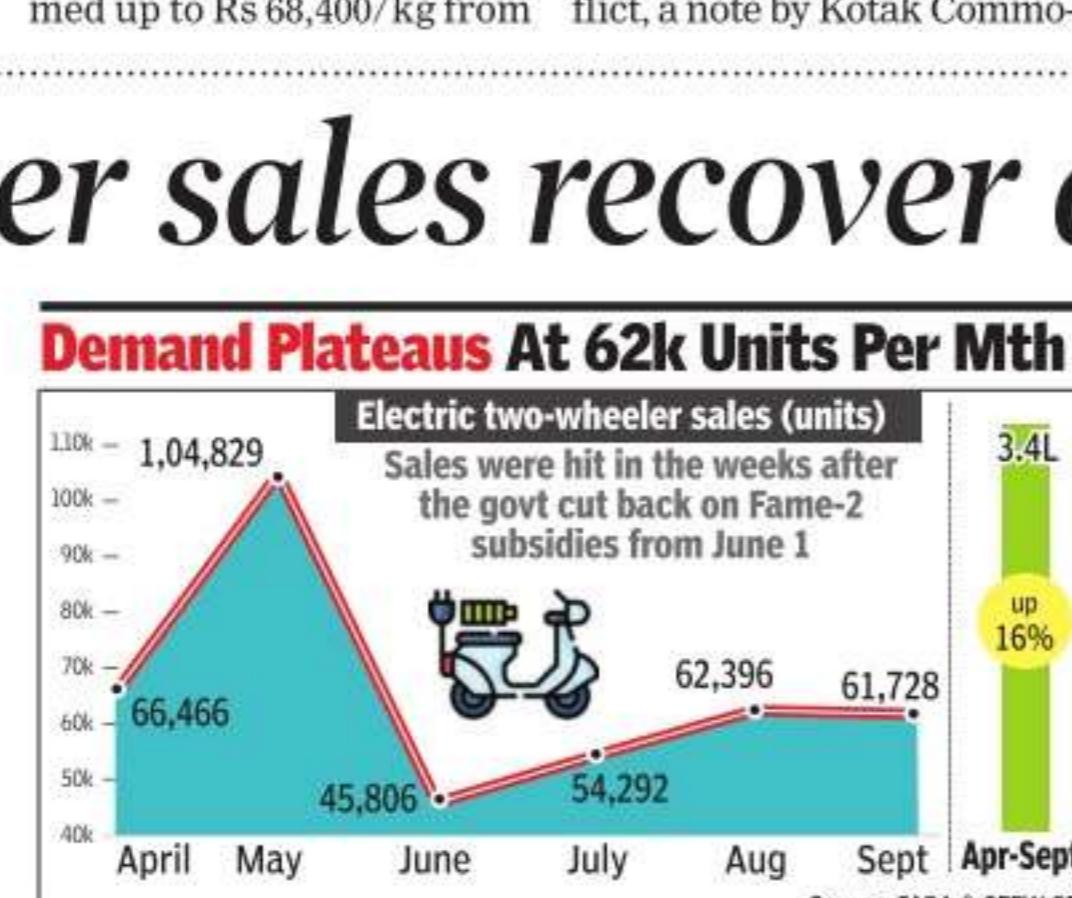
Outside of the impact of the Israel-Hamas war on the price of the yellow metal, it could affect the India-Israel trade in gems and jewellery in a major way. In fiscal 2023, gems and jewellery trade between India and Israel was worth a little over \$2 billion, down nearly 27% from \$2.8 billion the previous fiscal, said Colin Shah, MD, Kama Jewellery. In FY23, cut & polished diamonds were the biggest Indian exports to Israel.

BoB now offers up to 7.4% per annum for general citizens and up to 7.9% per annum for senior citizens, which includes an additional 0.15% for non-callable deposits. TNN

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Chennai: Electric two-wheeler sales increased by 16% to 3.4 lakh units during the first six months of 2023-24. While sales were hit in the immediate weeks after the government cut back on FAME-2 subsidies from June 1, they seemed to be stabilising over the last few months as consumers seem to be getting used to life without subsidies.

As a result, after dipping to a flat 3.2% sales growth of 45,806 units in June, they have picked up to around 62,000 units in August and September (see graphic). While year-on-year growth continues



to be positive, month-on-month growth has flattened out from 18.5% in July to 15% in August and flat negative 1.5% in September.

Overall electric vehicle registrations jumped 51% to 7.4

lakh units during the first half of the current financial year. Of this more than half was accounted for by electric two-wheelers. Electric four-wheeler registrations were estimated to have zoomed 163% to

42,323 units during the first six months, up from 16,095 units in the year-ago period.

"Demand has plateaued month-on-month, which will make it challenging to reach the Niti Aayog target of 20-lakh-plus units but festival season offers and discounts can reverse some lost momentum." The see-sawing sales of electric two-wheelers has affected the targets for several states, with most seen to be lagging. So far, only one Indian state has actually managed to meet its sales targets well before the deadline — Gujarat. It had set a target of 1.1 lakh electric two-wheelers by 2025 and sales hit 1,19,448 units in July 2023 itself. Of all two-wheeler sales, EVs in Gujarat now account for 5.4%, said a recent report by JMK Research.

"Demand has plateaued month-on-month, which will make it challenging to reach the Niti Aayog target of 20-lakh-plus units but festival season offers and discounts can reverse some lost momentum."

The regular capex in the existing plants at Gurgaon, Manesar and Gujarat will continue. The amount in 2022-23 was around Rs 7,500 crore. Total capex till 2030-31 could be as much as Rs 1.25 lakh crore, "Maruti said.

In a presentation for shareholders, analysts and proxy advisors, the auto major stated that it will need about Rs 45,000 crore to create a capacity of 20 lakh units. This is based on current costs and a small amount for cost escalation.

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Bragging rights are at stake in all-Asian battle



Pakistan Look To Continue Unbeaten Run Against Sri Lanka In World Cups

JAC.Gladson@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Skill sets can make a lot of difference. With an average age of 27.3, the Sri Lankan team is still unravelling the mysteries of the ODI format. They acquitted themselves well in the Super Four match of the Asia Cup match against Pakistan and made the final, where they were immediately deflated by India — their lack of big-match experience showing as Mohammed Siraj blew them away in Colombo.

If the speedster's spell had lessons for them on how not to commit hara-kiri, they arrived in the Hyderabad bowler's back-

yard with lessons learnt from the recent battering at the hands of South Africa.

Their World Cup opener in Delhi saw the Proteas make merry. Quinton de Kock, Rassie van der Dussen and Aiden Markram took the Lankan attack to the cleaners, with the latter smashing the fastest ton of the tournament in 49 deliveries.

It was a rank bad start for a team, which for the first time came through the qualifiers, playing minnows UAE, Oman and the Netherlands.

The match against Pakistan at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Tuesday will offer the

Lankan team, ranked ninth in the ODI table, another chance to get going in a tournament they last won in 1996.

Given their record, it's easier said than done. Sri Lanka are yet to defeat Pakistan in a World Cup encounter. While the two teams did not cross paths in 1979, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2015, Pakistan won in 1975, 1983 (2), 1987 (2), 1992, 2011 and there was no result in Bristol in 2019.

The Lankans, though, have the advantage of plying their trade on Indian wickets, courtesy the IPL, and will be bolstered by the return of Maheesh Theekshana. The offie is likely to replace left-arm spinner Dunith Wellalage and Lahiru Kumara, Matheesha Pathirana. Kusal Mendis will be the key to Lankan fortunes, as he has been in good touch, and

they look to counter the Pakistan bowling attack.

The Pakistan team is more familiar with the conditions, having trained and won a match against the Netherlands here. Barring their openers Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq, skipper Babar Azam, Mohammed Rizwan, Iftikhar Ahmed and Saud Shakeel have all been among the runs here.

Shakeel — the first batter in Test history to cross 50 in each of his first seven Tests, including six half-centuries and two centuries — was impressive against the Netherlands and revived the Pakistan innings in the company of Rizwan.

The Pakistanis will look to strike hard before the big one against India in Ahmedabad come Saturday.

Pitch invader Jarvo deported to England

Chennai: Social media influencer and notorious pitch invader Daniel Jarvis, better known as Jarvo, who was detained by Chennai police on Sunday for breaching the MA Chidambaram Stadium security, was deported to England on Monday morning. Jarvo had entered the arena just as India and Australia were preparing for their national anthems. After detaining him, the Chennai police sent him to the Foreign Regional Registration Offices (FRC) in the city to check if he had a valid visa.

Jarvo, who had entered India on October 6, had a visa but it was immediately cancelled and the decision was taken to deport him back. "He has been sent back to England," a police source told TOI on Monday. TNV



Jarvo sneaked up dangerously close to Virat Kohli prior to the anthems in Chennai on Sunday

We can learn a bit from this game, says Smith

Star Batter Backs Aussies To Turn Things Around After Early Defeat

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Chennai: A heavy defeat at the beginning of a marquee tournament may dent the morale of a lot of teams, but not a champion side like Australia, the most successful nation in men's ODI World Cup history by far.

The five-time title-winners were behind for much of their opener against hosts India here on Sunday and eventually suffered a six-wicket loss.

While the Pat Cummins-led side have stumbled at the first hurdle, they are pacing themselves to ace the World Cup test, which is undoubtedly a marathon and not a sprint.

Their batting stalwart Steve Smith emphasised that the team will reflect on the below-par performance but will not sweat over the shaky start to the event.

"Definitely, we can learn a bit from this game. We, as a group, have talked about playing according to the surface that we are on. In tournament play, you



Aussie batter Steve Smith and teammates arrive at Lucknow airport on Monday. Australia take on South Africa in their second match of the World Cup at the Ekana Stadium on Thursday

do not want to be peaking too early," said Smith, Australia's top-scorer against India with a well-constructed 46. "But you obviously got to do enough to make your way into the semifinals. You want to be playing your best cricket at the end. Hopefully, we can turn it around."

Up next for Australia is a tough battle against South Africa, who decimated Sri Lanka by 102 runs in their opening match in New Delhi on Saturday. Speaking about the contest in challenging conditions in Lucknow on Thursday, Smith said: "South Africa have got a good side and are playing well. We watched the

game the other day, it was a pretty nice surface in Delhi. They were able to post a massive total (428/5). It is important to see how the surface is (in Lucknow) and how we play on that."

If Australia are to turn their fortunes around, they will have to strike the perfect balance.

Asked if the team has found the best combination yet, Smith replied: "We've got a few options and ways we can go about. Potentially, Marcus Stoinis is back on the table. If we want to play eight batters, including a few all-rounders, and things like that... we will wait and see what the selectors want to do."

In this year's VDHM, leaders from different fields of work, many of whom are experienced runners, have volunteered to be the pacers. These corporate honchos will look to play the role of motivators during the race for runners, who might have to dig deep to finish. These pacemakers also act as running coaches, imparting advice gained through their multiple years of running experience.

One of the pacers for this year's half marathon will be

pre-designated time. The aim of a pacer is to help other participants around them know their own speed and — if they can maintain the pace — finish within the same time.

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All-women contingent of 'pacers' in 10k event

Corporate Honchos To Don Role Of Half Marathon Pacers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: An all-women contingent will be the 'pacers' during the 10k event at the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon 2023 (VDHM) on October 15. The same role will be donned by corporate heads for the half marathon event,

the event organisers announced on Monday.

Pacers are keen or experienced runners who complete the course at a managed pace and finish within a certain,



Vijayraghavan Venugopal, the CEO of nutrition brand Fast&Up. This is the first time he will take on the role of pacer.

"Finishing the 21k is a daunting task, even for experienced runners like the pacers," he said. "Pacing the course judiciously for the 21k



VEDANTA DELHI HALF MARATHON, 2023

will be pivotal. Going fast too early or too late in the race can drastically affect timings and even cause severe physical and mental burnout. A consistent pace and some minor drafting can help the runners conserve energy for a final push closer to the finish line. I will be looking to impart this advice to the runners during the 21k."

During the 10k, the pacers will have an added dimension of speed while they're pacing. The 10k event at the VDHM will be guided by an all-women contingent, consisting of eight female pacers. One of them will be Captain Asmita Handa, a pilot with Indigo Airlines and a dedicated fitness enthusiast. She has been an active 10k runner since 2019. She has also participated in the Ladakh Marathon.

Kiwis flex muscle in 99-run win over Dutch



FIVE-STAR SHOW: Kiwi left-arm spinner Mitch Santner strangled the Dutch with a five-wicket haul in their World Cup match at Hyderabad on Monday

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ground. He bagged the player of the match award.

For New Zealand, it proved to be a good outing. Their batters, unlike in the previous game against champions England, were tested by the Dutch. Off-spinner Aryan Dutt bowled two maidens and pacers Ryan Klein the third. The shackles were broken by Will Young when he drove Klein to the mid-off fence off the 19th ball. Thereafter, it was a Young and Devon Conway (32; 40b, 4x5, 6x1) show. They added 67 for the first wicket in 12.1 overs (effectively 9.1 overs) before Conway was tricked into a false stroke by left-arm spinner Roelof van der Merwe.

Young (70; 80b, 4x7, 6x2) and Ravindra made steady progress. Overs 11 to 14 was a mixed bag. The Kiwis scored 175 runs and lost three wickets. They built a platform for an assault in the last 10 overs.

In overs 40 to 45, New Zealand scored only 24 and lost three wickets as Netherlands enjoyed another good phase. However, the Kiwis got a whopping 51 in the last three overs as the Netherlands bowlers and fielders succumbed to the pressure.

SCOREBOARD							
Pos	T	P	W	L	N/R	NRR	Pts
1	NZ	2	2	0	0	+1958	4
2	SA	1	1	0	0	+2040	2
3	Pak	1	1	0	0	+1620	2
4	B'desh	1	1	0	0	+1438	2
5	Ind	1	1	0	0	+0.883	2
6	Aus	1	0	1	0	-0.883	0
7	Afg	1	0	1	0	-1438	0
8	Ned	2	0	2	0	-1800	0
9	SL	1	0	1	0	-2040	0
10	Eng	1	0	1	0	-2149	0

1 Mitchell Santner is the first New Zealand spinner to bag a five-wicket haul in the World Cup, beating Daniel Vettori's figures of 4 for 18 against Afghanistan at Napier on March 8, 2015.

UPDATED TILL NZ VS NED MATCH

Oz put Marsh's Kohli clanger behind them

Reuters



Mitchell Marsh dropped Virat Kohli when he was on 12 on Sunday

one of those things that happens and everyone's training hard and working hard off the field to hang on to them."

The costly mistake inspired memes but Australia captain Pat Cummins backed his teammates.

"I've already forgotten about it," Cummins said. "It's not ideal, especially someone of his (Kohli's) calibre, but it happens."

REUTERS

There was lack of aggression from Aussie batters: Finch

Chennai: Australian batters lacked intent and failed to play an aggressive brand of cricket against India's world class spinners.

"You can't allow Jadeja, Kuldeep and Ashwin to bowl how they want to bowl on a surface like that. They're so accurate and so highly skilled — Jadeja has done it to Australia so many times now," he wrote in his column for ICC.

"Part of it comes down to how India bowled spin, but we also need to look at the way that Australia batted. There was a clear plan among the group to be proactive, to try to limit dot balls and rotate strike against what they knew would be a world-class group of spinners."

"There was a bit of a lack of aggression from the Australian batters. I think they'll be disappointed by the intent they showed."

FINCH

"I think they'll be disappointed by the intent they showed."

Barca teen Yamal becomes youngest scorer in La Liga

Madrid: Barcelona teenager Lamine Yamal added his name to the record books

again on Sunday, becoming the youngest scorer in the La Liga in Barcelona's 2-2 draw at Granada.

At 16 years, 87 days, Yamal surpassed Malaga player Fabrice Olinga, who was 16 years, 98 days old when he scored against Celta Vigo in 2012.

UEFA postpones upcoming games in Israel:

European soccer's governing body UEFA has postponed all matches scheduled to take place in Israel over the next two weeks after Hamas' surprise attack. That includes Israel's match against Switzerland in 2024 European Championship qualifying, which had been scheduled for Thursday in Tel Aviv. AGENCIES

GALLERY

F1: Verstappen wins Qatar GP

Doha: Red Bull's Max Verstappen celebrated his first win as a triple Formula One world champion after dominating a Qatar Grand Prix peppered with pitstops and penalties on a night of sweltering heat. The victory from pole position under the Lusail floodlights was a 14th in 17 races, and career 49th, for the 26-year-old Red Bull driver.

Swiatek bags China Open

Title: Iga Swiatek won the China Open final with a near-perfect 6-2, 6-2 victory over Liudmila Samsonova on Sunday for her tour-leading fifth title of the season. Swiatek's triumph, in her first visit to China, was her 16th

Alcaraz continues winning run: World No.2 Carlos Alcaraz faced a challenging test but emerged victorious with a straight-set 7-6 (1), 6-4 win against Daniel Evans at the Shanghai Masters on Monday. The Spaniard defeated Evans in a series of exchanges to improve to 41-1 on the year against players outside the top 20. AGENCIES

the event organisers announced on Monday.

Pacers are keen or experienced runners who complete the course at a managed pace and finish within a certain,

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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WORLD CUP



THE STEEL IN THE MIDDLE

KL Rahul's Rock-Solid Innings Against Australia Showed Exactly Why The Management Believed In Him, Reinstating Him Immediately After Injury

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Those were still early days in his international career when KL Rahul was batting at the nets on a cold morning in Ireland in 2018. Virat Kohli, the captain, keenly watched the right-hander playing some of those exquisite drives on a difficult practice pitch, then told somebody else: "Kya player hain yaar (what a player he is)!".

Rahul has had a topsy-turvy ride in international cricket since then, but the team management never lost faith in him. They stuck with him through difficult times, waited for him during his injuries, and come the home World Cup, the right-hander is showing that Virat's confidence in him all those years ago was not misplaced.

At three down for 2 on a difficult pitch against a quality pace trio and a couple of very capable white-ball spinners, Rahul and Virat stitched together a partnership of 165 runs that helped India romp home on Sunday.

Rahul's 97 not out was a mixture of everything that makes a fantastic middle-order player. He was ready to bide his time, cutting down on the shots in his armoury, waiting for the right opportunity and then bringing his entire repertoire into play.

You could be spoilt for choice if you're asked to select Rahul's best Sunday shot. But probably the one (or two) that would stand out are the two late-cuts that he played off leggie Adam Zampa in the 18th over. There were immediate references to the undisputed master of that stroke — GR Viswanath — who had also scored a magnificent 97 not out against West Indies at Chepauk in

the 1975 Test match that India won.

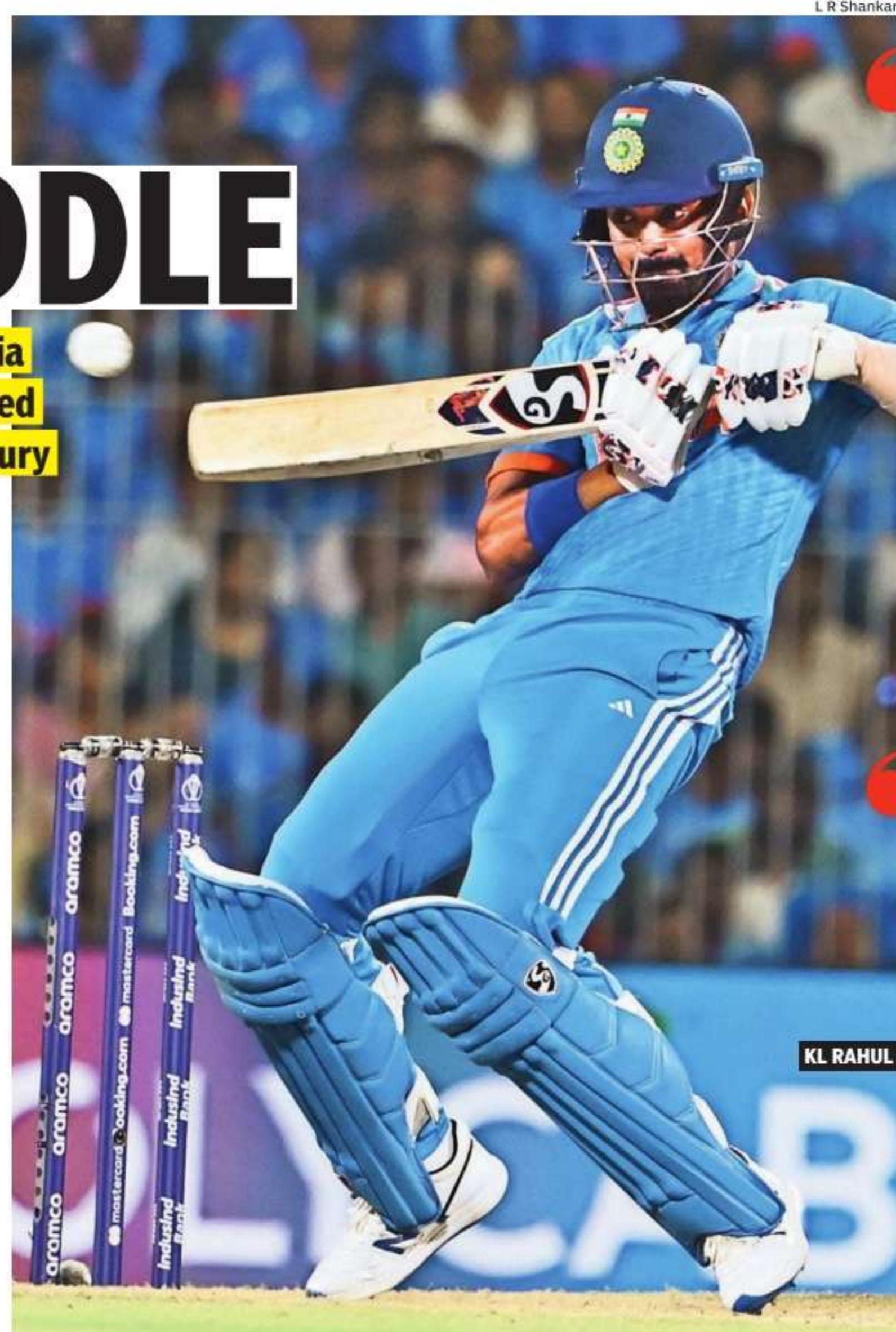
"It's purely coincidental that both scored 97 not out but it brought back memories. Vishy had the incredible ability to play the late-cut looking at the bowler instead of the ball. Much later in 1987, when he was retired from international cricket, he played that shot to me in an office game as I bowled him an armer on a turning track. The ball raced away to the fence between slip and short third-man. These two shots of Rahul were really out of the Vishy playbook," Sunil Subramanian, a renowned former Tamil Nadu left-arm spinner and the man who mentored R Ashwin, told TOI.

While Rahul's finesse was one of the talking points of the day, it was his new-found ability to bite the bullet and carry on in difficult conditions that deserves special mention.

"We always know what Rahul brings to the team, the quality that he has especially in the middle order. He is someone who can play both spinners and pacers well and that gives you a little bit of stability and confidence," Team India bowling coach Paras Mhambray said at the mixed zone after the game.

While Rahul was a picture of confidence, having the master himself at the other end only helped the 31-year-old, who had also kept wickets for four hours in the heat of Chennai. "I had just taken a shower and was looking to put my feet up for while when I had to go in to bat. Not that there were a lot of conversations, but Virat told me to treat it like a Test match situation and I am happy I could do that," Rahul said.

Now it's up to him to carry on with it, but the early signs are truly promising.



There was a lot of criticism. People were commenting on my performance in every match and situation, and I wasn't able to understand why it was happening because my performance wasn't that bad. That was very painful. I know the pain of going through an injury

and the process of coming back. Then, I had an injury during the IPL. When I found out I'll be losing four-five months, being a part of the World Cup also was not a 100% sure thing. That was a very difficult time."

I already knew it in my mind and understood the process. I was very positive, and there was only one motivation: That I had to come back before the World Cup, that I have to be a part of this home World Cup. I have been waking up thinking we need to win the World Cup.

Every day in the morning that's what got me out of bed and pushed me to do the boring work in the gym. Playing a World Cup at home is a dream and is special to all cricketers."

—KL Rahul

KL RAHUL IN ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR
Between 2017 & 2021	38	37	6	1509	112	48.67	5	9	89.28
2022	10	9	0	251	73	27.88	0	2	80.19
2023	14	13	5	628	111*	78.50	1	5	86.50
Total	62	59	11	2388	112	45.13	6	16	87.50
Last 7 innings	8	7	3	402	111*	100.50	1	3	92.41
World Cup	10	10	2	458	111	57.25	1	3	78.82

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

Finally, Kuldeep cracks the recipe for success

Increasing His Pace & Attacking The Stumps Have Made All The Difference For Chinaman Bowler

Neha.Surana@timesgroup.com

Chennai: When Australian warhorses David Warner and Steve Smith were building a steady stand for the second wicket against India, Kuldeep Yadav's crafty left-arm wrist spin broke the well-settled duo's partnership. Warner was caught and bowled on 41, looking bewildered as he spooned one back to Kuldeep. He then stared at the pitch while a chuffed Kuldeep kissed the ball and looked up at the sky.

There was lot of competition for the spinners' slots in the lead-up

to the World Cup. But it was the left-arm wrist-spinner's recent performances that made the selectors go for him ahead of Yuzvendra Chahal. After a dip in form which led to his ouster from the Indian team in 2021, a few months of hard work — straightening the run-up, accelerating the pace and tweaks in his bowling — have worked like magic for the Kanpur man.

"Many people had told me that my deliveries needed more pace, but no one told me how to do it," said Kuldeep. In the 2021 IPL in the UAE, Kuldeep twisted his right knee and had to go under the knife. That moment proved to be a blessing in disguise as former physio Ashish Kaulshik gave him valuable advice.

"When I was recovering from injury, it was former physio Ashish who advised that 'when you come back try to take less load on the right foot'. After I completed the rehab, I tried to implement that in my training and I could see the results slowly. It took some time to get the rhythm. It didn't happen overnight; it took me five to six months to perfect it," Kuldeep said.

Attacking the stumps more in white-ball cricket helped Kuldeep. "In white-ball formats, you need to keep hitting the stumps, that's more important for any spinner. When you play Tests, it's okay to bowl a bit wide, but here there are restrictions on the field positions. You have to keep it in the stumps because it increases the chances to get wickets. That's exactly what I was trying to do on Sunday," he added.

The delivery which removed dangerman Glenn Maxwell was bowled at a faster pace than his usual and the Aussie allrounder couldn't deal with it. "Chepauk pitch wasn't a slow turner, but I had to increase the pace of my deliveries so that the batters don't get the extra time. That's how I got Maxwell. He didn't get the time to react. Along with the turn, pace on the deliveries also becomes important," explained Kuldeep.

India's formidable spin trio of Kuldeep, R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja worked in tandem to claim six wickets as India bowled out Australia for 199. Kuldeep said the three bond extremely well.

"I have been with the Test team for the past six years. And obviously, Jaddu and Ashwin are there too. So I have spent a lot of time with them and we have a good understanding. We even talk and discuss a lot on the field," said Kuldeep.

While Buttler, the skipper, and Moeen Ali during training in Dharamsala on October 6.

Injuries so early in the tournament to any of their key players could jeopardise any team's chances in the tournament and both sides would like to avoid such a scenario.

While Buttler would like a more committed performance from both his batters and bowlers, whose best efforts could not breach the defences of Conway and Ravindra, Bangladesh would be upbeat following their winning start in the tournament.

While 36-year-old allrounder Shakib Al Hasan will always be a threat to any side, top-order batters Litton Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Najmul Hossain Shanto, among others, have also given fine performances over the years.

While Jos Root, opener Jonny Bairstow and the skipper himself made some useful contributions, a big innings was sadly lacking.

Buttler said Ben Stokes was unlikely to feature after missing the

opening game with a hip injury.

Bangladesh would like to exploit those chinks in England's armour when they clash at the HPCA Stadium, that has drawn flak for the reported quality of the outfield.

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LIVE ON STAR SPORTS, 10:30 AM

ENG B'DESH

ICC ODI RANKINGS

6 7

HEAD TO HEAD

19 5 NR

VENUE

Dharamsala

PITCH

The outfield is in poor shape but the wicket, despite an early start, should be good to bat on. Boundaries are very short.

WEATHER

At 22 degrees, it will be pleasant for both teams. Very little chance of rain.

ODDS: ENGLAND 5/10, BANGLADESH 6/4

Wounded England take on upbeat Bangladesh



GROUND REALITIES: England captain Jos Buttler (right) and Moeen Ali during training in Dharamsala

Both teams have won two matches against each other out of four played in the World Cup. England won by four wickets at Bridgetown on April 11, 2007 & by 106 runs at Cardiff on June 8, 2019. Bangladesh beat England by two wickets at Chattogram on March 11, 2011 & by 15 runs at Adelaide on March 9, 2015.

Hasan, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Taskin Ahmed, Tuhid Hridoy. England: Jos Buttler, Moeen Ali, Gus Atkinson, Jonny Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, David Willey, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood. PTI

63 runs needed by Joe Root (835 at 55.66 run apiece, including three hundreds and four fifties, in 17 innings) to overtake Graham Gooch's tally of 897 at 44.85 runs apiece in 21 innings and become the leading run-getter for England in the World Cup.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

"SRI LANKA HAVE WON IMPORTANT MATCHES AGAINST US IN THE LAST YEAR, BUT THAT'S IN THE PAST AND SHOULD NOT AFFECT US."

—Mohammad Nawaz | PAKISTAN SPINNER

PEPSICO

Wednesday, will be shaved a bit more. The autumn weather here will not dry out the pitch. Afghanistan's superstar spin attack led by Rashid Khan will have their test cut. The last match here yielded 750 runs.

India refuse to take morning flights after late games

With India scheduled to play six matches in two weeks across the country, the team has made it clear that it won't be any taking morning flights, in order to give their bodies enough time to recover after an evening game. Early-morning flights were done away with the last IPL as well.

"The players are used to travelling across the country and playing matches on the bounce. They know how to take care of their bodies. One thing that has been categorically communicated is that there shouldn't be morning flights even if there are small gaps between games," a source close to the team told TOI.

Unlike the World Cup in 2011, the team isn't having a tough time with nosy fans while travelling.

"It has been very smooth," the source added.

Still no Gill as India arrive for Afg match

Opener May Struggle To Get Fit For Pakistan Match On Oct 14 As Well



Arani.Basu@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Indian team arrived here for Wednesday's match against Afghanistan without opener Shubman Gill, who is reportedly down with dengue and has stayed back in Chennai under the observation of the medical team. According to sources, the in-form opener is racing against time to fit for the match against Pakistan in Ahmedabad on Oct 14.

His absence in Wednesday's game, though, isn't expected to hurt India, although the top order did look shaky in his absence against the Australians. Going by how the pitch here at the Arun Jaitley stadium played during the match between South Africa and Sri Lanka on Saturday, Rohit Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer can't expect a better strip to get their campaign up and running.

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Kohli: Tough situation forced us to opt for the conventional way



KOHLI

tigated than you are. The team obviously feels great after a win like that. Hopefully, we can build on this and go a long way in this tournament."

Meanwhile, Rahul admitted that he was taken aback by the quick fall of wickets, as it barely allowed him to settle down in the pavilion after India began its chase. "I never expected it. You do lose a couple of quick wickets when the bowler is doing something, but not like that. It takes four-five overs; doesn't happen in 1.5 overs.

"I had a shower and just came out and sat, and then Ishan (Kishan) got out. I had to rush back in, get taped and wear my pads before Rohit (Sharma) got out.

"I thought I would get at least two overs; Shreyas (Iyer) will bat a little bit. But he got out, I don't even know when, as I was busy paddling up, and then, I rushed out."

PCB CHIEF ASHRAF DISCUSSES INDIA VISA DELAYS WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY

IND V PAK CORNER

Lahore: PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf on Monday met Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi to discuss the delay in visa issuance to Pakistani fans and

India's ascendancy in the Asian Games: A confluence of talent, infrastructure and govt support

Anurag Singh Thakur



the stunning victory of Ayhika and Sutirtha Mukherjee when they beat the 12-time world champions Chinese team to get a bronze in women's table tennis doubles.

Government support through Khelo India and TOP Scheme

But why is this the first time ever that India has crossed the triple-digit medal tally in the Asian Games? And what factors contributed to this historic performance?

Beyond the undeniable talent of our athletes, the recent results highlight the expansion of grassroots sports initiatives in India, the rise in female sports participation, improvements in sports infrastructure, and the consistent backing provided by the government to our athletes.

The Target Olympic Podium Scheme, stemming from the visionary leadership of our hon'ble PM, has been a transformative initiative that has notably boosted support to elite athletes, playing a pivotal role in India's medal haul at the 2022 Asian Games. This scheme offers athletes foreign exposure, international training, access to world-class coaches, bespoke equipment, and an out-of-pocket allowance of INR 50,000 for elite athletes and INR 25,000 for development athletes. It represents a significant upgrade from past initiatives, meticulously sharpening our athletes' skills and granting them unmatched exposure.

A nation's triumphs in sports are not solely predicated on honing its existing talents. True sporting success is anchored in fostering a vibrant athletic culture — one that emphasizes grassroots development, promotes inclusivity from every part of the country and cultivates the emerging generation of sports prodigies.

The Khelo India Scheme, introduced in 2017, stands paramount in spotting and nurturing talent from the grassroots. Significantly, this programme has shaped the journeys of India's budding sports stars, with 124 of its protégés proudly donning the national colours at the Asian Games.

Each year 1000 new athletes are added to the Khelo India Scheme in various disciplines and each athlete is provided with funding worth INR 6.28 lakh a year, which includes their boarding, lodging, training, diet and an out-of-pocket allowance of INR 10,000 per month.

They are trained in National Centres of Excellences, SAI Training Centres, Khelo India Centres and Khelo India Accredited Academies and then absorbed in the TOPS Development group for advanced training. The Khelo India Scheme has done wonders in creating a powerful bench-strength for India and 124 athletes who were trained under the Khelo India Scheme were part of the Indian contingent in the Asian Games this year. Khelo India has become a buzzword now and

under the Khelo India umbrella, we have built more than 300 sporting infrastructure projects including multi-purpose halls, synthetic athletic tracks, hockey astro-turfs, mini-stadiums etc. Another big change is the organization of competitions like the Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India University Games and Khelo India Winter Games.

To just highlight the success of the Khelo India University Games, I will give the example of the recently concluded World University Games held at Chengdu. In the past 60 years of the World University Games, India had won a total of 18 medals wherein in this one edition, our university-level athletes won a total of 26 medals including 11 gold. That the bench strength is improving is evident from the fact that we won 16 medals for the first time in various sporting disciplines including roller skating, equestrian, and steeplechase, among others. In six categories we have also won multiple medals. To ensure the best facilities for athletes and in keeping with our athlete-first commitment the sports budget has been tripled from INR 874 crores in 2013-14 to INR 2254 crores in 2022-23.

Monetary and technical support provided

For this Asian Games alone, athletes were given more than 275 foreign exposures, we hired more than 49 foreign experts and 200 plus sports science experts to assist in the training. Seventy five specialised camps were held where each athlete got more than 200 camp days of training. Our golden boy Neeraj Chopra trained in Europe, South Africa, and the US for over 565 days since the Tokyo Olympics. Sable trained in the US, Switzerland, Hungary and Morocco. Foreign training and equipment worth INR 2.88 crores were given to sailors while shooters trained in specialised training camps in Germany, Italy, France & Czech Republic to the tune of INR 4 crores.

While the facilities have helped athletes to train well, it is the motivation to excel that they have drawn from knowing that an entire nation is backing them with their wishes. Many athletes have told me that when they represent the country now not only do they feel they have training at par with the best in the world, but what sets them apart from athletes of any other country is the mental support they get.

The honourable PM's personal involvement, from meeting athletes before major events to appreciating their efforts after victories, and even losses, has made a profound positive impact on their morale.

With preparations for Paris already underway and gaining momentum from our recent achievements, we're confident that our athletes will continue to demonstrate that this era belongs to Bharat.

(The writer is the Union minister for youth affairs and sports & information and broadcasting)

Performance historic for several reasons

This performance at the Asian Games is historic for several reasons. We achieved our highest medal counts in athletics, shooting, archery, squash and rowing. We secured medals in events such as women's shot put after 72 years, men's decathlon after 49 years, equestrian (dressage) after 41 years, and men's 4x400m relay after 61 years of participation in the Asian Games.

Our athletes showcased brilliant multi-podium finishes across nine events, including men's javelin, shooting, archery, and squash. Thirty one athletes secured multiple medals across various sporting disciplines. 22 new national records were set, with records in disciplines like shooting, archery, athletics, swimming and cycling. Moreover, 11 Asian Games records were created in archery, athletics and shooting.

While it is not possible to recount the performances of every athlete who participated in the Games, there are some that come to mind often and again. We will always remember the performance of shooter Sift Kaur Samra who broke the world record, Asian record and Games records. We will remember the grit and resilience of Saurav Ghosal who won his ninth Asian Games medal in his sixth Games. We will remember

Delhi, Chennai studies hint at pollution link to diabetes

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New Delhi: Is air pollution linked to worsening of diabetes symptoms? Studies conducted in two Indian cities – Delhi and Chennai – suggest so.

It shows even a 10 micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) increase in monthly average exposure to PM2.5 or fine particulate matters is associated with a 0.40 mg/dL (milligrams per deciliter) increase in fasting plasma glucose (FPG) and 0.021 unit increase in HbA1c.

HbA1c measures blood sugar levels over the past two to three months, while FPG measures immediate blood glucose levels.

Further, the study, published in BMJ Open–Diabetes Research and Care found 10 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) differences in annual average PM2.5 was associated with 1.2 times increased risk of new onset type 2 diabetes.

The researchers included Dr Siddhartha Mandal and Dr Prabhakaran from Centre for Disease Control Delhi, Dr Nikhil Tandon from AIIMS and Dr V Mohan from the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation. Dr V Mohan told TOI the research was carried out as part of an ongoing study that was started nearly two decades ago.

"It included periodic monitoring of ambient PM2.5 (fine particulate matter) levels and fasting plasma glucose (FPG), glycosylated haemoglobin (HbA1c) and incident type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) among 12,064 participants in an adult cohort from urban Chennai and Delhi," he said.

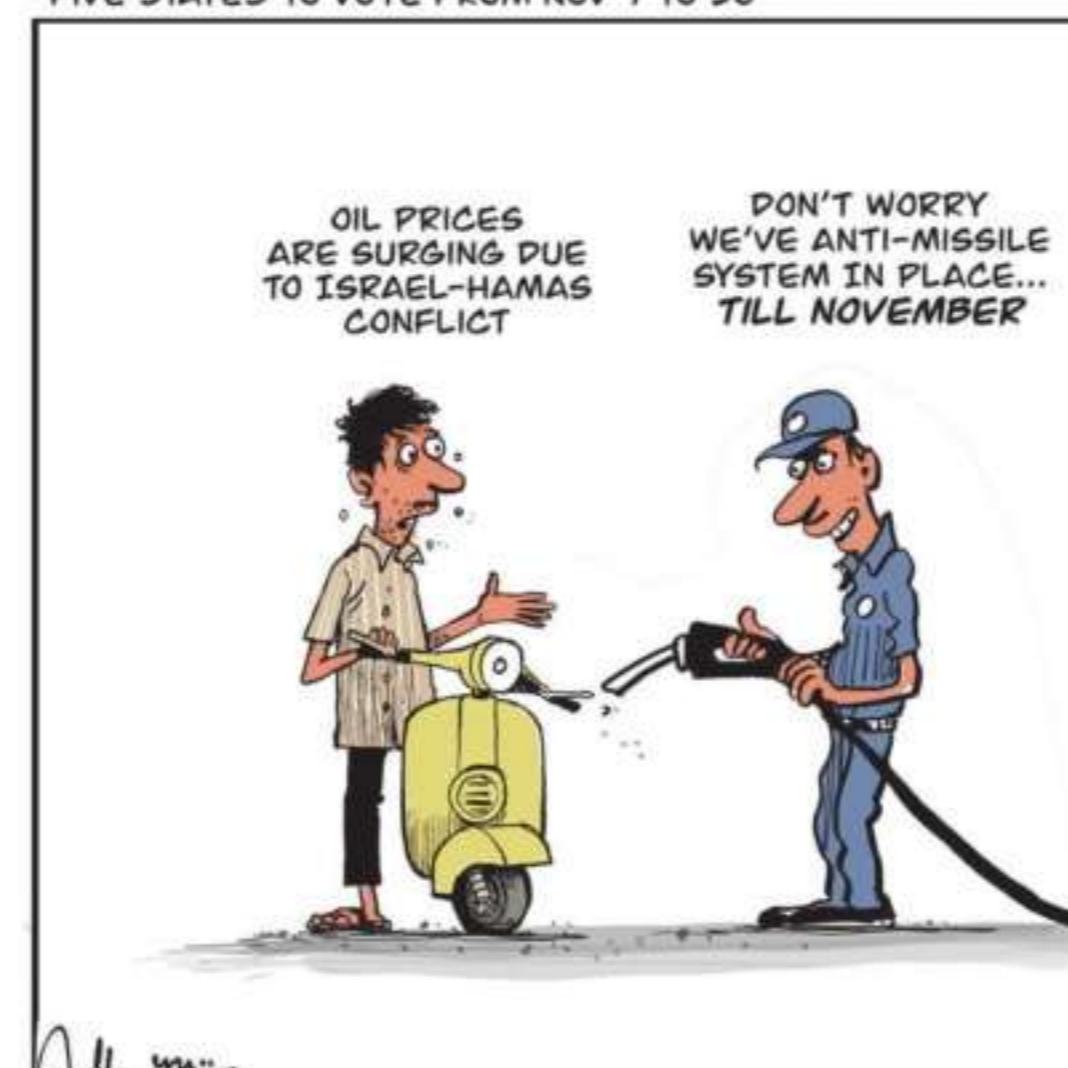
Dr Anoop Misra, chairman, Fortis C-Doc, said the study further illuminates the link between air pollution and diabetes. "To better understand this connection, a more effective approach involves comparing two similar groups of individuals - one in a clean, urban environment and another in a polluted area," he said.

BJP's welfare plank vs Cong's Manda play in direct contest in Hindi belt

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL

SANDEEP ADHWARYU

FIVE STATES TO VOTE FROM NOV 7 TO 30



tisgarh by putting women's quota in play, bringing down LPG prices, announcing a good chunk of its candidates in advance, and fielding Union ministers and MPs from the traditionally 'weak' seats while bringing down the prima donnas a notch.

Congress, apart from being buoyed by its win in Karnataka, is eyeing 'Mandal politics' as it pushes for national replication of the caste survey done in Bihar. It hopes to retain Chhattisgarh with CM Bhupesh Baghel, whose five-year tenure was marked by a distinct 'populist' thrust.

Although BJP has tried to repair the weaknesses in its organisation brutally exposed by its rout five years ago, the ask remains tough.

In MP, Congress hopes to exploit the 'incumbency disadvantage' of CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan who, save a break of 15 months, has been at the helm since 2005. Its CM candidate, Kamal Nath, as also Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, have come out with their own populist packages. BJP, which boasts of a strong organisation in MP unlike Chhat-

jisgarh, may push its narrative that the Congress government has failed to deliver on its promises in Karnataka.

A good show in these polls will not only lift the confidence of Congress to take on

from office in MP and Rajasthan in 2018, swept the 2019 LS poll in the two states.

BRS will fight for a third straight term in Telangana but faces a significant challenge from Congress that looks to exploit anti-incumbency against K Chandrasekhar Rao to be able to make inroads in a state that it carved out but never got to govern. BJP too has been focusing on making inroads, hoping to build on the gains it made in the LS and Hyderabad municipal polls.

There are 60.2 lakh first-time voters registered in the 18-19 years age group in the five polling states; an additional 15.4 lakh are set to become eligible, the CEC said on Monday. He said the commission was focused on enrolling vulnerable groups and bringing them to polling stations as part of its 'roll to poll' initiative. Thanks to this, 17.3 lakh persons with disabilities (PWD), 24.7 lakh senior citizens aged above 80 and 32,410 centenarian voters are now in the voters list in the five states. Women voters across the five states total 7.8 crore and the male electorate is 8.2 crore.

BJP in the Lok Sabha poll but also help it seal its position as the natural leader of INDIA.

However, that people vote differently in assembly and LS polls was clear when BJP, months after being ousted

SC to hear Patil plea against Ajit bloc on Fri

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



PAWAR VS PATIL: The SC will hear pleas seeking early decision from the Speaker

notices. A bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said it will hear on Friday this petition along with the earlier petition filed by Sena-Thackeray faction MLA Sunil Prabhu seeking early decision from the Speaker on petitions seeking disqualification of Shinde group Sena rebel MLAs. The Speaker has not yet issued

Appearing for the Speaker, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said that the petitions filed by the NCP leader are completely different from those pending from last year arising from the factional feud in Sena. But, the CJJ said it would hear both issues together.

On September 18, the SC was informed by the Speaker through solicitor general Tushar Mehta that petitions seeking disqualification of a total of 56 MLAs are pending before him. SC had earlier asked the Speaker to decide the petitions within a reasonable time. "While this Court is cognisant of the need to ensure a sense of comity be-

tween the Speaker who is the Head of the Legislative Assembly, we would equally expect deference to the directions which have been issued by this Court in the exercise of its constitutional power of judicial review by the Speaker acting as a tribunal under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution," the SC had said on September 18.

"We now direct that the proceedings shall be listed before the Speaker within a period of one week, when procedural directions shall be issued for completing the record and setting down a time schedule for hearing of the disqualification petitions," it had ordered.

A single-judge bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad issued notice to the Union ministries of home and defence. The matter will be heard next on January 8, 2024. TNN

HC seeks govt reply on Swamy plea on China

New Delhi:

The Delhi HC sought Centre's response to a plea by former BJP Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy seeking details under the Right to Information Act of alleged Chinese incursions into Indian territory. Swamy moved the HC claiming his RTI application was "transferred between various departments repeatedly", even after the reply deadline set under the act.

"We now direct that the proceedings shall be listed before the Speaker within a period of one week, when procedural directions shall be issued for completing the record and setting down a time schedule for hearing of the disqualification petitions," it had ordered.

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Cricket set for return to Olympics

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S T20 COMPETITIONS LIKELY IN LA 2028

66 We are delighted that LA28 have recommended cricket for inclusion in the Olympics. Whilst this is not the final decision, it is a very significant landmark towards seeing cricket at the Olympics for the first time in more than a century.

—Greg Barclay | ICC CHAIRMAN

London: Cricket is set to be included in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic programme alongside flag football, baseball and softball, according to a report. The *Guardian* reported that cricket's inclusion in the Olympics will be confirmed at the 141st International Olympic Committee session that gets underway in Mumbai on October 15.

Cricket has been played in the Olympics only once before, in Paris in 1900, when England and France battled for the gold medal.

The International Cricket Council, in a statement, expressed delight at LA28 organising committee recommending the sport's inclusion at the Summer Games.

"The International Cricket Council (ICC) is delighted at the decision of the organisers of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics to recommend cricket for inclusion at the Games.

"After a two-year process, in which the ICC worked closely with LA28, the

list of sports to be added in LA included cricket, which will now be put forward for approval to the IOC," said the ICC in a statement.

The newspaper also reported that lacrosse and squash could be proposed as additional sports for the 2028 Summer Games.

"We are delighted that LA28 have recommended cricket for inclusion in the Olympics. Whilst this is not the final decision, it is a very significant landmark towards seeing cricket at the Olympics for the first time in more than a century."

—Greg Barclay | ICC CHAIRMAN

more than a century.

"I'd like to thank LA28 for their support during the new sport evaluation process over last two years and we look forward to the final decision being taken at the IOC Session, in India, during the ICC men's cricket World Cup next week," ICC chairman Greg Barclay said. Men's and women's T20 competition will be played in the 2028 edition, opening up a lucrative Asian sub-continent market for the IOC.

Cricket's entry into the Olympics will also go a long way in widening the reach of the sport.

India is the game's biggest market and value of the IOC broadcast deal in the country go up substantially following its inclusion in the 2028 edition. From the reported £15.6 million for the 2024 Olympics, the broadcast deal in India could fetch as much £150 million if the game is featured in the 2028 edition, the paper reported.

Women's cricket made its debut in Commonwealth Games last year while men's and women's competitions were played in the recent Asian Games in China where India swept the competition. PTI

ribe 3 position event – a first for India – with a final world record score to boot.

EQUESTRIAN

The quartet of Sudipti Hajela, Divyakriti Singh, Vibul Hriday Chheda and Anush Agarwalla won India's first-ever dressage team gold in Asian Games. It was India's first equestrian yellow metal in 41 years. In the 1982 edition in New Delhi, the Indian team had grabbed the three gold medals. Anush Agarwalla won India's first-ever individual medal, a bronze, in the dressage competition at the Games.

women's javelin throw and become the first Indian woman to win an Asian Games gold in javelin throw with an effort of 62.92m. This was her second Asian Games medal as she had won a bronze in the 2014 edition.



BADMINTON
SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY AND CHIRAG SHETTY
Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the men's doubles gold for the first time for India at the Asian Games. For the men's team, the silver was a first since 1986 Seoul.

TABLE TENNIS
SUTIRTHA MUKHERJEE AND AYHİKA
Sutirtha Mukherjee's giant-slaying act clinched a historic bronze medal. The medal came after the Indian duo beat the Chinese pair of Meng Chen and Yidi Wang in the quarterfinals.

SHOOTING
MANISHA KEER, RAJESHWARI KUMARI AND PREETI RAJAK
The team of Manisha Keer, Rajeshwari Kumari and Preeti Rajak combined to win India's first-ever Asian medal in women's skeet – a silver. Anantjeet Singh Naruka too etched his name in the annals of Indian sports history by clinching the country's first ever silver medal in men's skeet individual event. Young Sift Kaur Samra also stole the show with a gold in the women's 50m

SAILING
VISHNU SARAVANAN
Sailor Vishnu Saravanan's bronze was India's first-ever medal in the men's dinghy ILCA-7 event at the Games.

SEPAKTAKRAW
India clinched their first-ever medal in women's sepak takraw at the Games with the regu team winning a bronze.

GOLF
OLYMPIAN ADITI ASHOK
Olympian Aditi Ashok won a silver in Hangzhou and became the first Indian woman to claim an Asian Games medal in golf.

was violating the apex court's order by not clearing the names that had been reiterated by the collegium. They impressed upon the court to pass the order as 10 names, which were reiterated by the SC collegium, have not been cleared by the government. The bench, however, said there is a way to push the matter and it would examine it on the next date of hearing on the basis of progress made by the government in the next 10 days.

"I am very polite

ELECTION
2023

THE TIMES



Mizoram
NOV 7
TOTAL SEATS
40
GOVERNING PARTY/ALLIANCE: NDA

Chhattisgarh
NOV 7
PHASE 1
20 SEATS
Congress

MP
NOV 17
PHASE 2
70 SEATS

Rajasthan
NOV 23
TOTAL SEATS
200
BJP

Telangana
NOV 30
TOTAL SEATS
119
BRS

RESULTS
DEC 3

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR)

Polls from Nov 7, C'garh in two phases, results on Dec 3

TOTAL ELECTORATE
16Cr



TOTAL SEATS
679



NO. OF POLLING STATIONS
1,77,020

While the number of polling booths has slightly decreased from 2018 polls in Rajasthan and MP, the maximum voters per booth will be 1,500 across the 5 states

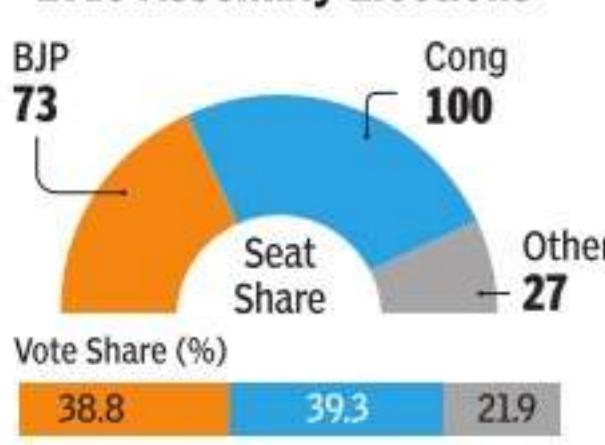
RAJASTHAN: IT IS MAGICIAN GEHLOT VS MODI MAGIC

Since 1993, no CM has won two consecutive terms. Gehlot is counting on his welfare schemes, but faces a tough fight



Graphic: Anil Dinod

2018 Assembly Elections



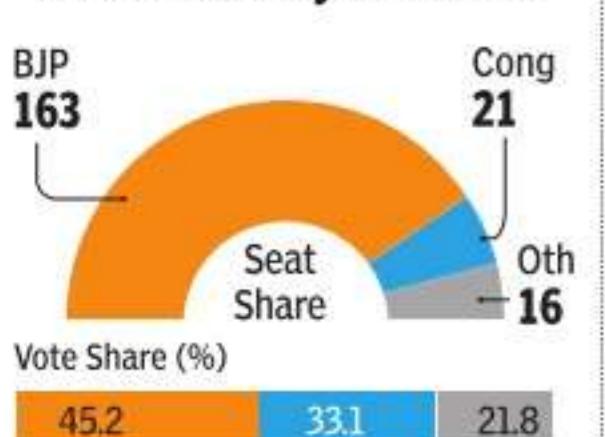
TOTAL SEATS: 200

ELECTORATE: 5.3Cr

SC/ST SEATS: 59

POLL DATE: NOVEMBER 23

2013 Assembly Elections



TOTAL SEATS: 200

ELECTORATE: 5.3Cr

SC/ST SEATS: 59

POLL DATE: NOVEMBER 23

Congress: For 30 years now, Rajasthan has never voted the governing party back to office. Congress will have to fight this jinx as well as anti-incumbency. Early this year, it hired a publicity firm to burnish its image. It also hopes to cash in on a host of social welfare schemes and freebies launched by the government. But CM Ashok Gehlot, an amateur magician, will have to tackle internal divisions and make sure that the Sachin Pilot camp does not play spoiler.

BJP: It is relying on public support for PM Narendra Modi. Unlike in the past four assembly polls, this time the party has refrained from projecting Vasundhara Raje as its CM face. The party has been building a momentum against the governing Congress over the law and order situation, corruption, communal flare-ups and women's security. The RSS, BJP's ideological parent, has been able to penetrate the rural belts.

Note: Vote shares rounded off to nearest decimal place

WHERE THEY STAND

Ashok Gehlot | CONGRESS



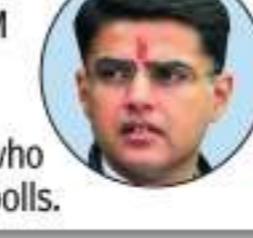
The 72-year-old veteran is hoping to create history by becoming CM for a fourth term. Gehlot has been working tirelessly and in the past 5 years has amply displayed his political prowess by derailing competitor Sachin Pilot's plans to overthrow him.

Vasundhara Raje | BJP



BJP has decided not to project the 70-year-old former royal as its CM face. An upset Raje has skipped the party's Parivartan Sankalp Yatra in the districts which, the opposition says, saw a low turnout. If she is pacified, it will help BJP.

Sachin Pilot | CONGRESS

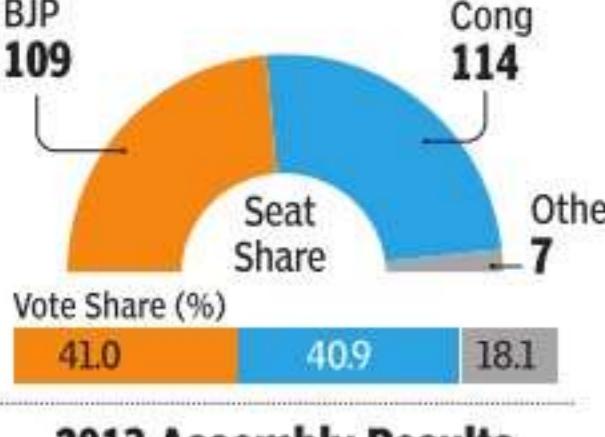


The 46-year-old's resentment over losing the CM post to Gehlot was clear from day one. In July 2020, that led to a rebellion, but Gehlot stayed unscathed. Pilot enjoys the backing of Gujjars, who are dominant in east Rajasthan and can swing polls.

MADHYA PRADESH: WINDS OF CHANGE IN SAFFRON CITADEL?

An entrenched BJP is up against a resurgent Congress. But BJP has to deal with another major challenge: tussles that have erupted within its own ranks. It could be a make-or-break battle for many heavyweights in the state

2018 Assembly Results



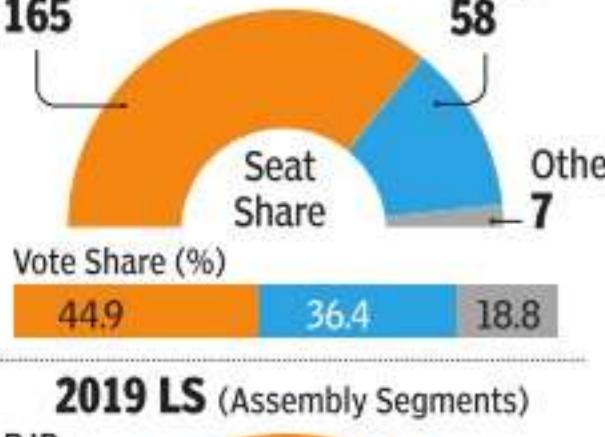
TOTAL SEATS: 230

ELECTORATE: 5.6Cr

SC/ST SEATS: 82

POLL DATE: NOVEMBER 17

2013 Assembly Results



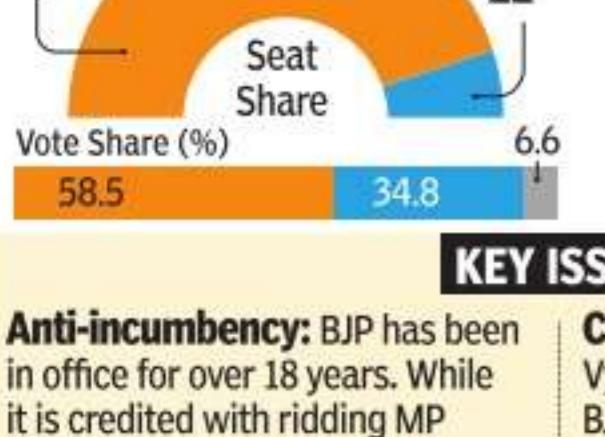
TOTAL SEATS: 230

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POLL DATE: NOVEMBER 17

2019 LS (Assembly Segments)



TOTAL SEATS: 230

ELECTORATE: 5.6Cr

SC/ST SEATS: 82

POLL DATE: NOVEMBER 17

WHERE THEY STAND

BJP: The party is fighting the fatigue factor of being in office for more than 18 years as well as factionalism and a resurgent Congress. Its central leadership took over the reins about six months back and has fielded seven MPs, including three Union ministers, and propped up multiple faces for the CM's chair. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, chief minister for four terms, faces the biggest challenge of his political career.

Congress: It has sniffed the winds of change and hopes to sail past the majority mark to avoid a repeat of 2020, when Jyotiraditya Scindia's rebellion toppled its government. It is seeking retribution with the old guard of Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh leading the charge. The party seems to be missing a strong second rung though its Gen Y is raring to make a mark.

Note: Vote shares rounded off to nearest decimal place

MAIN PLAYERS

Shivraj Singh Chouhan | BJP



BJP has popped up multiple CM faces and four-time CM Chouhan is, for the first time, not seen as the undisputed name for the post. But don't count him out. His 'you will miss me' remark wasn't a farewell pointer.

Kamal Nath | CONGRESS



Forced to bow out as CM in 15 months, he's trained his guns on the "purchased BJP government". By holding religious gatherings, the 'Hanuman bhakt' hopes to counter BJP's Hindutva theme as he makes a spirited bid to return as CM.

Jyotiraditya Scindia | BJP



His 2020 googly stumped Congress, but he is now on the reverse side of the fence this time. He may have to make his assembly poll debut. A potential CM face, his team has upset old BJP equations.

Narendra Singh Tomar | BJP



A wild-card entry, his surprise presence in the state fray is seen as a sign that the party may be looking beyond Chouhan.

Inside Flap: Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram

KEY ISSUES

Anti-incumbency: BJP has been in office for over 18 years. While it is credited with ridding MP of the Bimaru tag, voter fatigue can have a snowballing effect.

First-time voters would have seen the BJP government all their lives and are questioning it on jobs. If anything, anti-incumbency seems stronger this time than in 2018, when it lost.

Agriculture: It has been winning

Krishi awards, and topped the country

in wheat production, but not all seems

to be well in MP's farmlands, and that

is a pressure point in a state with 70%

agrarian population. Unseasonal rain,

floods, and an unusually dry August

hit farmer incomes while input

costs are rising. Early-sown variety of

Kharif soybean, for instance, has seen

production plummet by half.

Corruption: The long shadow of the Vyapam scam continues to chase BJP. Add to that a string of alleged

scams in patwari recruitment, Mahakal Lok construction, and ration distribution. PCC chief Kamal

Nath has branded it the "50% commission government". BJP though accuses the 15-month

Nath tenure of Rs 15,000-crore corruption.

Tribals: The 47 tribal seats (20%) have always proved to be the tipping factor in MP elections.

In 2018, BJP lost 31 of these seats to Congress and has been

trying desperately ever since to regain lost ground. But the Sidihi episode, where an alleged BJP worker urinated on the face of a tribal, weighs heavily on the saffron camp.

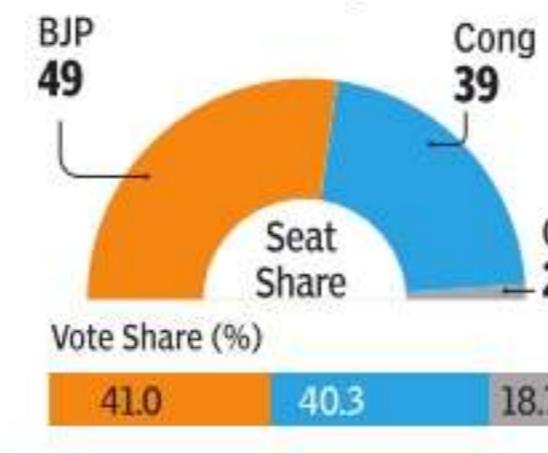
DANCE of DEMOCRACY

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023

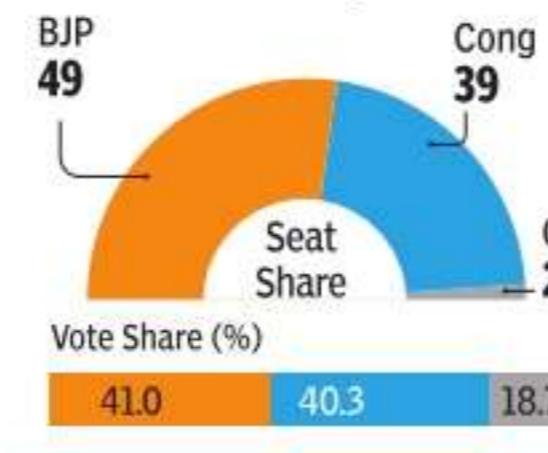
CHHATTISGARH: CONG'S WELFARE PUSH VS BJP'S INFRA PROMISE

Will Congress be able to repeat its sweep of 2018? Or can BJP reclaim lost ground on the back of a determined campaign by the central leadership? Politics in Chhattisgarh has always been bipolar, but a tribal force has emerged in the run-up to these assembly polls, threatening to disrupt equations.

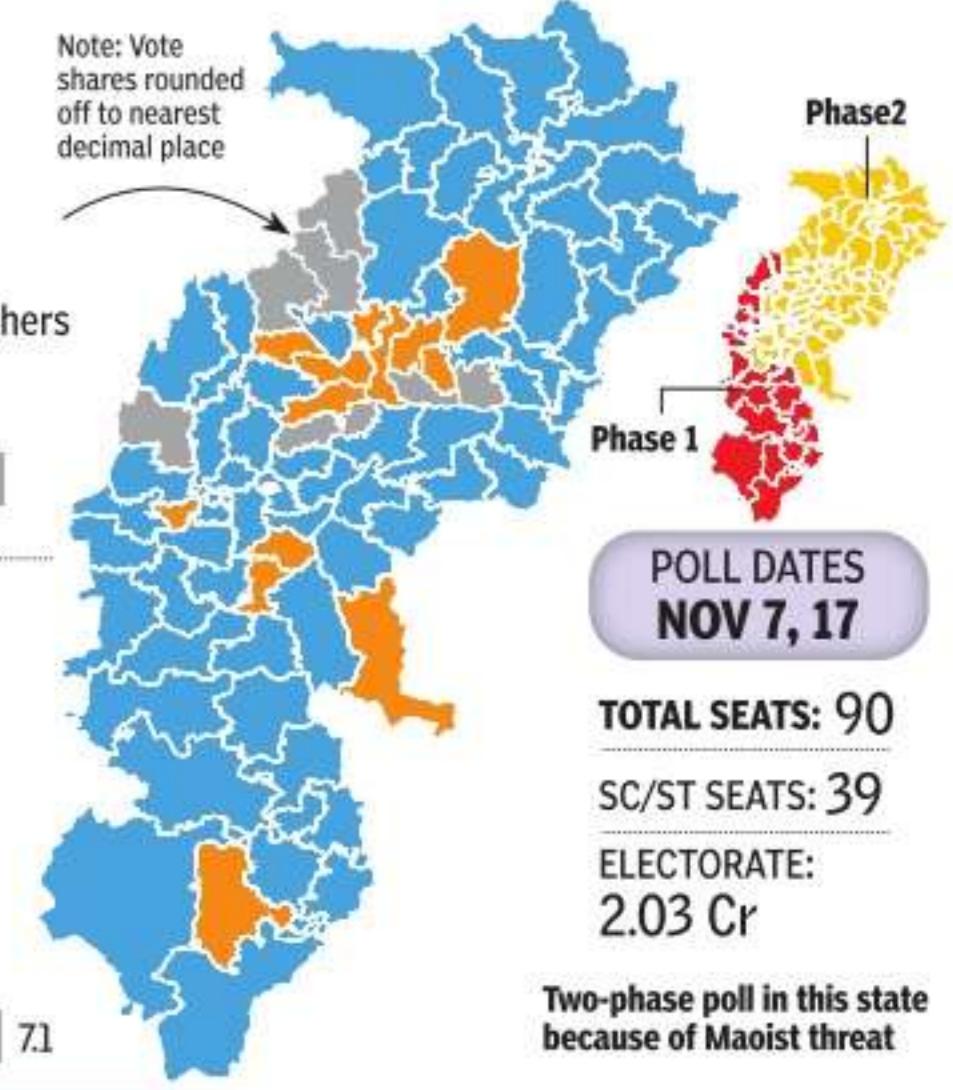
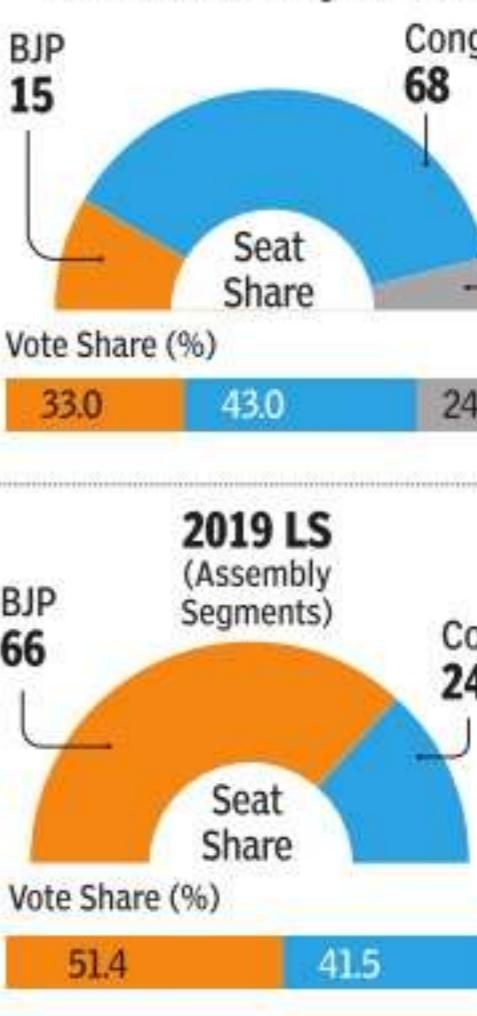
2013 Assembly Results



2018 Assembly Results



2019 LS (Assembly Segments)



WHERE THEY STAND

BJP: Hindutva remains its main plank, but the BJP's success will depend on how well it manages to convince rural voters this time. Its electoral pitch includes the infrastructure development that it carried out during its 15 years in office and alleged corruption under Congress. BJP has yet to come up with a CM face.

Congress: With its own brand of soft Hindutva, coupled with invocation of Chhattisgarhi pride and massive social sector interventions, Congress hopes to convince voters to return it to office. Having CM Bhupesh Baghel, an OBC leader, may be an advantage, but there is anti-incumbency against its MLAs.

KEY ISSUES

Paddy Support Price: Paddy cultivators here have consistently demanded a fair price for their produce, which both the major parties have tried to address from time to time. In 2018, Congress promised Rs 2,500 per quintal MSP for paddy and pledged to pay the difference as agricultural input subsidy.

Infrastructure

With the Congress government mainly focusing on farmers' welfare and other social sector spending, infrastructure development has been a challenge in the last five years. At least in urban areas, the development of roads and other infrastructure could become an issue.

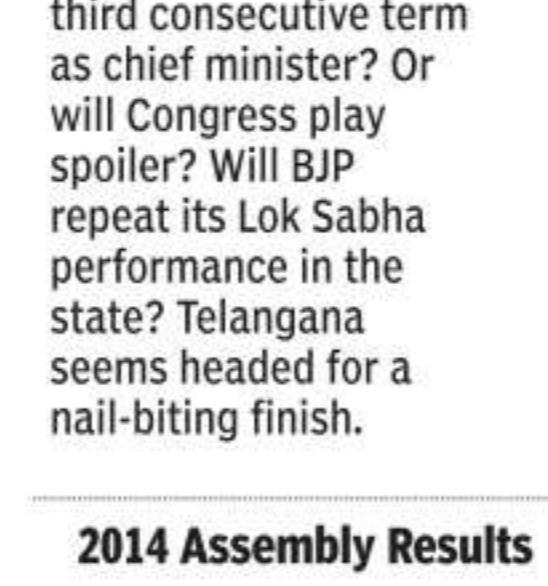
Jal-Jungle-Jameen: A continuing focus for tribal areas, both in Chhattisgarh's southern Bastar and the northern area of Surguja. Coal mining and environmental concerns are contentious issues in Surguja. A newly formed political outfit of tribals is trying its electoral luck on these issues.

Corruption: Controversy over alleged nepotism and corruption in state Public Service Commission (PSC) selections has reached the high court and is part of campaign speeches of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. Besides, there are allegations of a liquor scam and a coal levy scam.

TELANGANA: A THIRD TERM FOR KCR OR A CONG SHOW?

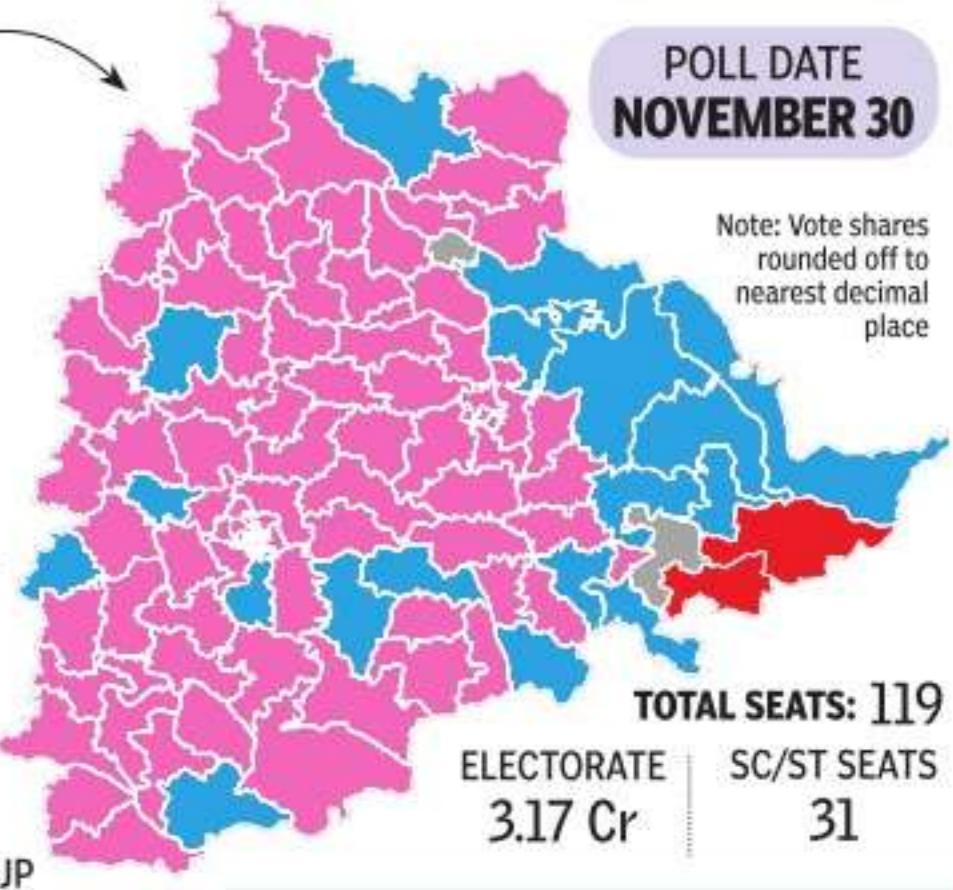
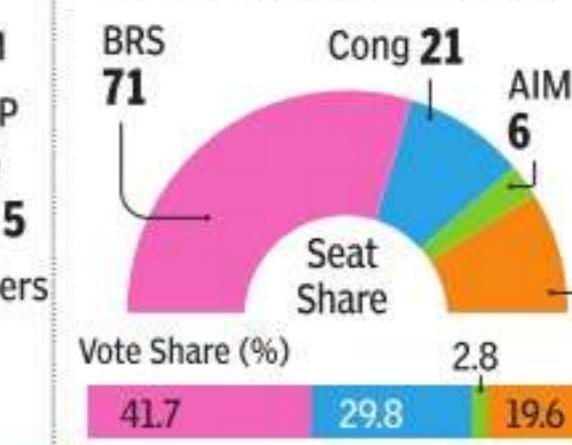
Will KCR secure a third consecutive term as chief minister? Or will Congress play spoiler? Will BJP repeat its Lok Sabha performance in the state? Telangana seems headed for a nail-biting finish.

2018 Assembly Results



*Formerly TRS

2019 LS (Assembly Segments)



KEY ISSUES

Welfare Schemes: All the major parties are competing with each other to announce welfare schemes for wooing voters. These include farm loan waivers, enhanced pensions, financial assistance to various backward classes, unemployment allowance, insurance schemes, and state government jobs.

State Finances: Managing growing state loans and allocation of funds to various welfare schemes will be a big challenge to the party that comes to office. A major chunk of funds is required for farm loan waivers, and the Rythu Bandhu and Dalit Bandhu schemes.

Dissidence: All three major parties – BRS, Congress, and BJP – must contend with rebellion, especially among those who did not get tickets. The parties fear it would dent their votes and damage prospects in key assembly constituencies. Some leaders are openly defying warnings from their parties.

MAIN PLAYERS

K Chandrasekhar Rao | BRS
The BRS national president is hoping to become chief minister for a third consecutive term even as he rechristened his party with an eye on playing a larger role in national politics. KCR will contest from two assembly constituencies – Gajwel and Kamareddy.

K T Rama Rao | BRS
KTR holds a host of portfolios in Telangana government, including IT and industries. As KCR's son and the BRS working president, he is seen as KCR's heir. If KCR decides to focus on national politics in 2024, KTR will handle affairs at the state government and party levels.

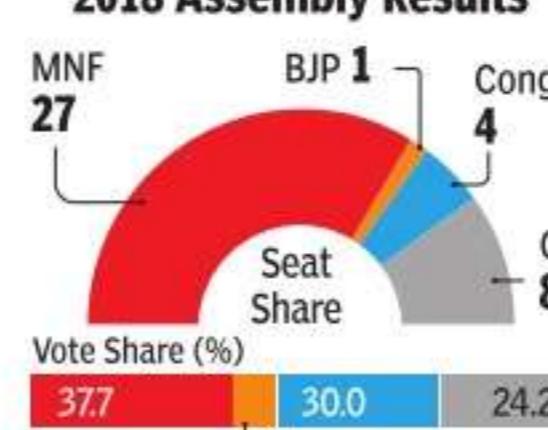
A Revanth Reddy | CONG
The MP from Malkajgiri LS in Greater Hyderabad is the state Cong chief. He took over the party's reins in June 2021. This election is crucial for him. He must deliver more seats than in previous polls or his own leaders could pull the rug from under him.

G Kishan Reddy | BJP
The sole Union minister from Telangana, he was made state BJP chief three months ago after MP Bandi Sanjay became BJP national general secretary. The entire BJP top rung, including PM Modi and Amit Shah, is focusing on the state.

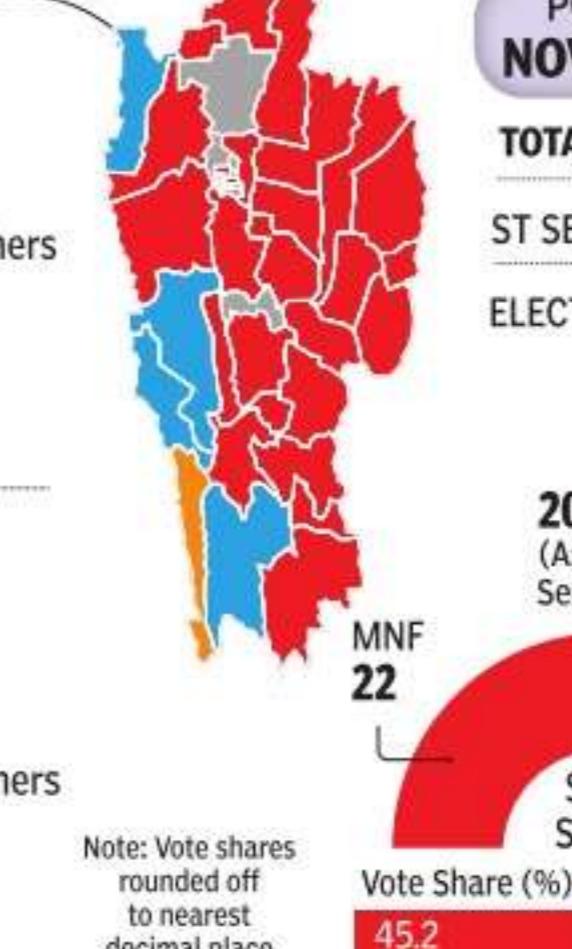
MIZORAM: STAGE SET FOR A THREE-WAY FIGHT

Congress is banking on its new state president but is up against the ruling Mizoram National Front (MNF) and the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM).

2018 Assembly Results



2019 LS (Assembly Segments)



KEY ISSUES

Corruption: Though former CM Lal Thanhawla and the incumbent Zoramthanga had corruption cases slapped against them, they managed to clear their names in local courts. But the people are not so sure. The ZPM is likely to capitalise on this.

MAIN PLAYERS

Zoramthanga | MNF
A close aide of and successor to erstwhile underground MNF boss Lalengtha, he has the advantage of being known as a 'Mizo nationalist'. He tried to burnish this image in tackling the issue of refugees from Myanmar and Bangladesh and Manipuri IDPs.

Laldohoma | ZPM
ZPM leader and chief ministerial candidate Laldohoma was an IPS officer who left his job reportedly at the instance of the then PM Indira Gandhi to hold negotiations with Lalengtha in London. The Congress leader later fell out with Mizo PCC leaders and was disqualified for defying the party whip.

Lalsawta | CONG
State PCC president Lalsawta has a clean image and was lauded as one of the best finance ministers of the state. Congress says public money is safe in his hands and he's the best bet to improve the state's finances.



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