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**HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
*E-Procurement Notice***

The Executive Engineer, Electrical Division HPPWD, Una on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the short terms Percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD/Principal Manufacturers the qualifying criteria along with documents on a single/two bid system for the works as detailed in the table. The Fee payment Mode may be considered online:-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost, (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time limit	Cost of form (In ₹)	Eligibility of Contractor
1.	Supplying, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Automation, Running and Operation of the Two Wheeler and Light Motor Vehicle Driving Test Track at Haroli Distt. Una (H.P.)	2,35,07,702/-	4,71,000/-	120 Days	5,000/-	Specialized Job
2.	Supplying, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System at Shani Dev Temple Distt. Hamirpur (HP)	4,92,525/-	9,850/-	Six Months	350/-	Specialized Job
3.	Repair & Maintenance of old SDM office building at Hamirpur for its conversion to the office of H.P. building and other construction workers Welfare Board (SH:- Providing lights points, eating points, Computer wiring & accessories therein)	10,33,380/-	20,700/-	Two Months	500/-	Class-B-A

1. Date of release of invitation for bids through e-procurement: **28/01/2025**.
2. **Cost of Bid Form:** As per detail in Column No. 6 in form through online in favor of Executive Engineer, Electrical Division HPPWD, Una (HP) payable at Una.
3. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:** The Bid Document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <http://htenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register on the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the same from the website <http://htenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use same in this tender.

4. Key Dates:-

I Date of Online Publication	28/01/2025 at 11:00 A.M.
ii Document Download Start Date	28/01/2025 at 11:00 A.M.
iii Bid Submission Start and End Date	28/01/2025 at 11:00 A.M. up to 05/02/2025 at 11:00 A.M.
iv Physical Submission of original bid document.	05/02/2025 at 11:30 A.M.
v Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by opening Financial Bid.	05/02/2025 at 01:30 P.M.

5. TENDER DETAILS:-

- The Tender Document Shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:
 a. Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Document/Eligibility Information".
 b. Cover2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his percentage rate offer for whole bid.
 6. **Submission of Original Document:** The bidders are required to submit required Technical Document in Executive Engineer, HPPWD, Electrical Division Una Distt. Una (HP) as specified in key dates Sr. 4 (iv) on Tender Operating Date, failing which the bids may be declared non-responsive.
 7. **BID OPENING DETAILS:** The bids shall be opened on **05/02/2025 at 01:30 P.M.** in the Office of Executive Engineer, HPPWD, Electrical Division Una Distt. Una (HP) by the authorized officer. In their interest the tenderer is advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the Office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The date for opening of financial bids will be intimated separately after evaluation of technical bids.
 8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 75 days after the deadline date for bid submission.
 9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even through the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates. The Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.
 10. **The competent authority on behalf of Governor of H.P. reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason.**

NOTE: -The bidders are requested to submit their bid as per notification issued by the Principal Secretary (PW) to the Govt. of H.P. vide No. PBW(B)A (3)/2020 dated 22.07.2020 & Govt. of HP vide No. PBW(B)A (3)/2020 dated 07.10.2021 & E-In-C HPPWD Shimla-2 letter No.PW/ICTR/32-20 -Genl. Inst. CPWD/2020-37996-38095 dated 13.03.2023. The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the departmental website: [www.htenders.gov.in](http://htenders.gov.in)

**Executive Engineer,
Electrical Division, HP PWD Una**

HP / 4786/24-25

**Directorate of Geology and Mining, Assam
(Under the Mines and Minerals Department, Government of Assam)
Dakhsingaon, Kahlipara, Guwahati, Assam**
Notice Inviting Tender

GM/MM/505/Part-1/4158-60/A

In exercise of the power conferred by the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in order to enhance the Coal Resource base, Directorate of Geology & Mining (DGM), Govt. of Assam plans to take up G3 level Reconnaissance survey for Coal in Bimalapur area, Charaideo district in State of Assam. To carry out the exploration works agencies will be selected through electronic auction and hereby bids in digital format only, from eligible bidders.

Terms and conditions, deadlines etc. for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. The Mineral Block and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost in electronic form and can be downloaded from website <https://assamtenders.gov.in> for the purpose of information only.

Timelines, notification updates and other details of the e-auction process will be available on the website of <https://assamtenders.gov.in>

Those interested bidder who are NPEA should register themselves on the above-mentioned website. They can participate in the bidding only after online purchase of Tender document on payment of the tender document fee which is inclusive of GST from the website of e-auction platform provider on successful registration eligible bidder will obtain Login ID and Password necessary for participation.

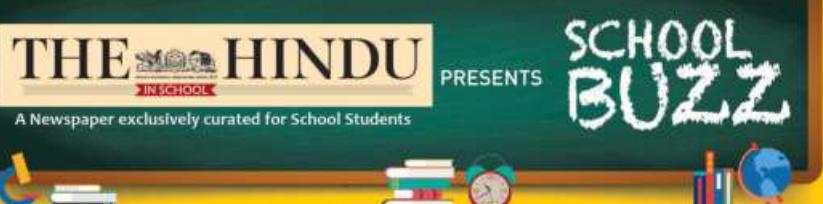
Mineral block to be explored through tendering:

SI. No.	Name of mineral	Name of Block (with name of District)
1.	Coal	Bimalapur area, Charaideo district, Assam

The Bidding documents for participation in the online auction/tender process will be available on <https://assamtenders.gov.in>.

Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Assam.

Janasanyog /C/6864/ 24/28-Jan-25


ANNUAL WINTER CARNIVAL

Bal Bharati Public School, GRH Marg organised the Annual Winter Carnival with the theme 'Carnival of Colours,' transforming the campus into a vibrant space with colourful decorations. The event featured stalls for games, food, books, and essential services, along with rides and raffle draws. Students presented live performances, while the NCC Cadets and School Band added to the festivities. The Interact Club donated Rs.10,000 to NGO Karuna, and children from the NGO were sponsored to participate. Distinguished guests, including dignitaries from the CES and school management, graced the occasion, enhancing the celebration.

ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

Modern School, Barakhamba Road celebrated their Annual Sports Day, showcasing athleticism, unity, and school spirit. The event featured a grand March Past led by the NCC contingent, a spectacular equestrian show by the school's Riders on the Storm club, and enthralling athletic events. Class 6 and 7 students impressed with yoga and fan drill displays, while Class 8 students performed a spirited dance. Chief Guest Mr Madhup Kumar Tiwari, IPS, and other distinguished guests, including Justice Mukul Mudgal and Principal Dr Vijay Datta, graced the occasion. The day concluded with prize distribution and heartfelt gratitude to all contributors.

ABHINANDAN-2024

SSLT Gujarat Senior Secondary School hosted their annual function "Abhinandan-2024" with the theme "Panchtantra." The event began with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony and a welcome speech by Principal Ms. Monika Desai. Students performed a captivating play, welcome dance, and the Panchtantra Programme, featuring songs, yoga, and Tandav. Scholars were awarded to deserving students, while distinguished guests, including DCP North Raja Banthia and Chairperson Sh. Rajkumar Rawal, appreciated the programme. Teachers Ms. Kirti Rawal, Ms. Reema, Mr. Devender, and Ms. Geetanjali Pathak were honoured for their contributions. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Hon. Gen. Secretary Sh. Hitesh Ambani.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Kapil Nagar:
Handphone: +91 9810089457/Email: kapil.nagar@thehindu.co.in



BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mahalakshmi puram Division, 12th Main, 11th Cross,
West of Chord Road, BBMP, Bengaluru.

No: EE/MLP/TEND/E-PROC/12/2024-25 Date: 27-01-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmi puram Division, BBMP, Bengaluru for the works detailed below from the registered Contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.
(Standard Tender Document - KW-1, KW-2 KW-3 & KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Procurement of E-Library System and Other Equipments to Karnataka Public School at Krishnanandnagar and Allied Works and Pipeline Work in Ward No. 46, Rajeevnagar. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 210.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,15,000/-

2	Improvements of Roads and Drains in Ward No. 48, Mahalakshmi puram and Ward No. 49, Nagapura & Additional Works to Existing Ward Office in Dr. Punnett Rajkumar in Ward No. 47. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 214.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,21,000/-
3	Development of Works of Kurubarahalli Government School and Allied Works (Phase-6) in Ward No. 51, Shankarmutt. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 188.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,82,000/-

4	Additional Development Works to Gudde Ganapathi Temple in Ward No. 52, Shakthiganapathinagara. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 105.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,00,000/-
5	Comprehensive Development of Works in Ward No. 53, Vrushabhavathinagara and in Ward No. 51, Shankarmutt. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 178.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,67,000/-

6	Development of Street Lights and Park Lights in Mahalakshmi Layout Constituency and Providing Electrification to BBMP Complex at Udayakumar Park in Ward No. 49, Nagapura. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 105.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,00,000/-
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Calendar of Events: 1) Tender document can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> 2) Last Date for Receipt of Queries: 13-02-2025 upto 15.00 Hours. 3) Date of Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 13-02-2025 at 15.30 Hours. 4) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is 18-02-2025 upto 16.00 Hours. 5) Date of Opening of Tender Proposals is 18-02-2025 after 16.30 Hours through e-Procurement. Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer

Mahalakshmi puram Division, BBMP.

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DR. C.R.DAKSHINAMURTHY MS

Retired Dean Stanley Medical College

A kind, gentle and caring soul.

Reunited with his beloved wife

Saroja.

May they both Rest in Peace.

10.08.1932 - 28.01.2022

DR. C.R.DAKSHINAMURTHY MS

Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No. I, HPPWD, at Padhar Distt. Mandi (H.P.)

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

The tender shall be awarded to the lowest bidder without any negotiation if his tendered amount is within limit of (+ 5%) of the amount put to tender, otherwise the tender will be cancelled and recalled.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.htenders.gov.in](http://htenders.gov.in).



GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME

Centre sends team to Pune as cases rise

NEWS » PAGE 12

VILLAGERS RELIEVED

Man-eater tiger found dead in Wayanad

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JPC ON WAQF BILL

All amendments by Opposition rejected

NEWS » PAGE 10

HEALTH CONCERN

Getting drunk, on homoeopathy

Alcoholic tinctures marketed as remedies are a major hazard

EDITORIAL » PAGE 6



ICC AWARDS

Bumrah and Smriti bag top honours

SPORT » PAGE 15

IN BRIEF



4-storey building collapses in city's Burari, 10 rescued

NEW DELHI

A four-storey building collapsed near Oscar Public School in Burari, north Delhi, on Monday, a Delhi Fire Services official said. Ten people have been rescued from the debris and admitted to a nearby hospital, the official said. » Page 3

BJP, AAP, Cong. have richest candidates: ADR

NEW DELHI

Among the 10 wealthiest candidates fighting the Delhi election, most belong to the BJP (5), followed by AAP (3) and Congress (2), according to a report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms on Monday. » Page 2

India, China to resume direct flights, issue visas

Steps to rebuild ties announced as Misri meets Chinese Foreign Minister in Beijing; Mansarovar pilgrimage to restart this summer; Wang calls for end to 'mutual suspicion and estrangement'

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

Three months after negotiating an end to the military stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India and China agreed to concrete measures to resume direct flights, visas, people-to-people exchanges, and the Mansarovar Yatra for pilgrims this summer. They agreed to resume the dialogue on trans-border rivers and sharing of hydrological data that China has withheld for years.

Both sides committed to marking the 75th year of establishment of ties with a number of celebratory events this year, as Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called for an end to the "mutual suspicion and estrangement" between the



Rebooting ties: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing on Monday. AP

two countries.

The decisions on reviving various measures were taken during a meeting between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong in Beijing.

"As agreed between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping at their meeting in Ka-

zhan in October, the two sides reviewed the state of India-China bilateral relations comprehensively and agreed to take certain people-centric steps to stabilise and rebuild ties," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, announcing that the technical officials and "relevant mechanisms" would now meet to

take forward plans to resume direct flights between India and China, the Mansarovar Pilgrimage in the "summer of 2025".

It said the India-China Expert Level Mechanism would discuss resumption of provision of hydrological data and "other cooperation pertaining to trans-border rivers", while the two sides would facilitate "people-to-people exchanges, including media and think tank interactions". Reports about the construction of a hydro-power project on the Brahmaputra in South Tibet (Yarlung Zangpo) have raised concern in Delhi.

The officials also held a discussion on economic and trade areas.

CONTINUED ON

» PAGE 10

Uttarakhand adopts Uniform Civil Code, launches portal

Ishita Mishra

NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday officially rolled out the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for all residents of the State, except the Scheduled Tribes and natives who have migrated out of the State. With this, Uttarakhand has become the first Indian State to implement the UCC post-Independence.

The UCC Bill, passed by the State Assembly last February, bans practices such as *halala*, *iddat*, and *talaq* (customs related to marriage and divorce in Muslim Personal Law). It also ensures that women are given equal rights in matters related to property and inheritance.

The UCC mandates online registration of marriages, divorce and live-in relationships. A government portal – ucc.uk.gov.in – has been formed for the purpose. People can ac-



Pushkar Singh Dhami

cess records, register complaints and also upload their will on the portal. Mr. Dhami also registered his marriage on the portal.

"Under the able leadership of the respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, our government has today implemented the UCC in Uttarakhand. Today is a special day for the people of this State as well as for all the countrymen," Mr. Dhami said during the launch of the UCC portal.

"I am confident that this stream of equality emanating from Uttarakhand will

irrigate the entire country in the near future," he added.

Terming the UCC the "beginning of a new era of equality and harmony", Mr. Dhami added that his government had promised the "god-like" people that every citizen of the State would have equal rights, and the implementation of UCC was a reflection of the BJP's commitment to achieve the resolution taken before the public.

According to a communiqué from the State government, the online portal created for the UCC registration has Aadhaar-based verification. An AI-based translation service will translate the content into 22 languages, including English.

The portal has integrated data from across more than 13 government departments, including civic bodies, police and courts.

CONTINUED ON

» PAGE 10

Heading home



Long-awaited return: An aerial photo shows displaced Gazans walking toward Gaza City on Monday, carrying their belongings in plastic bags and repurposed flour sacks, after Israel reopened access to the northern territory. AFP (REPORT ON PAGE 14)

Modi speaks to Trump on phone, says committed to a trusted partnership

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday and congratulated him on assuming a "historic second term" in office. Following the phone call, Mr. Modi said both sides would work towards global peace and security.

The conversation came a week after Mr. Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the U.S. in a glittering ceremony in Washington DC, where External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar participated as the representative of the Government of India.

'Will work together'
"Delighted to speak with my dear friend President Donald Trump. Congratulated him on his historic se-



Boosting ties: File photo of U.S. President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

cond term. We are committed to a mutually beneficial and trusted partnership. We will work together for the welfare of our people and towards global peace, prosperity, and security," Mr. Modi said in a post on X.

Since taking charge as President, Mr. Trump has spoken to President Nayib

and tariffs are also matters that are relevant to the India-U.S. relation. The conversation between Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi marks a resumption of direct contact between the two leaders who had struck a rapport during the former's first tenure as U.S. President (2017-21).

Mr. Modi had greeted Mr. Trump last week, saying that he would work with the U.S. leader for the "benefit" of both India and the U.S. "I look forward to working closely together once again, to benefit both our countries, and to shape a better future for the world," Mr. Modi said in a message sent on January 20.

Mr. Jaishankar participated in the swearing-in and some of the events that took place after the main event.

AAP alleges 'water terrorism' by Haryana; Saini junks claims

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

A war of words erupted between AAP in Delhi and the Haryana government on Monday over the quality of water supplied to the Capital from the Yamuna river, which flows through Haryana. AAP alleged that the level of ammonia in the water is high and termed it "water terrorism" and a "deliberate" act by the Haryana government.

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and her Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann wrote a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) alleging that the increase in ammonia in the Yamuna water released by Haryana to Delhi will affect

the conduct of free and fair elections in the national capital. The letter sought the CEC's intervention to solve the issue. According to sources, the Election Commission (EC) has directed the Haryana government to submit a factual report by Tuesday.

At a press meet, Ms. Atishi said the BJP is facing a "crushing defeat" and out of frustration, it has resorted to "despicable actions".

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal also alleged that the country has never seen such "dirty politics". "If the people of Delhi are not voting for BJP, will you kill the people of Delhi by giving them water mixed with poison?" he said on X.

Haryana Chief Minister

EC has directed Haryana govt. to submit a factual report on the matter today



Delhi CM Atishi

both Kejriwal's personal approach and the mindset of his party," said Mr. Saini.

He said he has asked Mr. Kejriwal to send his Chief Secretary and officers to Haryana, specifically to Sonipat, from where Haryana supplies water to Delhi, to inspect the quality of the water being provided.

'Will sue Kejriwal'
The Haryana government will sue Mr. Kejriwal for his allegation that the BJP is mixing "poison" into the

Yamuna water, BJP sources said on Monday, adding that the party will also move the EC on Tuesday.

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) in an official communication to the Chief Secretary termed AAP's allegations "factually incorrect and misleading". DJB regularly monitors incoming water quality and regulates supply depending on various parameters," it stated and added that ammonia levels in the Yamuna increase during the winter season: October-February.

In response, AAP said, "While the letter attempts to justify the ammonia spike as a seasonal phenomenon, it ignores the scale of the current crisis." (With inputs from PTI)

Apex court relief for Udhayanidhi Stalin in Sanatana Dharma row

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain three writ petitions to initiate criminal proceedings against Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin over his speech on Sanatana Dharma.

A Bench headed by Justice Bela Trivedi questioned the maintainability of the writ petitions even as senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Tamil Nadu, and P. Wilson, representing Mr. Udhayanidhi, submitted that the pleas ought to be dismissed outright. The petitioners said Mr. Udhayanidhi's



Udhayanidhi Stalin

remarks, which allegedly drew a comparison between Sanatana Dharma and diseases such as dengue and malaria, amounted to hate speech.

The petitioners, advocate B. Jagannath and two others, represented by senior advocate Dama Sesha Dri Naidu, wanted his speech to be declared as violative of the fundamental

right to freedom of religion (Article 25) under the Constitution.

When the court expressed doubts about raising these pleas through writ petitions, Mr. Naidu sought, and was given, permission to withdraw the case. The Bench allowed the petitioners to withdraw with liberty to pursue other remedies available.

The court had issued notice to the Tamil Nadu government and Mr. Udhayanidhi over Mr. Jagannath's petition on September 22, 2023. The petition had urged the court to direct the State police to register an FIR against Mr. Udhayanidhi and others.

DELHI ELECTION

Distribute all voter information slips by Jan. 31: CEO to officials

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Delhi's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) R. Alice Vaz held a meeting on Monday to review the preparations for the Delhi Assembly election.

Law and order, voter participation, and election expenditure were some of the topics discussed at the meeting, said an official.

The distribution of voter information slips was the key agenda at the meeting. The CEO instructed that all slips be delivered to the eligible voters by January 31, ensuring they are aware of their polling station lo-

cations and voting details. "This will help voters avoid confusion and ensure a smooth voting experience on election day," read a statement by the CEO.

Strategies to manage sensitive polling stations and the deployment of Central Armed Police Forces across key locations were also discussed at the meeting.

"Provisions have been made to heighten security in areas requiring additional attention. These plans have been designed to maintain peace and ensure that the election process remains free and fair," the statement added.

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Monday announced his party's 15-point manifesto, 'Kejriwal ki guarantees', with a focus on jobs for the youth, ahead of the Delhi Assembly election.

"The BJP, Congress, and other parties announce hollow slogans under different names during elections. When we started using the term 'guarantee', they also began using it. But they have deviated from the term. However, these are Kejriwal's guarantees, not [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi's. Today, we are an-

nouncing 15 guarantees that we will fulfil over the next five years," Mr. Kejriwal said at a press conference.

"As per the Central government data, Delhi has the lowest unemployment

rate. The national-level un-

employment is 6%, but it is 2% in Delhi. We wish that no one is unemployed in the city. We are making plans to give jobs to every young person in the Capital," he added. The party

has announced all the promises in the manifesto over the past year and a half with an eye on the poll, including monthly aid for women under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana and free treatment for

senior citizens under the Sanjeevani Yojana.

Other promises include waiving faulty water bills, extending free water and electricity benefits to tenants, and providing a monthly honorarium of ₹18,000 to temple priests and gurdwara granthis.

Ahead of the 2020 election, AAP had announced a similar 10-point manifesto – 'Kejriwal ki guarantee'.

However, the former Chief Minister had earlier this month said he could not fulfil three of those promises: cleaning Yamuna, providing 24-hour water supply, and developing world-class roads.

On Monday, Mr. Kejriwal said that work had

been done on the three fronts.

He claimed that families in the city save ₹25,000 monthly due to his government's schemes. "If you press the wrong button [on the EVM], an additional ₹25,000 per month will be added to your expenses," he said, adding that if any party other than AAP comes to power, it will end all the welfare schemes.

Hitting out at AAP, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the 15 guarantees by Mr. Kejriwal "are merely false promises" that the former CM will never be able to fulfil. He also challenged the AAP chief to debate on any of the 15 "false guarantees".



AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal releasing the manifesto with party colleague Manish Sisodia; Kejriwal supporters at a rally in Matiala on Monday. R.V. MOORTHY/ANI

Jobs for youth the highlight of AAP manifesto

These are Kejriwal's guarantees, not PM Narendra Modi's, says ex-CM while releasing 15-point manifesto; his guarantees are only hollow promises: BJP

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Strategies to manage sensitive polling stations and the deployment of Central Armed Police Forces across key locations were also discussed at the meeting.

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and the deployment of

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Court directs registration of FIR against Rana Ayyub

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has directed the police to register an FIR against journalist Rana Ayyub for allegedly making some derogatory posts in 2016-17 that included "insults to Hindu deities, spreading of anti-India sentiment and incitement of religious disharmony". The court said the plea before it disclosed the commission of cognisable offences, and directed the city police to investigate the matter "fairly".

Chief Judicial Magistrate Himanshu Raman Singh was hearing an application filed by an advocate seeking the court's directions to register an FIR. The plea alleged that Ms. Ayyub made derogatory posts on X.

Timings
DELHI
TUESDAY, JAN. 28
RISE 07:11 SET 17:57
MOON 06:22 SET 16:40
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29
RISE 07:11 SET 17:58
MOON 07:10 SET 17:48
THURSDAY, JAN. 30
RISE 07:10 SET 17:59
MOON 07:52 SET 18:55

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 24 07
Safdarjung 24 07
Palam 21 07

Delhi Palam Today
22°C Morning will be cold with shallow fog and mist. Day will be pleasant with light cool winds. Night also will be cold and hazy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
23°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cold with shaw fog and mist. Day will be pleasant with gusty cool winds. Night also will be cold.

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BJP unleashes star-studded campaign to outdo AAP

Party organises 26 public meetings in a day, appeals for a power shift to bring a double-engine government in Delhi, highlights drinking water crisis, waterlogging and poor sewer system

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Intensifying its campaign in the Capital, the Bharatiya Janata Party organised 26 public meetings on Monday. Star campaigners from the party hit the ground running, attacked AAP and appealed for power shift so that the city could leap ahead with a double-engine government.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal addressed public meetings supporting candidates Anil Goyal in Krishna Nagar and Pradyuman Rajput in Dwarka. He claimed every city in Rajasthan has better drainage system than Delhi. "The way children, old and young people died by drowning in water in Delhi last monsoon, it is hard to believe that Delhi is the country's capital," he said.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, backing Harish Khurana in Moti Nagar and



Hitting the campaign trail: BJP leader Ravi Kishan campaigning for a party candidate in the Capital on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Umang Bajaj in Rajendra Nagar, targeted the drinking water crisis. "Under Arvind Kejriwal's misrule, whether poor or rich, everyone is facing drinking water crisis," he alleged. "They are forced to buy water to drink but the sewerage system is not working in these two Assembly constituencies. Last monsoon

there was such waterlogging that four UPSC candidates died untimely. Mr. Kejriwal should apologise to the people of Delhi for such chaos," he added.

Union Minister of State Dr. Sukanto Majumdar, talking up Dushyant Gautam in Karol Bagh, said the migrants who have settled in Delhi are ashamed that

the roads and general facilities of their BJP-ruled home States are better than the country's Capital.

'Hurting Purvanchalis'
MP Manoj Tiwari addressed public meetings in Badarpur, Tughlakabad, Sangam Vihar and Chhatarpur and fumed that the Purvanchal community of Delhi is fed up with Mr. Kejriwal's misrule and it would stand with the BJP for the city's better future.

MP Ravi Kishan campaigned extensively for the third consecutive day. In the Purvanchal Samaj Samavad programmes in Wazirpur, Patparganj, Malviya Nagar and Model Town, he alleged that Mr. Kejriwal insults Purvanchal pride by saying that they come with a ₹500 ticket and run away after getting free treatment worth ₹5 lakh. The Purvanchal society settled in Delhi will not forgive him for insulting them and will send him off on February 8.

Four-storey building collapses in Burari, 10 rescued

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

hospital, he added.

"Our team rescued two girls aged 14 and six and took them to a hospital," Delhi Fire Services chief Atul Garg said.

Delhi Police said in a statement that it received information around 7 p.m. about the four-storey building collapsing.

A PCR call was received

at 6.58 p.m. A rescue operation is going on. Police, fire, Delhi Disaster Management Authority and National Disaster Response Force personnel are on the spot. So far, 10 persons have been rescued and taken to the nearest hospital," it said.

The police have cordoned off the area to prevent further accidents.



Rescue operation under way at Kaushik Enclave in Burari on Monday. ANI

If I can't help my community, there's no point being in politics, says Kapil Mishra

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

After remaining in the shadows for some time, BJP leader Kapil Mishra found himself back on the centre stage earlier this month when the party announced his name from north-east Delhi's Karawal Nagar Assembly seat for the February 5 Assembly election.

It is the same constituency that voted for him in the 2015 poll when Mr. Mishra was still a member of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which he helped found. He was subsequently inducted into the Cabinet as the Water Resources Minister but sacked in 2017 for "anti-party activities".

He joined the BJP in 2019 and was appointed vice-president of its Delhi unit four years later.

The BJP leader, who is one of the party's most visible Purvanchali faces in the Capital, was accused of making hate speeches in the run-up to the north-east Delhi riots in February 2020, which left 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

However, Mr. Mishra, who grew up in Karawal Nagar, an industrial area located on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border, told *The Hindu* that he had tried to "prevent the riots" and blamed the media for making him a "villain".

"Why do people view those speeches as anti-Muslim when, in fact, they were against anti-national and anti-social events," he said, adding, "The media made me the villain. But the truth



is that people know that if Kapil Mishra is here, nothing untoward will happen."

He said, "If riots break out again, I will again stop them as I did then. Besides, I will get the votes of Muslims also because I have worked for everyone in the area. My campaign has no communal agenda. It's based on the fact that the AAP government failed to develop the area."

The former Delhi Minister said the constituency has been home to several communities, such as Purvanchalis, Dalits, and Muslims, and he has the support of all of them "because of my work".

When asked whether he likes being identified as a "Hindutva firebrand" leader, Mr. Mishra said, "I have been identified as such because I have worked for the welfare of the community, financially and legally. I see it as a medal. If I cannot help my own people, then what is the point of being in

politics?"

'Stalled work'

For many, Mr. Mishra's switch from AAP was not surprising as his mother, Annapurna Mishra, the first Mayor of East Delhi, was a seasoned BJP leader.

Talking about the lack of infrastructure in the area, the BJP candidate said, "The area has always been neglected. The metro reached here in its very last phase. However, the residents are slowly witnessing some development."

When the BJP decided to field him from the north-east Delhi seat, it had to replace the sitting MLA, Mohan Singh Bisht, who has represented the constituency since 1998, except for the 2015-2020 Assembly session. After Mr. Bisht threatened to revolt, the BJP named him its contestant from Mustafabad seat.

The BJP candidate is up against AAP's Manoj Tyagi and Congress's P.K. Mishra.



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ENGLISH MEDIUM

KAROL BAGH, DELHI

21 JAN, 1 PM | 31 JAN, 5 PM | 11 FEB, 8 AM

AHMEDABAD
4 JANUARY

BHOPAL
5 DECEMBER

BENGALURU
18 FEBRUARY

HYDERABAD
12 FEBRUARY

JAIPUR
20 JANUARY

JODHPUR
3 DECEMBER

LUCKNOW
11 FEBRUARY

PUNE
20 JANUARY

CHANDIGARH
ADMISSION OPEN

GTB NAGAR, DELHI

8 FEB, 8 AM

टिक्की

4 FEBRUARY, 11 AM | 6 JANUARY, 11 AM

जयपुर
20 JANUARY

जोधपुर
3 DECEMBER

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21 JANUARY

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30 JANUARY



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IN BRIEF



Sengar back in Tihar jail as doctor unavailable for surgery

Unnao rape case convict Kuldeep Singh Sengar, granted interim bail on medical grounds, is back to Tihar as the doctor was unavailable, his counsel told the Delhi High Court on Monday. A Bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar learnt from the counsel that Sengar returned to the jail on January 24 as an AIIMS surgeon, supposed to perform his eye surgery, was not available till January 30. He said Sengar, serving a life term in the case, would move court again either on January 28 or 29, to seek medical bail for his cataract surgery.

10 children hospitalised after consuming poisonous fruit

At least 10 tribal children in Odisha's Jajpur district fell ill after reportedly consuming a poisonous fruit on Sunday, police said. The children, aged between five and eleven, were playing when they stumbled upon the fruit-bearing tree. Driven by curiosity, they ate the fruit and returned home. Shortly afterward, each child began vomiting. They were referred to SCB Medical College in Cuttack after their condition deteriorated.

Himachal IGP, seven other policemen sentenced to life term in custodial death case

Press Trust of India
CHANDIGARH

A special CBI court in Chandigarh on Monday sentenced Himachal Pradesh Inspector General of Police Zahur Haider Zaidi and seven other policemen to life imprisonment in a 2017 custodial death case.

On January 18, the court of special CBI judge Alka Malik had convicted Mr. Zaidi and others in the case which pertains to the custodial death of Suraj, an accused in the gang rape and murder of a minor girl in Kotkhai in Shimla district. The others convicted included the then Deputy Superintendent of Police Manoj Joshi, then Sub-Inspector Rajinder Singh, then Assistant SI Deep Chand Sharma, then head constables Mohan Lal, Surat Singh, Rafee Mohammad and then constable Ranjit Sateta.



People taking part in a protest demanding justice after a teenage girl was raped and murdered in Shimla on July 20, 2017. FILE PHOTO

The court had acquitted the then Superintendent of Police D.W. Negi in the case.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh each on the convicts.

Suraj was found dead at the Kotkhai police station on July 18, 2017. However, accused police officers registered an FIR against another arrested person Rajinder for the murder of Suraj.

A 16-year-old girl had gone missing in Kotkhai on

July 4, 2017, and her body was found two days later on July 6. The post-mortem report confirmed rape and murder and a case was registered.

Amid public outcry in the State, a Special Investigation Team headed by Mr. Zaidi was constituted. The SIT arrested six persons, including Suraj. After his death in police custody, the Himachal Pradesh High Court handed over the investigations of both the cases to the CBI.

HC stays ED summons to Karnataka CM's wife, Minister in MUDA case

Court says summoning petitioners will affect proceedings on plea seeking transfer of probe to CBI, rejects agency's stand that recording statement won't pose hurdles as action is under PMLA rules

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Monday stayed the summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to Parvathi, wife of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and Byrathi Suresh, Minister for Urban Development.

The summons had asked them to appear before the investigating officer for recording statements in connection with illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to Ms. Parvathi by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on separate petitions filed by Ms. Parvathi and Mr. Suresh. While Ms. Parvathi was asked to appear before the ED's investigating officer on January 28, Mr. Suresh was asked to appear on January 27. However, he



Legal relief: Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi is an accused in the FIR registered by the Lokayukta police in the MUDA case. M.A. SRIRAM

did not appear, citing his son's marriage.

While Ms. Parvathi is an accused in the FIR registered by the Lokayukta police, Mr. Suresh has not been arraigned yet.

The court said the ED's action of summoning the petitioners would frustrate the proceedings pending before the High Court on the petition seeking transfer of the probe in the MUDA case to the CBI from the Lokayukta police.

The court refused to ac-

cept the contention raised on behalf of the ED that mere recording of statement would not impact the pending proceedings of the court as the ED's actions are under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Justice Nagaprasanna pointed out since he has already deferred the submission of investigation reports by the Lokayukta police before the Special Court on the FIR till the pronouncement of the ver-

dict on the petition seeking a CBI probe, allowing the ED to record statement would not be proper.

He also noted the submission of advocates, representing Ms. Parvathi and Mr. Suresh, that another single Bench of the High Court on January 27 had allowed a plea filed by D.B. Natesh, a former Commissioner of MUDA, who had questioned the legalities of the searches conducted on his premises and recording of his statement by the ED.

The copy of the judgment in Mr. Natesh's case is yet to be released.

HC reserves verdict

The High Court also reserved its verdict on the petition seeking transfer of the probe in the MUDA case to the CBI. Justice Nagaprasanna heard the arguments on the petition filed by social activist Snehayam Krishna.

T.N. govt. approves Samsung Workers' Union registration

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Labour Department on Monday approved the registration of the Samsung India Workers' Union (SIWU), backed by the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU).



Workers had applied for the registration of their union in June 2024, but the process was delayed leading to protests.

strike in October after Samsung agreed to the demands that included no punitive action against the protesting workers, no wage cuts for the period of protests, and a commitment from Samsung to submit written replies to the workers' demands before the conciliation officer.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, CITU Tamil Nadu general secretary A. Soundararajan called the registration a victory for the workers and said that it demonstrated their persistence despite the company's attempts to foil their attempts at unionisation.

The workers ended the

Roorkee firing: former BJP MLA remanded in judicial custody

Press Trust of India
HARIDWAR

A court in Roorkee on Monday sent former BJP MLA from Khanpur, Kunwar Pranav Singh Champion, to 14 days' judicial custody for allegedly firing at the office of his political rival and present Khanpur legislator Umesh Kumar.

On Sunday, Mr. Champion arrived at Mr. Kumar's office in Khanpur along with his supporters, allegedly abused people around and fired at his office from outside several times in broad daylight. Independent MLA Kumar, who also wielded a gun in retaliation, was granted bail by another court.

Mr. Champion was taken into custody from his Dehradun residence on Sunday night and brought to Ranipur police station in Haridwar district.

On Monday, the former

MLA was produced in the court of judicial magistrate, Roorkee, which sent him to judicial custody for 14 days, government prosecution officer Rinku Verma said.

Mr. Champion and Mr. Kumar became political rivals ever since the latter defeated his wife Kunwarani Devyani Singh in Khanpur seat in the 2022 Assembly polls.

Rival gets bail

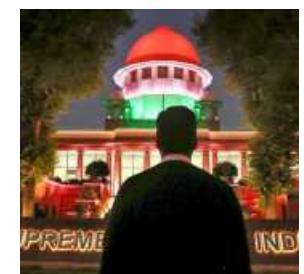
Meanwhile, Mr. Kumar who had also been taken into custody was granted bail by a court in Roshnabad. CJM Avinash Srivastava granted Mr. Kumar bail after he gave two sureties of ₹40,000 each and furnished a personal bond, his lawyer Uttam Singh Chauhan said.

Mr. Chauhan said there is no serious charge like firing against his client, so the court has granted him bail.

SC gives bail to maulvi held for converting minor, says HC did not have reason to deny relief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has granted bail to a maulvi (a madrasa teacher) accused by the Uttar Pradesh government of unlawfully converting a minor, saying the offence alleged was "after all nothing serious like murder, dacoity or rape".



It is not nowadays expected of trial courts to be brave [to grant bail], said the apex court.

Appearing before a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwal and R. Mahadevan, counsel for maulvi Syed Shad Kazmi said his client had found the child abandoned on the streets and provided him with shelter on humanitarian grounds. Mr. Kazmi has been in custody for about 11 months.

In a scathing order, the apex court said it is not nowdays expected of trial courts to be brave but at least the High Court should have mustered the courage to grant the man bail.

The State said Mr. Kazmi, if found guilty, could be imprisoned for up to 10 years.

"We are of the view that the High Court should have exercised its discretion by granting bail to the petitioner. There was no good reason for the High Court to decline bail. The offence alleged is not that serious or grave like murder, dacoity, rape, etc.," read the Supreme Court order.

It added, "We can understand the trial court declined bail as trial courts seldom muster the courage of granting bail, be it any offence. However, at least, it was expected of the High Court to muster the courage and exercise its discretion judiciously."

The court said that a possible lack of courage on trial courts' part to exercise discretion to grant bail is why the Supreme Court is flooded with bail pleas.

Targeted by authorities for leading R.G. Kar protests: doctors

Shrabana Chatterjee
Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

Several doctors in West Bengal have alleged that they are being targeted by authorities for speaking out against them during protests demanding justice for a postgraduate trainee doctor who was raped and murdered at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata last year.

The incident sparked outrage, with doctors across the State demanding better security measures and accountability from the government.

Now, two junior doctors and several senior doctors are reportedly under the scanner even as the movement is in its last leg with the sole convict being given life imprisonment.

On the eve of Republic Day, four senior doctors from government hospitals – Dr. Manas Gupta, Dr. Utapali Banerjee, Dr. Subarna Goswami, and Dr. Ranjan



At the forefront: Junior doctors, nurses, and students protest against the rape-murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata. FILE PHOTO

Bhattacharya – found out that complaints had been filed against them by the West Bengal Medical Council (WBMC).

Obstructing work' Speaking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Goswami said although they haven't received an official complaint yet, they've been informed about the action taken by the WBMC. According to Dr. Goswami, the complaint alleges that they are obstructing the WBMC's work. "Of course we are.

We have obstructed their work of collecting money and doing bad things under this banner," he said.

Dr. Tapas Pramanick, a medical officer at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, has been facing allegations of a "medical question paper leak". He has written to the State Health Grievance Cell terming them "malicious". "As I have been vocal during the movement and spoken against the government, they are trying to crack down and silence me."

Junior resident doctors from R.G. Kar hospital, including Asfakulah Naiya and Kinjal Nanda, have faced similar allegations. Dr. Naiya received a show-cause notice from the WBMC for practising as an ENT specialist at a private clinic in Hooghly without having received his degree.

The situation escalated when around 30 police personnel searched his house in Kakdwip, South 24-Parganas, on the same day. However, the Calcutta High Court intervened, staying the investigation.

"I have spoken against

the government. If they have any enmity, it should be with me. The raids should have happened in my presence. I dare them to confront me in person," Dr. Naiya said.

Dr. Nanda, who has also acted in a few movies, has received a letter from the WBMC inquiring about his attendance and his work in films. He has responded by stating that if any association has questions about his income, they should verify his Income Tax returns, and that his recreational activities are outside the WBMC's purview.

Kunal Ghosh, spokesperson for the Trinamool Congress and former Rajya Sabha MP, has accused doctors of playing the victim card. "They are expressing grief, protesting, and working on movies and serials all at the same time. How do they manage time? Maybe this irked a section of the doctors. It is an internal problem between doctors," he said.

HC reserves order on admission of appeals by Bengal govt., CBI

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Monday reserved its order on the admissibility of appeals by the West Bengal government and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) over enhancement of punishment (death sentence) for Sanjay Roy, convicted in the rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital.

The Additional District and Sessions Court, Sealdah had on January 20 awarded life imprisonment to Roy after holding him guilty. The West Bengal government and later the CBI filed separate petitions before the Calcutta High Court seeking enhancement of the punishment for the convict.

The CBI had opposed the State government's petition stating that the State cannot seek enhancement

of punishment as the case has been investigated by the Central agency. On Monday, the matter was heard by a Division Bench of Justices Debangsu Basak and Md Shabbar Rashidi.

State's Advocate General Kishore Dutta said if the Central agency appealed then the State could not remain a bystander as the crime was committed against the State. The Mr. Dutta argued that the State was a repository of all power regarding criminal cases – from the registration of FIR to appeals.

Justice Debangsu Basak asked if both the agencies – the State government and the CBI – want same punishment (death sentence) for the convict then what was the point to debate on the niceties of law.

Parents of the victim were also present in the High Court during the proceedings. Speaking to journalists outside the court

premises, the parents blamed both the West Bengal police and the CBI for the trial court not awarding death sentence to the convict.

'Don't want anything' When asked by journalists what is their demand, "We do not want anything. We will raise our points and let the court decide," the father of the victim said.

Raising questions on the West Bengal government's decision to seek death penalty, the mother of victim said the State government wanted the convict to die so that the last piece of evidence in the case was lost.

The advocate on record for the victim's parents, Gargi Goswami, told journalists that the parents did not want death sentence for the accused and they rather want the trial process of the other accused in the case to start without further delay.

Varsity assault: SC stays Madras HC directions against Chennai police chief over FIR leak

High Court had criticised the police chief for disclosing facts of the case during a press conference without obtaining prior permission from govt.

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Monday stayed the operation of the Madras High Court's conclusions that the Chennai Police Commissioner and other officials were responsible for the leak of the First Information Report (FIR) and vital information about the identity of the survivor in the Anna University sexual assault case.

A Bench of Justices B.V. Naagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma froze, until further notice, certain portions of the High Court order of December 28, 2024, including observations that the Police Commissioner revealed vital in-



The Supreme Court froze, until further notice, certain portions of the High Court order of December 28, 2024, FILE PHOTO

formation about the scene of the crime and that the language employed in the FIR amounted to victim-blaming. The incident occurred on December 24, 2025, on the university campus.

The High Court had criticised the Police Commissioner for disclosing the facts of the case and saying there was only one accused in the case during a press conference called two days after the incident without

obtaining prior permission from the government.

The High Court had directed the State and the Home Secretary to initiate departmental inquiry into the leak of the FIR and initiate disciplinary proceedings against officials for their "lapse, negligence and dereliction."

Appearing for the State government, senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Siddharth Luthra, with advocates D. Kumaran and Sabarish Subramanian, submitted that the details of the victim and the FIR were leaked due to a "technical glitch" in the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) managed by the Centre.

Mr. Rohatgi said the FIR was exposed inadvertently

owing to the migration from the Indian Penal Code (IPC) to the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

"This has nothing to do with us. Yet, the judge hauls up the Police Commissioner and the constable who drafted the FIR," Mr. Rohatgi submitted. He said the Police Commissioner had called the press meet to "soften the situation" as tensions had mounted high.

'Not opposing decision'

The State said it was not even opposing the decision of the High Court to form an all-woman Special Investigation Team (SIT) for the case. Justice Nagarathna asked if the survivor's details were "still doing the rounds on social media."

Mr. Rohatgi and Mr. Luthra said everything has been blocked. He informed the Bench that a second FIR was registered by the police's cybercrime wing to ferret out the offenders who circulated the details online for a time.

Advocate Balaji Srinivasan, for the original petitioner in the High Court, R. Varalakshmi, retorted that "everything was blocked after the victim was named and shamed." Mr. Rohatgi said Mr. Srinivasan's client had political hues.

"The alleged offender is a member of the ruling party. He is a history-sheeter. They are not investigating who else is involved," Mr. Srinivasan submitted, accepting the court's notice issued in the petition.

the Sunderbans Tiger Reserve have not been roped in yet, and their counterparts from Jharkhand, Purulia, and Bankura divisions are closely coordinating to ensure the current strategy of the forest department is followed.

People living in a 20-km forested stretch covering the three districts and tourists visiting the picture-spots dotted with hillocks, forests, and waterfalls have been alerted by the forest department through a public address system. "They have been asked not to venture deep inside the forests and avoid coming out after dusk in the forested areas," Mr. Kulandaivel said.

"The animal had moved to Dalma forest range in Jharkhand on January 19-20, crossed over to Junglemahal belt - consisting of Jhargram, Purulia, and Bankura districts - early Friday morning and is currently stationed there, Chief Conservator of Forests S. Kulandaivel said.

"We have seen fresh pugmarks of the big cat in the area," Mr. Kulandaivel said.

Another senior forest official said the big cat was recently spotted at a forested stretch in Bankura during the day after straying from Jhargram. The forest department is closely monitoring its movement through pugmarks and camera images. "It is constantly shifting its place," the official added.

"Currently, the big cat is in the tri-junction of the forested parts of Purulia, Bankura, and Jhargram in the 'Junglemahal' area of south Bengal. Till now, it has not shown any signs of aggression and has been avoiding humans. So, we are focusing more on monitoring its movement and not disturbing it, ensuring it is not harmed physically. Let's see if it leaves on its own," chief wildlife warden Debal Roy said.

Forest personnel from

Tiger enters Bengal from Jharkhand; people alerted

The Hindu Bureau

KOLKATA



A silent ending: Carcass of the tiger that killed Radha, after it was found dead on Monday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau

KOZHIKODE

Though the tiger that triggered panic at Pancharakkolly, near Mananthavady, in Wayanad district of Kerala is dead, the special task force constituted to capture the man-eater will continue its service.

Forests and Wildlife Minister A.K. Saseendran told presspersons in Kozhikode on Monday, after the tiger was found dead at Pilakkuvu, near Pancharakkolly, in the morning, that the Chief Wildlife Warden and the

Wayanad Collector had been tasked with combing other areas of Wayanad where tigers were spotted recently.

Search to continue

"Search operations will be carried over the next few days in at least four locations in Wayanad where tigers have been spotted," the Minister said, appreciating the officials for their hard work and dedication, though the tiger's death was not a result of it.

The tiger was found dead near a house at Pila-

kavu around 6.30 a.m. by members of the special task force who were tracking it for the past three days after it mauled to death a tribal woman, Radha, on Friday, while she was plucking coffee cherries on Priyadarshini Estate. A member of a rapid response team of the Forest Department, Jayasurya, was attacked by the tiger, following which the State had declared it a man-eater and decided to shoot it to death.

A necropsy conducted at the forest range office at

Kuppadi, near Sultan Bathery, revealed that the tiger was indeed the same one that attacked Radha, as pieces of cloth, hair, and an earring were found inside the animal.

The necropsy also revealed that a deep wound on its neck was the cause of death of the female tiger, believed to be between the ages of five and seven.

Veterinary surgeon Arun Scaria, who examined the tiger, said that the wound was rather fresh and was likely incurred in a recent fight with another

tiger. The feline also had similar wounds on its body though no internal injuries were found.

Chief Conservator of Forest (Northern Circle) K.S. Deepa told presspersons at Pancharakkolly that the task force had noticed that the tiger was in a weak state. The tiger will be cremated.

The death of the tiger lifted the fear that stalked Pancharakkolly and nearby areas as the region was under curfew as a precautionary measure against any possible tiger attacks.

Mohan to head ISRO's liquid propulsion systems unit in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



M. Mohan

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has appointed M. Mohan Director of its Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) in Thiruvananthapuram.

He succeeds V. Narayanan, who took over as the ISRO Chairman earlier this month.

Mr. Mohan is currently Director (Projects) at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).

The ISRO issued his appointment order on January 25. Mr. Mohan was Director of the Human Space Flight Centre from June 2023 to June 2024. He has held various positions, including as Associate Director, VSSC (Research and

Development), project director of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and mission director of successful GSLV-F08/GSAT-6A and GSLV-F11/GSAT-7A missions in 2018. He was system leader of the Moon Impact Probe project for the Chandrayaan-1 mission. He hails from Alappuzha.

Ashes and dust



Burnt-out: Partially damaged scooters after a fire broke out in an electric vehicle showroom on Rajkumar Road at Rajajinagar in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKAR JAIN

Companies from more than 15 countries to participate in Bengaluru Aero India show; France leads with 35 exhibitors

Hemanth C.S.

BENGALURU

France has once again emerged as the top exhibitor at Aero India. With just a couple of weeks left for the 2025 edition of the biennial air show and aviation exhibition to commence at the Air Force Station Yelahanka in Karnataka's Bengaluru, companies from over 15 countries have registered for the event.

Among the foreign countries, France is leading the way with about 35 exhibitors confirming their participation so far, which include Dassault Aviation, Safran, and Thales. France

has been the top exhibitor in the previous few editions of the air show.

U.S. in second spot

The U.S. is the second leading exhibitor with 27 companies registering so far, which include the likes of Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and GE Aerospace.

Germany with 22 exhibitors is third, followed by Italy, Russia, the U.K., and Israel.

Exhibitors from Canada, Norway, Sweden, Australia, Slovak Republic, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Taiwan have also registered for the event which will take place between February 10 and 14.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Ambassadors' round-table organised in New Delhi on January 10 as a prelude to Aero India. PTI

Among the aircraft which will be on flying and static display, so far the organisers have only announced the participation of the fixed and rotary

wing platforms developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The last edition of the air show saw the participation of foreign aircraft like the F-35A Lightning II and F-35A Joint Strike Fighter. These two U.S. aircraft made their Aero India debut last time.

MRFA deal

Also interesting to watch during the upcoming edition would be the participation of global aircraft manufacturers who are vying to bag the 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) deal.

The Indian Air Force had issued a Request For

Woman dragged by her hair on road in Vizag; two arrested

A woman was dragged by her hair by a couple for several metres along a road in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The victim, Naga Lakshmi, was attacked by a woman named Vennela and her husband Bangaru Raju, reportedly on Friday, following a dispute, say police sources. The police said both Ms. Lakshmi and Ms. Vennela ran small eateries, and were at loggerheads with each other for quite some time. Videos of the incident surfaced on Sunday. Following a complaint from Ms. Lakshmi's family, the PM Palam police arrested Ms. Vennela and Mr. Raju.

21-year-old missing after boat catches fire in Hussainsagar

A 21-year-old, identified as S. Ajay, is reportedly missing following a fire on a boat and a jetty during the 'Bharata Mata Maha Harati' event on Sunday night on the Hussainsagar Lake in Telangana. Ajay, a student, was with his friends at the time of the accident. A search was launched by the police after his family members lodged a missing person complaint on Monday morning, an officer from the Lake Police confirmed. While his friends were rescued safely on Sunday night, he is yet to be traced as of Monday evening.

Information (RFI) for 114 MRFA in April 2019 to global aircraft manufacturers and the companies which had responded to the RFI are Dassault, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, SAAB, Eurofighter and United Aircraft Corporation. Most of these companies are participating in the air show.

Back in 2023

Over 100 countries participated in the 2023 edition of the air show, with about 809 exhibitors and a footfall of over seven lakh visitors. Over 250 MoUs and partnerships worth more than ₹75,000 crore were finalised during the air show.



First resort

Trump should use diplomacy, not coercion, in deportation of migrants

Donald Trump's mass deportation drive hit its first hurdle on Sunday when Colombian President Gustavo Petro refused permission to two United States military planes carrying migrants to land. A furious Mr. Trump announced that the U.S. would impose a 25% tariff on all Colombian goods, which would be raised to 50%. The U.S. also threatened to impose banking and financial sanctions and issue travel bans on Colombian officials and associates. Mr. Petro, a former guerrilla, responded in kind by saying Colombia would also impose tariffs up to 50% on American goods and refused to "shake hands with white slaveholders". But Bogota, under pressure, eventually accepted to take back the migrants "with dignity and respect". A trade war would have been bad news for both countries whose bilateral trade stood at \$53.5 billion in 2022, with a \$4 billion surplus for the U.S. High tariffs would have been a body blow for Colombia, as the U.S. is its largest trading partner. With tariffs and financial and political sanctions, America could cripple Colombia's economy and destabilise its polity at a time when its fight with guerrillas is escalating after a lull. Unsurprisingly, Mr. Petro backtracked and agreed to accept what the White House said was "all its terms".

Colombia and other South American countries have been taking undocumented migrants back from the U.S. in recent years. In January, there were 90 deportation flights from the U.S. to its southern neighbours, eight of which landed in Colombia. But what turned a regular exercise into a controversy was the handling of the deportation by the Trump administration – the use of mostly military planes, which angered the Colombians. Mr. Petro also raised concerns about the way migrants were treated by the U.S. Earlier, Brazil had also raised complaints of "degrading treatment" of its deported citizens. They were handcuffed, and some of them were not given water or allowed to use the washroom during the flight, according to Brazilian officials. But Mr. Trump does not seem to care. He wanted to make an example of Colombia so that other neighbours will not challenge his handling of the mass deportation. He may have forced Colombia to backtrack for now, using America's economic muscle, but this kind of coercion could backfire in the long run in a region where America has always tried to maintain its geopolitical hegemony. And the inhumane conditions in which hundreds of migrants are being deported everyday is a blot on America's tall claims of protecting human rights. A better way of handling this crisis is through diplomacy. Instead of imposing his will on other countries through threats of tariffs and sanctions, Mr. Trump could use the diplomatic channel, seek consensus and then implement his policy in a much more cordial way. But for Mr. Trump, alas, coercion is the first resort.

Wide open

Sinner's win in Melbourne marks a new era in tennis

The 2025 Australian Open has pushed world tennis into hitherto uncharted territories. Jannik Sinner's straight sets victory over Alexander Zverev made him the first man other than Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal to defend his maiden Major title this century. This, perhaps, is the clearest sign that the sport has decisively moved on, even as 24-time Slam winner Novak Djokovic, the last man standing from the Big Three era, limped out of the semifinal against Zverev. Among women, Madison Keys may have become yet another first-time Major champion, but the presence of No.1 Aryna Sabalenka and No.2 Iga Swiatek at the business end shows that the women's field is a maturing marketplace, leaving behind the turbulence of the past few years. Sinner's success was his third straight in hard-court Slams. Such has been the World No.1's dominance that of the 26 tournaments he has entered starting from the Toronto Masters in August 2023, he has won 14 and finished semifinalist or better in five others. Keys, in contrast, was a bolt from the blue and had last reached a Major final at the 2017 US Open. But the fact that the 29-year-old overcame Swiatek in the semifinal after erasing a match-point and thwarted Sabalenka in the final despite a stirring comeback from the Belarusian made hers a top-drawer performance.

While Sinner, on current form, appears head and shoulders above the rest of the Tour, he still has to contend with Carlos Alcaraz, his generational rival and winner of four Slams. The Spaniard may have lost in the quarterfinals to Djokovic, but he handed Sinner three of his six defeats in an otherwise sensational 2024 for the Italian. There is, however, a chance that this duel might come to an abrupt halt in April when the Court of Arbitration for Sport hears the appeal filed by World Anti-Doping Agency against Sinner's acquittal over two failed dope tests (March 2024). Whether this saga gives the likes of Zverev and Daniil Medvedev an opening is another thing to watch out for. The two, who looked set to take over from the Big Three only to be ambushed by Sinner and Alcaraz, have collectively won just one of nine Major finals they have taken part in. Only a title in 2025 will keep them relevant. The women's game, which in recent times has traded predictability for novelty, might see the two aspects march in tow for the foreseeable future. Sabalenka's consistency, Swiatek's return – Melbourne was her best run at a Slam since January 2023 outside the French Open – and Keys' win point in that direction.

A recent judgment of the Supreme Court of India, in *Bhagwati Medical Hall vs Central Drugs Standard Control Organization & Ors.*, has, once again, turned the spotlight on the impossible challenge faced by State governments in regulating a significant public health hazard – that posed by alcoholic tinctures marketed in India as homoeopathic remedies. Feeble attempts by the Union Government to tackle the problem have often been frustrated by ruthless lawfare conducted by the very formidable homoeopathic industry.

The regulatory maze

A good starting point to explain this issue is the exceptionally complicated regulatory architecture under the Constitution for these alcoholic tinctures, which are liquid extracts of herbs dissolved in alcohol. As per Schedule VII of the Constitution, only States can enact legislation in relation to public health and the taxation of alcohol. The exception to this rule of taxation is if the alcohol is meant for medicinal purposes, in which case, Entry 84 of List I allowed the Union to decide the rate of taxation.

In the pre-Goods and Services Tax (GST) era, alcohol for medicinal preparation was taxed at a tiny 4% under the now repealed Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955. Post the 101st Constitutional amendment which paved the way for the GST, the issue of taxation of alcohol meant for medicinal purposes is not clear since the exception created for alcohol meant for medicinal purposes is no longer mentioned in Entry 84. Nevertheless, the Union has prescribed a 1% tax slab for alcohol meant for medicinal purposes, which is still significantly lower than State taxes on alcoholic beverages.

The third aspect of this regulatory architecture is that drugs are on the Concurrent list, which means that both the Union and States can enact law but since the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is the Union law laying down quality standards for homoeopathic products, States need presidential approval for State-specific amendments.

This complex regulatory architecture has meant that manufacturers of these homoeopathic alcoholic tinctures have historically been immune from any form of quality regulation or taxation by States despite having a direct impact on public health which again is the responsibility of States, per List II of Schedule VII. Moreover, due to the difference in taxation rates for alcoholic tinctures sold as homoeopathic remedies and alcoholic beverages, alcoholic tinctures manufactured by the homoeopathic industry are more affordable



Dinesh S. Thakur
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Prashant Reddy T.
is the author of 'The Truth Pill: The Myth of Drug Regulation in India'

Alcoholic tinctures marketed in India as homoeopathic remedies are a significant public health hazard

than alcoholic beverages. For a less discerning consumer of alcohol whose sole aim is to get intoxicated, these alcoholic tinctures are the perfect substitute for alcoholic beverages especially since many of these tinctures contain a very high volume of alcohol. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act permits alcoholic tinctures for homoeopathy to contain 12% alcohol by volume. For comparison, the most popular varieties of "strong beer" sold in India generally contain 7% alcohol.

State governments have viewed the issue primarily through the lens of revenue loss caused by citizens who consume homoeopathic alcoholic tinctures as a substitute for alcoholic beverages taxed at a higher rate. This loss of revenues was one of the reasons for the administrative actions taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, under Section 22 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 in the Bhagwati Medical Hall case, except, as correctly held by the Supreme Court, only the Union government can regulate the sale of homoeopathic tinctures.

Health concerns, industry lawfare
The taxation story however pales in comparison to the public health nightmare posed by these alcoholic tinctures. Since States have no ability to regulate alcoholic tinctures, they are required to permit the sale of these products even if the State law prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages, as in Gujarat and Bihar. Both States have reported a string of deaths of those who consumed homoeopathic remedies containing spurious alcohol. In effect, the public health objectives of these State prohibitions on alcohol have been frustrated by a Union law. Technically, they can enact a State-specific amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 but that requires presidential assent.

The larger public health hazard of these alcoholic tinctures is unsuspecting citizens who consume these products on the assumption that they are going to be cured of their ailments without being fully aware of the alcoholic content in these products. Except that consuming such products containing high levels of alcohol, on a daily basis, can cause serious illnesses such as alcoholic hepatitis in patients who are otherwise perfectly healthy. Indian doctors have been presenting an increasing amount of anecdotal data of such patients presenting symptoms consistent with those demonstrated by alcoholics.

The Union government has been aware of the public health hazards posed by these alcoholic tinctures and introduced Rule 106B of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 in 1994 after a tragedy

took many lives. This new rule, which appears to lack any scientific basis, allows the homoeopathy industry to sell in the retail market, alcoholic tinctures containing 12% of alcohol in a bottle of maximum 30 ml. Larger bottles of 100 ml can be sold only to hospitals.

As soon as Rule 106B came into force, the homoeopathy industry unleashed a campaign of unmitigated lawfare against this rule because it wanted to sell tinctures with higher alcoholic content. In the first round of litigation, the homoeopathy industry challenged the constitutional validity of the rule on the grounds that it was an unreasonable restriction on its fundamental right to conduct trade and that the government lacked the power to make the rule. The industry lost before five High Courts and eventually the Supreme Court, except it took until 2014 for this litigation to be resolved. The very next year, in 2015, the homoeopathy industry launched a second round of lawfare by filing 13 lawsuits before seven different High Courts, on the grounds that Rule 106B was invalid since it was not placed before Parliament for a period of 30 days, as required by Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Since a statutory requirement was not met, at least four High Courts temporarily stayed the operation of the rule in 2015, restraining government from enforcing it until the legal challenge was disposed of.

The simplest solution to these lawsuits was for the Union Government to simply lay Rule 106B before Parliament for 30 days thereby knocking out the basis of the legal challenge. Except, India's famed bureaucracy made the malicious decision to pursue the route of more litigation by filing a transfer petition in 2017 requesting for all 13 cases to be transferred to the Supreme Court. The Court agreed to do so and transferred all 13 cases to itself in 2017, where the matter has since languished unheard. Delays of such nature before the Supreme Court, when it comes to regulations meant to protect public health, are nothing unusual and end up costing lives of citizens.

Key question

The more important question is whether the law should permit the use of any alcohol in not just homoeopathic products but also ayurvedic products, especially when other countries are contemplating compulsory cancer warnings on regular alcoholic beverages. It is one thing for these homoeopathic and ayurvedic products to not cure any ailments, as claimed by their manufacturers, but quite another for them to cause further harm to unsuspecting and poorly informed citizens.

The Union Budget as a turning point for climate action +

All eyes will be on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman when she takes centrestage on February 1 to present the Union Budget. As the nation grapples with increasingly frequent extreme weather events and mounting pressure to meet its climate commitments, the FY26 Budget carries the weight of both urgency and opportunity. With just five years left to achieve India's first interim Net-Zero target, the Budget must take decisive steps to protect those on the frontlines of climate change.

Previous Budgets have demonstrated the government's commitment to climate action, notably through initiatives such as the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana, support for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, viability gap funding for offshore wind energy, and increased allocations for the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Yet, with a total renewable energy installed capacity of 203.18 GW, far short of the 2030 target of 500 GW, accelerated investment and policy support are imperative.

There is much work to be done
The Budget must prioritise key policy measures to strengthen India's climate response and accelerate progress on both adaptation and mitigation fronts. First, to accelerate India's green energy transition, the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana needs a comprehensive review. While the scheme has seen around 1.45 crore registrations, the completion rate of only 6.34 lakh installations (4.37%) indicates the presence of significant implementation gaps. To address this, the FY26 Budget must take a multi-pronged approach. In the first instance, fiscal allocations should prioritise the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) model, effectively transforming the prohibitive upfront costs into manageable operating expenses for lower-income households through innovative financial instruments and credit guarantees.

In the second instance, the Budget must expand the scope of production-linked incentives (PLI) across the solar module supply chain, addressing the critical supply-demand mismatch, where domestic manufacturing fulfils only 40%



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The Budget should reflect the seriousness of the government in integrating climate competitiveness into India's fiscal framework

current requirements. This expansion would boost manufacturing capacity and create economies of scale, potentially reducing costs that are 65% higher for domestically manufactured panels than those imported to the country.

In the third instance, India's vast railway network offers untapped potential for renewable energy generation. Estimates suggest that the Railways' extensive land banks and track corridors could host up to 5 GW of solar and wind installations. The Budget should encourage innovative public-private partnership models to unlock this opportunity.

EU mechanism and India
Second, the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which will take effect on January 1, 2026, necessitates urgent budgetary interventions to protect India's export competitiveness. India's total exports of CBAM products to the EU amount to \$8.22 billion annually and will likely face carbon levies ranging from around 20% to 50%.

This presents an existential challenge for India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), which have a contribution of 30% of GDP and 45% of exports. The Budget can establish a dedicated 'Climate Action Fund', modelled after successful initiatives such as Japan's Green Transformation (GX) Fund for industrial decarbonisation, particularly across the most vulnerable export sectors. The Fund can also support the capacity-building initiatives for MSMEs to ensure proper compliance and reporting under CBAM.

Third, the Budget must accelerate India's transition to a circular economy. A recent study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water estimates that the benefit of adopting a circular economy can yield an annual profit of ₹40 lakh crore (\$624 billion) for India by 2050 while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by about 44%. A weighted deduction of 150% on investments in recycling infrastructure and refurbishment technologies, complemented by accelerated depreciation benefits for circular economy assets, can encourage businesses to

invest in recycling and refurbishment technologies. The Budget should establish a sovereign green bond framework specifically for financing circular economy infrastructure.

On insurance products, green finance

Fourth, there is a strong need to strengthen climate resilience. India's insurance penetration remains worryingly low. According to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) 2023-24 Annual Report, it has declined from 4% in FY23 to 3.7% in FY24. To address this challenge, the Budget could offer tax deductions to insurance companies on income from climate-linked policies and advocate lower Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates on premiums for insurance products specifically designed for climate resilience and disaster protection.

Finally, some estimates indicate that standardising green finance definitions could help build investor confidence and help India get part of the ₹62.5 trillion (\$2.5 trillion) needed to achieve the Nationally Determined Contributions by 2030. The Budget should allocate funds to build the institutional and technical infrastructure required to implement the climate finance taxonomy effectively, including for market readiness programmes, verification systems, and capacity building of financial institutions.

The Budget can further catalyse this transition by introducing differential tax treatment for taxonomy-aligned investments and committing to classify government expenditure according to green criteria.

Climate-linked economic policies are no longer peripheral but central to maintaining competitiveness in international trade and investment flows. With rising global demand for low-carbon goods and the increasing alignment of capital markets with sustainability metrics, India must act decisively and integrate climate competitiveness into its fiscal framework. The Budget will indeed signal the seriousness of the government's intent in this regard.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The reality

The Constitution of India is increasingly being overshadowed by the actions of those sworn to uphold it. A deep chasm is emerging between the ideals enshrined in the Constitution and the realities of contemporary Indian politics. It is deeply troubling to witness the

erosion of ethical values. Honesty, sincerity, and integrity – core to the vision of the Constitution – appear to be increasingly absent in today's political landscape. It is distressing to see institutions designed to uphold the Constitution being manipulated for political advantage rather than serving public interest.

What we need are leaders in

India who embody the

highest standards of

morality and conduct.

V. Nagarajan,

Chennai

Trump's 'vision'

The unbridled arrogance of U.S. President Donald Trump's idea to "clean-out" Gaza of its Palestinian

natives is abhorrent, but should not be viewed as anything new. There is perhaps a theological justification for such an excommunication. Mr. Trump, despite his claims of not subscribing to such a narrow interpretation of the scripture, is ready and willing to be the tip of this toxic sword, because it is in

convergence with American strategic interests in West Asia. His background as a real estate developer must be salivating at the prospect of gaining access to a Mediterranean seafloor location that will enrich his personal coffers. Donald Trump is the new imperial reincarnation of Dickens' "Domby and Son" that

sees the entire world as a borderless realm for his business activities. If any uncomfortable truths like the Palestinians are in the way, they will be brutally swept aside.

G. Parameswaran,

Coimbatore

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

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Candidates contesting Delhi polls with higher secondary education

46 In per cent. According to an ADR analysis of the 699 candidates contesting Delhi polls, 46% or 324 candidates declared their academic qualification to be between Class 5 and Class 12, reflecting basic schooling. Eight candidates hold doctorate degrees. 18 candidates hold diplomas. PTI

Number of violations of the Model Code of Conduct in Delhi polls

730 The cases were lodged between January 7, when the Model Code of Conduct came into force, and January 26. A total of 22,857 people were arrested under various legal provisions, including those under the Excise Act, during this period. PTI

Number of candidates contesting Delhi polls in the 41-50 age range

235 According to an ADR analysis, the majority of candidates contesting the assembly election in Delhi are in the 41-50 age group. There has also been a significant rise in the number of candidates aged over 70. Aam Janmat Party candidate Rajender is the oldest in the fray at 88. PTI

Number of Ahmadiyya graves desecrated in Pakistan by extremists

40 Nearly 40 graves belonging to the minority Ahmadiyya community have been desecrated by religious extremists believed to be the members of a radical Islamist party in Pakistan's Punjab province. Pakistan's Parliament in 1974 declared the Ahmadiyya community as non-Muslims. PTI

Number of dead Olive Ridley turtles washed ashore in Chennai

1,000 Several hundreds of Olive Ridley turtles have been washed ashore dead along Chennai's coastline for the past few days, causing concern to environmentalists. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Does cow urine have anti-infective properties?

Why did IIT-Madras director V. Kamakoti's statements on cow urine spark outrage? Which are the papers he listed which elaborated on the benefits of bovine urine? Have any conclusive studies been undertaken in India about the same?

EXPLAINER

Arkatapa Basu
Priyali Prakash

The story so far:

DOn January 15, IIT-Madras director V. Kamakoti said that cow urine had antifungal, antibacterial, and anti-inflammatory properties at a goshala in West Mambalam in Chennai. In a media interaction five days later, Dr. Kamakoti listed five peer-reviewed papers that he said validated the "anti-infective" properties of cow urine. His statements have since gone viral on social media as many questioned his claims and deemed his observations to be inappropriate as the head of a scientific institution.

What did the papers state?

One paper titled 'Peptide profiling in cow urine reveals molecular signature of physiology-driven pathways and in-silico predicted bioactive properties' was published on June 14, 2021, in the journal *Nature Scientific Reports*. "The researchers have experimented and presented their findings. *Nature* is one of the top journals in the United States of America. The output in the research papers is the evidence," Dr. Kamakoti said. However, *Nature* and *Nature Scientific Reports* are two different journals. Independent experts said the research article itself "does not seem bad" but that it is just an analysis of bovine urine. "Authors say that there are a lot of studies of peptides in human urine, but not much work has been done in the case of bovine urine,"

Aniket Sule, associate professor at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education in Mumbai, told *The Hindu*. "There are also similar studies about donkey urine. Essentially, all mammals pass some peptides in their urine and those peptides give a lot of indications about the health of that individual. That is also the reason why we do urine analysis



Exaggerated claims: Cows covered in jute blankets to keep warm at a barn in Surat in 2024. ANI

in pathology labs. So, they are just presenting their analysis of bovine urine. There is no claim beyond that." Dr. Sule added that there have been papers from China discussing the use of cow dung as fertilizer. "However, developing a fertilizer from mammal urine/excreta is a different thing from human consumption of urine/excreta," he said. Dr. Sule quoted the example of U.S. President Donald Trump asking scientists in his first term, during the COVID-19 pandemic, about the alleged benefits of drinking bleach. "Just because bleach is anti-bacterial on the floor doesn't mean it is medicinal for humans," Dr. Sule said.

Gautam Menon, dean of research and professor of physics and biology at Ashoka University in Sonipat, said the paper is "perfectly reasonable scientific work, although whether it is interesting or not is another matter". "Checking

antibiotic effects on two standard bacterial species is a common thing to do. Their result is not particularly surprising nor is it claimed to be," he added. The second paper Dr. Kamakoti referred to was entitled 'Benefits of cow urine' and published in the *International Journal of Recent Advances in Multidisciplinary Research* on September 29, 2017. The paper reviews previous research articles describing the medicinal benefits of cow urine, a form of research called a meta-analysis. According to the paper, "Many researches have also been done, which shows its use for treatment of skin diseases, stomach diseases, kidney diseases, heart diseases, stones, diabetes, liver problem, jaundice, athlete's feet, cyst, haemorrhoid, etc. and show its immunostimulant, bioenhancer, anticonvulsant, anti-cancerous, wound-healing, antioxidant, and

antimicrobial properties." The abstract of the study concludes by calling for more public awareness of the importance of cow urine. However, Dipshikha Chakravortty, professor at the department of microbiology and cell biology at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, said in an email to *The Hindu*, "Consumption of any urine is detrimental and dangerous, including healthy individual urine. Urine contains resident bacteria, and that can be detrimental." She added that there have been reports of various types of urine containing bacteria that could be pathogenic. The prevalence of grammatical and typographical mistakes in the paper indicate the journal's editors didn't copy-edit it, a symptom – albeit not a conclusive one – of low-quality publishers.

What do other studies say?

In 2022, Bhoj Roj Singh, who recently retired as the epidemiology head of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly, led a study that showed the undesirability of humans consuming cow urine. In the study, the team found that fresh urine from cows and bulls contains at least 14 types of harmful bacteria, including *Escherichia coli*. The study also reported that urine can't inhibit bacterial growth. "In case one gets infected from the bacteria, [the infections] can lead to life-threatening infections, particularly among those consumers who are already sick or have weak immune systems," Dr. Singh said.

He also said proponents of drinking cow urine had criticised the study for using fresh urine while they advocated the consumption of urine distillates. His lab analysed these distillates as well as packaged urine found in the market. "We reported those too to be risky and full of microbes (no-quality control practised). Moreover, the antimicrobial activity detected may hardly be of any therapeutic utility as it may not be feasible to consume such a large amount of urine safely to get its antibacterial action in our bodies," he said.

THE GIST

▼ One paper titled 'Peptide profiling in cow urine reveals molecular signature of physiology-driven pathways and in-silico predicted bioactive properties' was published on June 14, 2021, in the journal *Nature Scientific Reports*.

▼ The second paper Dr. Kamakoti referred to was entitled 'Benefits of cow urine' and published in the *International Journal of Recent Advances in Multidisciplinary Research* on September 29, 2017.

▼ In 2022, Bhoj Roj Singh, who recently retired as the epidemiology head of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly, led a study that showed the undesirability of humans consuming cow urine.

Is the Guillain-Barré Syndrome life-threatening?

What are the causes and symptoms of Guillain-Barré Syndrome? What are the treatment methods, and is a full recovery possible? What is happening in Pune?

Zubeda Hamid

The story so far:

Following a reported outbreak of Guillain-Barré Syndrome, a rare neurological disorder, in Pune, with 73 cases so far, the Union Health Ministry has now sent a team to the city to assess the situation. The Maharashtra government has also set up a Rapid Response Team to investigate the sudden rise in infections. A total of 47 men and 26 women have been affected, with 14 on ventilator support, the State Health Department has said, as of Saturday, January 25, 2025.

What is Guillain-Barré Syndrome?

Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) is an autoimmune neurological disorder in which a person's immune system attacks their peripheral nerves, leading to muscle weakness that can progress to paralysis.

People of any age can be affected, but it is more common in adults and males. The condition is rare, with an estimated incidence of 1/2 per 1,00,000 population.

While the causes of GBS are still not fully understood, in most cases, it occurs after a viral or bacterial infection. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), infection with the bacteria *Campylobacter jejuni*, which causes gastroenteritis (including symptoms of nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea), is one of the most common risk factors for GBS. People can also develop GBS after having the flu or other viral infections from cytomegalovirus, Epstein-Barr virus, and the Zika virus.

How does it affect the body?

In autoimmune conditions, the body's immune system begins to attack its own cells. In GBS, the immune system destroys the myelin sheath – a fatty layer wrapped

around nerve cells. This impacts the nerves' ability to send signals to the brain, which causes weakness in the muscles. GBS affects the peripheral nervous system – the part of the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord – that controls the movement of muscles, temperature, touch and pain sensations.

The first signs of GBS are usually tingling and weakness that start in the feet and legs before spreading to the upper body, arms and face. Symptoms include a pins and needles feeling in the toes, fingers, ankles or wrists, back pain, pain in the legs, not being able to walk or climb stairs, trouble with facial movements and double vision. For some people this can lead to paralysis of the legs, arms or face. The severity of the symptoms can range from mild to severe. In approximately one-third of people, the chest muscles are affected, making it hard to breathe, the WHO says. The ability to speak and

swallow can become affected in severe cases. GBS can lead to life-threatening complications when it affects the autonomic nervous system which controls your blood pressure and heart rate.

How is it treated?

There is no known cure for GBS. However, there are some treatments that aid in recovery. Most people can make a nearly full recovery. The treatments primarily include plasma exchange and intravenous immunoglobulin therapy. In plasma exchange or plasmapheresis, the plasma (liquid part of the blood) is removed, treated and then returned to the body. This removes the antibodies from the plasma that are attacking the nerves. Intravenous immunoglobulin therapy involves injecting the body with immunoglobulins, which are proteins that the body makes to identify and neutralise pathogens. This helps decrease the immune system's attack on the nerves.

Supportive treatment is also given and rehabilitation including physical and occupational therapy may be required. Recovery can take a long time. The WHO says Guillain-Barré syndrome is potentially life-threatening. People with Guillain-Barré syndrome should be treated and monitored as quickly as possible and some may need intensive care. If you experience sudden muscle that gets worse over some days, see a doctor immediately.

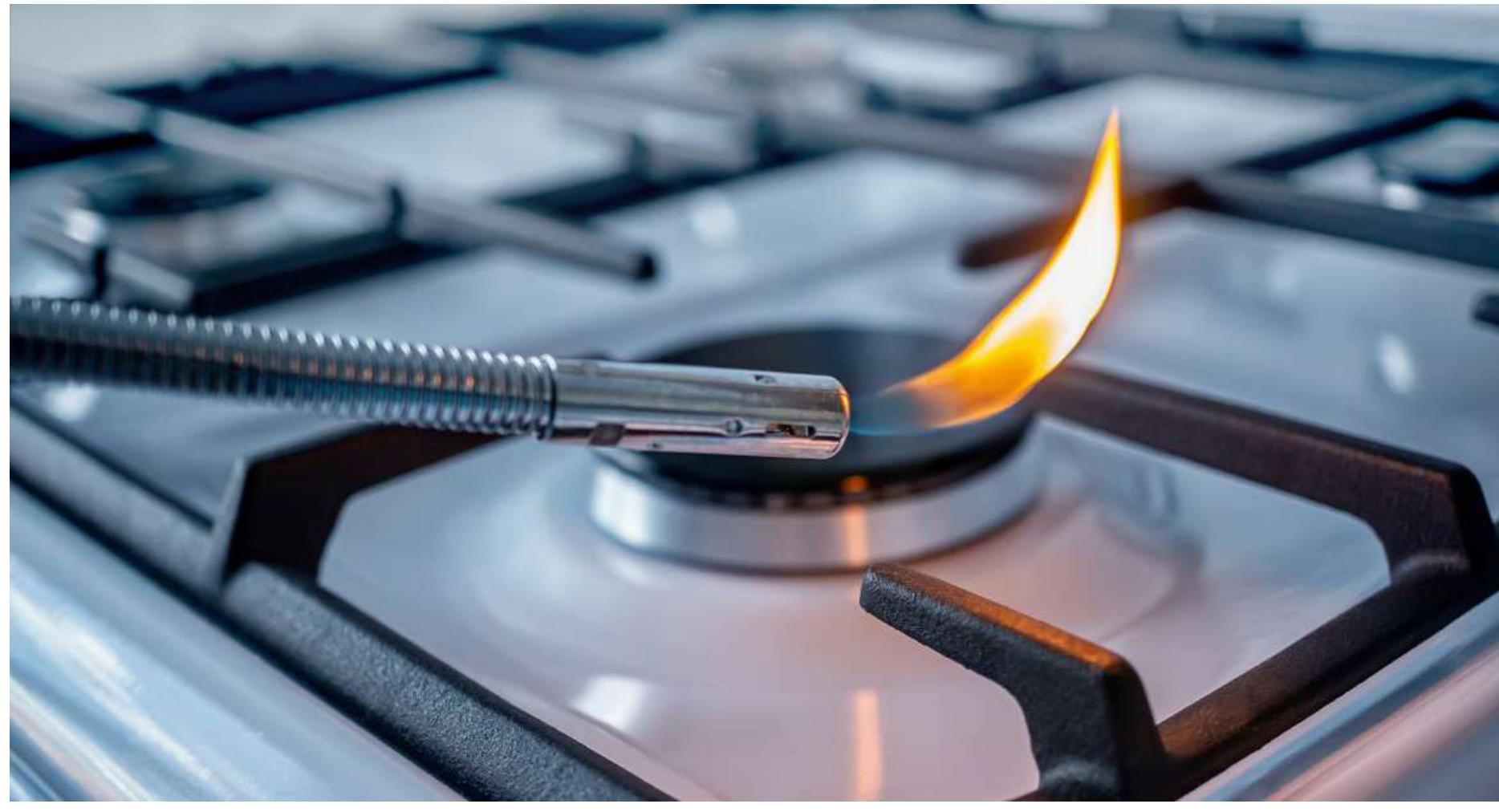
THE GIST

▼ Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) is an autoimmune neurological disorder in which a person's immune system attacks their peripheral nerves, leading to muscle weakness that can progress to paralysis.

▼ There is no known cure for GBS. However, there are some treatments that aid in recovery. Most people can make a nearly full recovery.

▼ While the causes of GBS are still not fully understood, in most cases, it occurs after a viral or bacterial infection.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: BUILDING BLOCKS



GETTY IMAGES

How are everyday stove-lighters able to make electric sparks?

Piezoelectrics are materials with a particularly interesting property — they can effectively create a surplus and a deficiency of electrons when they are under pressure. The reason these materials can do this is because the atoms in such a material are arranged in a slightly funny periodic pattern

Adhip Agarwala

Mornings in IIT Kanpur, where I teach, are interspersed with sips of green tea, the longing calls of peacocks and peahens, and the purposeless barking of my neighbour's dog. Often making things interesting is a mess in the kitchen - the result of my tendency to ignore the milk I left on the stove, and remember it just as it boils, flows over the vessel, spills on the counter, and drools to the floor.

As I curse the milk, I also can't help but feel some sympathy for the innocent victim of this mess: my stove-lighter. Resting there in innocence on the counter, it has no idea that it is having a bad day.

These lighters are magical pieces of equipment. A push with your thumb, something clicks, and there comes a flame. If you haven't noticed it, go to your kitchen, pick up the lighter, point it towards yourself, and watch carefully. As you click it, you will notice a small spark flying between the central rod and the cylindrical covering. But don't worry: unless you are flammable (regular human beings are not), there is no danger of you catching fire or even getting an electric shock. This same spark accompanies the wonderful monsoons (which we eagerly await in Kanpur), just that they screech through the night sky and can add amazing percussions to a late night instrumental on the stereo.

What is it, then, that allows that small piece of equipment to create thunder in your kitchen, and at the innocuous push of your thumb?

To understand this, we first need to figure out what an electric spark is.

What is an electric spark?

A spark is essentially an electric charge flying in the air between two points, one of which has a large quantity of surplus electrons while the other has too few. This difference in quantities of electrons can happen due to many reasons. Sometimes people have engineered it this way using chemicals: the simplest example is the battery that we use in everything from remote-controls to electric vehicles.

A point with a large number of surplus electrons is called the negative terminal (since electrons are negatively charged) and a point that is deficient of electrons is the positive terminal. This is why you see '+' and '-' signs marked on every battery.

In most situations – and unlike some people – electrons are extremely equitable in nature and dislike this difference in their quantities. So, given an opportunity, they will travel from a place where they are more in number to a place where they are fewer in number. This is why current flows when we attach a wire between the two ends of a battery, and in the process we make our fans move, or bulbs light up, etc.

However, if we don't attach a wire and the electrons still want to move, what will they do?

Is lightning a giant spark?

If the gap between the surplus and the deficiency of electrons becomes too extreme, at some point, these electrons will lose all patience and decide to fly through the air, disrupting everything in between. This is not very dissimilar to human society. Sometimes, you might notice that something upsets people slowly over time, and then suddenly, there is a surprisingly large bit of unrest.

To be able to break out like this, electrons first need to break up air molecules mid-air, creating ions (charged atoms). In addition, many electrons inside the atoms are also pulled out, creating free electrons in the air. All this creates a region through which electrons can easily move – as if they have made a wire for themselves in thin air! And when they travel on this path, we see it as a spark.

Clouds are charged objects. When they move over large distances and collide with other clouds, they get more and more charged. At some point, this charge becomes too much for the clouds to hold, and breaks out as the lightning that we see (followed by the thunder that we hear).

How do our stove lighters, which are limited to our kitchens, create such powerful electronic unrest?

What is a piezoelectric material? This has to do with a class of materials called piezoelectrics, which every stove lighter contains. Piezoelectrics are amazing materials with a particularly interesting property: they can effectively create a surplus and a deficiency of electrons when they are under some pressure. As it happens, they can also easily remove this surplus when the applied pressure is removed.

The reason these materials can do this is because the atoms in a piezoelectric material are arranged in a slightly funny periodic pattern. They also usually have two types of atoms that have two different charges. One has a surplus of electrons and the other has a deficiency, i.e. they are negative and positive ions.

Now, under no extra pressure, these atoms are arranged in an alternating pattern and in such a way that there is no

surplus of electrons at one end compared to another. When some pressure is applied, the picture changes. The structure of these materials is such that, under pressure, the positive ions move in one direction and the negative ones move in the other direction. This creates a surplus at one end of the material and a deficiency at the other end. Essentially, the material has become a battery!

With some meticulous physics and engineering, this surplus/deficiency of electrons, created when the pressure is applied, can be made to be quite high – practically enabling the electrons to fly through the air, just like in the case of lightning. This is the spark you saw when you clicked the lighter.

Treat a lighter with respect

These flying electrons can ignite an inflammable object. So when the supply of cooking gas is on and you click the lighter near it, a fire erupts on your stove! Sometimes, the pressure applied is not enough to generate a spark, so at times you need to click it a couple of times, so that one of the hits is strong enough to create a sufficiently significant spark. (In case you are intrigued and interested in learning more about piezoelectric materials, taking a physics course on condensed matter physics may be worthwhile.)

So the next time you end up cooking something and it spills over your gas lighter – just like the milk I was boiling here at IIT Kanpur – please clean it with some respect. Every day, it creates tiny lightning bolts just for you, even if all you want to do is enjoy some crispy onion pakoras to go with the monsoon rain.

Adhip Agarwala is an assistant professor of physics at IIT Kanpur.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"What is the third rule?"
"Prefer the single word to the circumlocution."

"What kind of elocution is this? Why don't you use a simple word?"

"I am quoting the Fowler brothers. They have used the word."

'Circumlocution' means 'the use of many words where fewer would do.' What it means is don't use two or more words where one will do. In ordinary

conversation, we tend to use a lot of unnecessary words. Some tend to say in a roundabout way what can be said in a simple, straightforward way. Careful writers and speakers don't waste words. They are very precise. I will give some examples of circumlocution. The reason for his failure is due to his carelessness. What is the reason for his failure? His carelessness. Why did he fail? It was due to carelessness. The reason for his failure is carelessness. He failed due to carelessness. Why say 'The reason for ... due to? Take another: With a view to going to the station, I engaged a taxi.'

"What is wrong with the sentence? It sounds OK to me."

"There is nothing wrong grammatically. I took a taxi to go to the station. Isn't it simpler? Why use so many words when you can use fewer words? Also, for some reason, we use the word 'engage' rather than 'take' with a taxi. My British professor once told me that the average Indian loves to use the word 'engage' with 'taxis'."

"Why? Is it wrong to say 'I engaged a taxi'?"

"No. It is not wrong. The native speaker generally would use either 'hire' or 'take'. I took a taxi. I hired a taxi. But we tend to use the word 'engage'. But don't think you shouldn't use 'engage' at all with 'taxis'. A taxi is engaged when it is occupied, when it is not available for hire."

"So I can take a taxi or hire a taxi only when it is not engaged. Have I used 'engaged' correctly?"

"Yes."

"So an Indian engages a taxi, an Englishman takes a taxi. Both do the same thing. Don't they?"

"They do. It is good to know the difference in their expression."

"Let me go now. I have to attend an engagement."

Published in The Hindu on November 29, 1994.

THE DAILY QUIZ

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

A quiz on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the Challenger Space Shuttle disaster

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

How many crew members made up the ill-fated flight and what was the primary goal of shuttle mission 51-L?

QUESTION 2

There were two women on board with one being mission specialist Judith Resnik. Name the other who would have become the first teacher in space.

QUESTION 3

After how many seconds post lift-off did the tragedy happen and what were the last words heard from pilot Michael Smith?

QUESTION 4

According to later analysis, what caused the death of the astronauts as it was believed they survived the initial breakup.

QUESTION 5

What connects the first human on the moon, Neil Armstrong, and first American woman in space, Sally Ride, to the Challenger disaster?

QUESTION 6

Name the Nobel Laureate, part of the commission that looked into the tragedy, who convincingly demonstrated the loss of O-ring resiliency was the prime cause for the disaster.



Visual question:

Part of the back-up crew for the ill-fated mission, this astronaut later became the first teacher to go into space. Name her. FILE PHOTO

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

1. India's Constitution borrows this from this country's Constitution.

Ans: Directive Principles of State Policy; Ireland

2. This artist illustrated the Constitution. **Ans: Nandalal Bose**

3. This word was added in 1976 to the Preamble. **Ans: Secularism**

4. The first chairman of the Constituent Assembly. **Ans: Sachidanand Sinha**

5. This man was one of the Chief Ministers of the Madras Presidency and leader of the Indian National Congress. **Ans: C. Rajagopalachari**

Visual: The calligrapher who wrote in English. **Ans: Prem Behari Narain Raizada**

Early Birds: Basant Malik| Dodo Jayaditya| Piyali Tuli| Arun Kumar Singh| Barnali Biswas

Word of the day

Imprimatur:

formal and explicit approval

Synonyms:

countenance, endorsement, sanction, warrant

Usage:

My client needs the imprimatur of someone else.

Pronunciation:

newsth.live/imprimaturpro

International Phonetic Alphabet:

/ɪm.pri'meɪ.tʊr/, /ɪm.pri'ma:tə/, /ɪm.pri'me.təvə/, /ɪm.pri'meɪ.təvə/

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

From Page One**India, China to resume direct flights, issue visas**

This is significant as despite record trade levels, India and China have been levying restrictions on each other amidst the LAC tensions. While China had complained about the need for a "level playing field" over India's decision in 2020 to require Home Ministry clearance for investment from China and other land-border countries, denial of business visas, as well as raids on Chinese telecom companies, India has been worried about Chinese restrictions on pharmaceutical ingredients (API), high technology exports and transfers to India, as well as withholding critical equipment like Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs).

"Specific concerns in the economic and trade areas were discussed with a view to resolving these issues and promoting long-term policy transparency and predictability", the MEA statement added, without giving further details.

Mr. Misri's visit, which is understood to have been held on January 26-27 before the official closure for the Chinese New Year, marks the "resumption" of the FS-Vice FM level bilateral dialogue mechanism, and follows meetings between Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi in October, meetings between the Foreign Ministers, Defence Ministers and Special Representatives, indicating that India and China have now resumed all regular bilateral discourse.

Officials, however, declined to comment on whether the resumption of dialogue mechanisms would include an "informal summit" between Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi this year, as had been held in Wuhan in 2018 and Mamallapuram in 2020.

All the engagements, as well as the flights, visas, Mansarovar pilgrimage, had been suspended since 2020 due to the COVID pandemic and after the Chinese PLA transgressed the LAC, leading to the deadly Galwan clashes in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed.

Uttarakhand adopts Uniform Civil Code

The State has also put up a 'tatkal' facility in cases of emergency for which a 'nominal' fee will be charged. In view of the UCC rollout, the marriages that have taken place in Uttarakhand since March 26, 2010, will have to be registered in the government portal within the next six months. Marriages that have taken place after the implementation of the law should be registered within 60 days from the date of marriage.

Live-in relationships established before or after the implementation of the UCC will have to be registered within one month from the date of implementation of the code. One or both partners can end the live-in relationship online or offline.

If only one partner applies, the registrar will accept it only on the basis of confirmation from the other. If the woman becomes pregnant during the live-in, then it is mandatory to inform the government within 30 days of the birth of the child.

The UCC also mandates that a landlord cannot deny house to any couple whose live-in registration is done.

While registering divorce or marriage annulment, people should enter details of marriage registration, decree of divorce or marriage annulment, court case number, date of final order, details of children, and copy of final order of the court. The UCC portal allows people to register their will in three ways – by filling the form on the portal, by uploading handwritten or typed will, or by recording it in a three-minute video and uploading it.

Under the UCC, sub-registrars, registrars and registrar-general will be nominated in both urban and rural areas who will mostly be sub-divisional magistrates (SDM), municipal commissioners, CEOs of cantonment boards and secretaries of departments, respectively.

Online news publishers join copyright suit in HC against OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA), which represents the digital arms of several mainstream TV and print organisations in India, has intervened in a copyright lawsuit against OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT.

"This intervention highlights the significant concerns expressed by digital news publishers about the unauthorised mass copying and use of copyrighted works to train AI models," the DNPA said in a statement. *The Hindu* is a member of the DNPA.

The intervention was filed in an ongoing case initiated by the news agency

These questions pose implications for IPR in digital age and the news industry in India, says DNPA

Asian News International (ANI). "In its recent order dated 19 November 2024, the Hon'ble Delhi High Court recognised and framed several significant legal questions arising from the ANI v. OpenAI case," the DNPA said.

"These questions concentrate on OpenAI's extensive and, in DNPA's view, unlawful ingestion of Indian copyrighted content, which poses important implications for intellectual property rights in the digital age and the news industry in India."

Youth should debate on simultaneous elections: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

While India conducts the world's largest polls, frequent elections every few months pose challenges, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he urged the youth to actively participate in this debate that would directly impact their future.

"A key issue linked to the future of India's youth is the country's electoral system," Mr. Modi said, addressing the annual National Cadet Corps (NCC) rally at Cariappa parade ground in Delhi Cantonment. Elaborating further, he said that initially, Lok Sabha and Assembly elections were held together, but this pattern changed, causing significant issues for the country and frequent elections required updating voters' lists and involved many tasks, often affecting teachers' duties, studies, and exam preparations.

Mr. Modi said repeated elections also created governance difficulties and therefore, the country was currently debating the concept of "One Nation, One Election". Referring to countries such as the U.S. where the date for forming a new government was fixed, and elections were held every four years, the PM encouraged the youth to think about the impact of having elections every month on their studies.

JPC rejects all amendments to Waqf Bill made by Opposition

Parliamentary panel accepts 32 amendments moved by BJP and its allies; Opposition MPs issue joint statement claiming no clause-by-clause discussion was permitted by the Chairperson; committee will meet tomorrow to finalise the report

Sobhana K. Nair

NEW DELHI

Amid the Opposition's complaint that its voice was not heard, the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill accepted 32 of the more than 500 amendments moved by the members.

With the BJP and its allies having numerical majority, all amendments moved by them were accepted in the vote at the JPC meeting, while those moved by the Opposition were rejected.

The panel will meet on Wednesday to finalise the report.

The Bill originally proposed to remove the concept of 'Waqf by user', under which properties are deemed Waqf-based solely owing to their long use for religious purposes. The move set off a massive outrage owing to the fear that it would endanger several religious structures that have been in use for generations.

Registration mandatory
Offering a concession, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's amendment, which was accepted by the panel, said the "Waqf by user" would remain Waqf properties except those in "dispute or

Key changes

Some of the amendments that were accepted to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill

- A Waqf Board can now have even four non-Muslim members instead of two mentioned in the Bill
- Existing 'Waqf by user' properties will remain so, except when they are in 'dispute or are government facilities'. 'Waqf by user' refers to a property that may or may not have record proving it to be Waqf but has been used for religious purposes. However, the amendment makes it clear that such existing properties must be registered before the new law comes into force
- While the Bill states that only a person practising Islam for at least five years may declare a Waqf, an amendment adds that such a person should be showing or demonstrating that he or she is practising the religion for five years



Discussion time: Waqf Bill panel Chairperson Jagdambika Pal and committee members leave after the conclusion of a meeting in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

government facilities". However, the amendment made it clear that such existing properties must be registered before the new law came into force, the sources said.

Among the amendments adopted include the decision to do away with vesting any inquiry into disputes over a government property with the District Collector concerned. The amendment proposed by BJP MP Brij Lal said the "State government may, by notification, designate an officer above the rank of Collector" to carry out an inquiry, as per law. This provision was also questioned by Muslim bodies, which had pointed

out that the Collector, who was also head of the revenue records, could not be an impartial judge to such disputes.

One of the biggest objections was on including non-Muslims to the Waqf Board. The accepted amendment ignores this concern. One of the changes accepted by the panel said "two total members of the Board appointed under this sub-section, excluding ex-officio members, shall be non-Muslim". The phrase "excluding ex-officio members" did not feature in the Bill. This, as per sources, will allow the Board to have even four non-Muslim members instead of two.

With the Bill making it mandatory on every Waqf registered under the existing law to declare the property's details on its website within a period of six months from the proposed Act coming into force, another cleared amendment will now give the "Mutawalli (caretaker)" the authority to extend the period, subject to the consent of the Waqf tribunal in the State. An amendment proposed by BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal and accepted by the committee seeks inclusion of one person having knowledge of Muslim law and jurisprudence given to the minorities are being defeated," the statement read.

clauses, specifically seeking to delete 28 of these to restore the law to the 1995 principal Act. The Opposition had moved amendments against the institution of separate Waqf Boards for Aghakhani and Bohra sects. They also moved an amendment to remove clause 9 that allows inclusion of two non-Muslim members to the Central Waqf Council. All the 11 Opposition MPs moved an amendment to remove clause 40, which seeks to delete the provision that allows non-Muslims to also donate property to Waqf, from the original Act.

In a joint statement, 11 panel members from the Opposition said they were "stopped from placing their views on the amendment" and that no clause-by-clause discussion was permitted by the chairman. They further said that 95% of the stakeholders who deposed before the panel opposed the Bill.

In a "grave departure" from the established rules, the Opposition said, the minutes of the sittings held in Delhi and other places were not supplied to the members. "...our sincere efforts to protect the constitutional assurances given to the minorities are being defeated," the statement read.

Indonesian naval delegation visits BrahMos office in Delhi, apprised of weapon system

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid negotiations between India and Indonesia for the sale of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile systems, the Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy, Admiral Muhammad Ali, visited BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd. here on Monday and "exchanged ideas and insights on further strengthening bilateral cooperation in the area of defence and strategy".

The company said on the social media platform X that the visiting delegation, headed by Admiral Ali, interacted with Jai-teerth R. Joshi, CEO and MD of BrahMos, and other



The Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, with Indonesian Navy chief Admiral Muhammed Ali in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

senior officials of the joint venture enterprise.

"The delegation was apprised of supersonic BrahMos weapon system and its formidable capabilities. During their interaction,

the two sides exchanged ideas and insights on further strengthening bilateral cooperation in the area of defence and strategy," it said.

During his visit, Admiral

Ali held bilateral interactions with Indian Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi to deepen maritime cooperation and strengthen ties between the two close maritime neighbours, the Indian Navy said in a statement.

Key points of discussion

"The key areas of discussion between the two naval leaders included advancing joint initiatives like 'Exercise Samudra Shakti', strengthening operational collaboration, and addressing shared maritime challenges, including piracy and other illegal activities at sea."

Mr. Ali visited several naval establishments, in-

cluding the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) and the Weapons and Electronics Systems and Engineering Establishment.

He is on an official visit as part of the high-level delegation accompanying Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, who was the chief guest at the Republic Day parade on Sunday.

The \$450-million deal for the BrahMos systems is in advanced stages of negotiations, and Indonesia will become the second export market of the missile system after the Philippines, which has signed a \$375-million deal in 2022 for three regiments of the anti-ship variant of the missile.

Sniper rifle among arms recovered in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A sniper rifle was among 35 weapons recovered in a series of joint operations by the security forces in Manipur since January 19.

The raids were conducted in the hills and valleys of the ethnic conflict-hit State.

A defence statement said the Army, the paramilitary Assam Rifles, and State Police personnel recovered a modified sniper rifle, five 9mm pistols, two single-barrel rifles, grenades, ammunition, and war-like stores during an operation in the Lungkhangong ridge of Bishnupur district on January 19.

The second operation by the Army, the Central Reserve Police Force, and police personnel on January 20 yielded several weapons, including a 9mm sub-machine gun, a mortar, and a grenade launcher. This operation was near the Khuga river between Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts.

On January 23, Assam Rifles personnel recovered some firearms, grenades, and ammunition from the general area of Ngamukhong Fungi Ching (Leinangangpokpi) in Thoubal district.

More weapons, ammunition, and war-like stores were recovered from an area between Zairawn and Uchatol in Jiribam district on January 23, Chandel and Imphal West districts on January 24, and Thangjao Mamang Ching in Kakching district and Sekmai in Imphal West district on January 25.

"Success could be achieved in these operations due to the seamless cooperation between the security forces and other law enforcement agencies," the statement said.

After split verdict, SC orders officials to bury pastor in designated graveyard

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Two judges on a Division Bench of the Supreme Court were on Monday unable to reach a consensus on the place of burial of a pastor in Chhattisgarh. The body has been lying in a morgue for over three weeks since his death on January 7.

The lead judge on the Bench, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, directed the authorities to permit pastor Subhas Baghel to be buried in the private agricultural land of the family at its village of Chhindawada in Maoist-hit Bastar district.

However, the *puisne* judge on the Bench, Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, did not agree with Justice Nagarathna.

Justice Sharma, in a separate opinion, directed that the burial be conduct-



ed only in the designated Christian graveyard at Karkapal, which was 25 km from Chhindawada.

Usually, a split verdict would see the Bench refer the case to the Chief Justice of India for constitution of a three-judge Bench to hear it afresh. However, Justices Nagarathna and Sharma employed the top court's extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to bring a quietus to the case.

Noting that the body

had been lying in the morgue for three weeks and deserved a dignified funeral, the Bench finally directed that the burial be held at the designated Christian graveyard in Karkapal at the earliest. The court ordered the family to be given police protection.

In her opinion, Justice Nagarathna noted that the dispute over the burial of the pastor, who belonged to the Christian community and had converted from the Mahra caste, would not have arisen had the gram panchayat allotted the community an exclusive burial ground.

'Violation of right'
Justice Nagarathna made scathing comments of how the local body's lapse in providing an exclusive burial ground for the community smacked of discrimination. It violated the

right to equality before law and equal protection by the laws. The absence of a graveyard was against the right to dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The judge noted that the panchayat's conduct amounted to a "betrayal of the sublime principles of secularism".

Justice Sharma pointed out that rights were subject to procedures established by the law. The Chhattisgarh State laws provided for designated burial/creation places.

Ramesh Baghel, the pastor's son, had approached the top court after the Chhattisgarh High Court refused his plea for burial in an area meant for Christians in the graveyard at Chhindawada. The petitioner had said his family and ancestors had been residing in the village since time immemorial.

BJP enslaving Dalits and tribal people, says Rahul

Congress holds 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' drive in Mhow, the birthplace of B.R. Ambedkar; Kharge chides ruling party leaders, says taking a dip in the Ganga for camera will not end poverty

Mehul Malpani
MHOW

A tinge of blue mixed with the traditional Congress colours in this Madhya Pradesh town on Monday, party president Mallikarjun Kharge launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, saying the duo had "committed so many sins that they will not get heaven in 100 lives".

Mr. Kharge's remarks, a direct response to Mr. Shah's statement on Bhimrao Ambedkar in the previous session of Parliament, came as he addressed the Congress's 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' rally in the birthplace of the main architect of the Constitution.

"Amit Shah said that if you take God's name as many times as you take Ambedkar's, you would go to heaven for seven lives. Modiji and Shah have committed so many sins that they will not go to heaven in 100 lives, let alone seven. Due to the people's curse, they will only get hell," he said, asking the



Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi paying tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Mhow on Monday. A.M. FARUQUI

public to fight for their survival.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi took on the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, alleging that Dalits, tribal people, backward communities, and the poor from the general category were being made slaves.

"Before the Constitution and Independence, the poor did not have any rights. Only the rulers had rights. That changed with Independence. You were given land and rights. The BJP and the RSS want an India that existed before

Independence. Try to understand that you are being made slaves once again," Mr. Gandhi said holding a small copy of the Constitution.

Mr. Gandhi said that the day the Constitution was gone, nothing would be left for the disadvantaged sections. "And this is their target," he said.

Cong. chief's comments
Mr. Kharge asked if taking a dip in the Ganga would end poverty as ruling party leaders were competing to do so for camera. The remarks came on a day when Mr. Shah and Uttar Pra-

desh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath bathed in the Ganga in Prayagraj during the Maha Kumbh.

"Will poverty end by taking a dip in the Ganga? Does it fill your stomach? I don't want to question anyone's *aastha* (faith). If anyone feels bad, I apologise," Mr. Kharge said.

The Mhow rally was the last event of the first phase of the Congress's 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' campaign that the party launched in protest against Mr. Shah's remarks in Parliament. Earlier on January 21, the first rally of the campaign was organised in Belgaum, Karnataka.

The campaign will go on in different phases organising various kinds of programmes across the country and will end on January 26, 2026.

After the rally, as Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Kharge arrived at Ambedkar's memorial to pay their respects, chants of *Jai Bhim* and other slogans could be heard from the crowd. BSP founder Kanshi Ram's sister Swaran Kaur met Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Kharge and sat on the stage with them.

BJP says Cong. chief made 'anti-Sanatan' statements

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday accused Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge of "insulting and mocking" the Hindu faith by making certain "anti-Sanatan" remarks on the Maha Kumbh, "causing great distress to millions of people in the country".

Party spokesperson Sambit Patra criticised Mr. Kharge for his comments about Union Home Minister Amit Shah participating in the Maha Kumbh. He said while there were individuals who stood with millions to preserve that faith, some in the Congress ridiculed it. "It is painful to say that while this faith is cherished across the globe, the Opposition party is dismissing Maha Kumbh and this faith," he said.

Mr. Patra said: "Mallikarjun Khargeji questioned, 'Will taking a dip in Ganga Maa eradicate poverty? Will taking a dip in Ganga make people happy and make the country run well?' Can Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and the Congress party say something like this about the faith of any other religion? Can they say that attending an Iftar party removes poverty or gives people jobs?"

Steps to replace SEBI chief vindicates our stand: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the Union government took out an advertisement to find a successor to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, the Congress on Monday said it was a vindication of the party's stand.

"This is a vindication of the INC's [Indian National Congress's] sustained, facts-based campaign that highlighted how severely compromised the present Chairperson has been," the Congress's communications chief, Jairam Ramesh, said in a post on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter).

"The Indian National



Jairam Ramesh

Congress leader said.

On Monday, the Centre initiated the process to find a successor to Ms. Buch, who was involved in an alleged conflict-of-interest row.

Her three year-term as the SEBI Chairperson ends on February 28.

Hindenburg report

Following a report last August by Hindenburg Research, the Congress has been demanding the resignation of Ms. Buch, alleging conflict of interest. The Hindenburg Research report had stated that the SEBI Chairperson and her husband had undisclosed investments in obscure offshore funds in Bermuda and Mauritius.

Bengal: protest march against Education Department heats up amid clash with police

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

Hundreds of supporters of the Students Federation of India (SFI) clashed with the police outside the State Education Department's headquarters at Bikash Bhavan in Kolkata's Salt Lake on Monday.

The SFI activists were staging a protest to express their grievances against the State Education Department and the irregularities in the recruitment of teachers in State-run schools, popularly referred to as the 'cash-for-job' school recruitment scam'.

"SFI's Bikash Bhavan Abхијана was a movement where students from different parts of the State gathered and marched to the State Education Department headquarters to submit a draft of an alternate education policy. We wanted to meet the education minister and address the gaps in the system, including the large-scale shutdown of State schools, high percentage of drop outs, and irregularities in the recruitment of teachers."

Meanwhile, Dr. Bhatia said administration of atropine was turning out to be a gamechanger. "The medication, which is an antidote for organophosphate poisoning, has a positive impact on patients," he said.



Student activists clashing with the police in Kolkata. ANI

SFI's All India Joint Secretary Srijan Bhattacharya told *The Hindu*.

He added that the protest soon became heated when the police tried barricading and stopping the protest march. Amidst a prolonged and heated scuffle, a total of around 80 protesters were put in prison vans and detained by the police, he said.

"Despite so many of the protesters being detained,

many of them still managed to enter Bikash Bhavan and sloganise to get the message across," Mr. Bhattacharya said. "Many also regrouped at Karunamoyee crossing and continued the agitation in the form of a road blockade."

However, allegations of lathi charge and manhandling of women have been raised against the police by the protesters at Bikash Bhawan.

Disqualification petitions filed against four NPP MLAs

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Manipur Congress vice-president Hareshwar Goshwami on Monday filed disqualification petitions against four MLAs of the National People's Party.

Mr. Goshwami's advocate said the pleas were filed against them for extending support to the BJP-led government in Manipur despite the NPP's national chief Conrad K. Sangma withdrawing support to the party.

No fresh case of mysterious illness reported from Rajouri in last 3 days: govt. hospital

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR



A patient from the Badhal village being taken to a hospital in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district. FILE PHOTO

mitted in December at the hospital, in which five survived, showed that those who were treated with atropine responded positively."

The senior doctor said no locals complained of ill-

ness from Badhal village in the past three days. "The condition of 11 patients admitted to the GMC, Rajouri, are stable. No new cases were reported since the affected village's habitat was

shifted to Rajouri. It seems the move has played a role," Dr. Bhatia said.

On January 22 evening, the Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, decided to relocate close contacts and high-risk contacts of affected families from Badhal village to the Nursing College and GMC, Rajouri, besides containment zones were also formed of the village.

Meanwhile, Dr. Bhatia said administration of atropine was turning out to be a gamechanger. "The medication, which is an antidote for organophosphate poisoning, has a positive impact on patients," he said.

FIR filed after Dalit MLA says he was not allowed to open building in Bihar

Amit Bhetari

PATNA

CPI(ML) legislator Gopal Ravidas has lodged a complaint accusing the local people of not allowing him to inaugurate a building of a government school because he belongs to a Scheduled Caste.

The alleged incident took place on Republic Day in the Parsa Bazaar police station limits in Bihar. Based on the complaint, the police have registered an FIR under several Sections of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

As soon as Mr. Ravidas reached Kurthal to inaugurate the building, some people reportedly started protesting.

The MLA, who represents the Phulwari Sharif constituency, alleged that the group not only used casteist remarks against him but also pushed him to the side. Due to the manhandling, he said he had to return from the spot.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Ravidas said: "I, along with my supporters, went to inaugurate the new building of the government school (higher secondary), which has been built on my recommendation. As soon as I reached there at 3 p.m., around 50 people from the dominant caste started

Inebriated Bihar headmaster held as he attempts to unfurl Tricolour

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The headmaster of a government school was arrested after he attempted to unfurl the National Flag on Republic Day in the Minaur area of north Bihar while he was drunk. A video of the incident has gone viral on social media.

In the video, the headmaster is seen admitting that "he was drunk due to helplessness..." and stating that "drinking [liquor] was important for life".

A complaint was received stating that headmaster Sanjay Kumar Singh of a government school in Dharampur East tried to unfurl the National Flag on Republic Day in a state of drunkenness. The police reached the school immediately and conducted a breathalyser test which confirmed that he had consumed alcohol and was arrested," Sujit Kumar, the Rampur-Hari police station in-charge, said.

However, before his arrest, the headmaster told villagers that he drank out of "helplessness as he has not received his salary for last five months".

"I've not even paid for midday meal for school students. I know how I'm living and running this place [school]. I'm in debt," he is seen telling people in the video.

Sundram Fasteners Limited

CIN: L35999TN1962PLC004943

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Email: investorhelpdesk@sfl.co.in | Website: www.sundram.com

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated		
		Quarter ended	Nine months ended	Quarter ended	Quarter ended	Nine months ended
31.12.2024	31.12.2024	31.12.2023	(Unaudited)	31.12.2024	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
1	Total Revenue from Operations	1,256.58	3,855.75	1,178.61	1,441.12	4,424.83
2	Net Profit for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	153.10	505.99	155.53	165.94	550.75
3	Net Profit for the period (before tax)	153.10	505.99	155.53	165.94	550.75
4	Net Profit for the period (after tax)	120.36	382.64	116.13	130.73	417.26
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	120.00	393.45	119.74	125.77	433.61
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Re 1 each fully paid up)	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01
7	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (Face value of ₹ 1/- each) (not annualised) (in ₹) (a) Basic (b) Diluted	5.73 5.73	18.21 18.21	5.53 5.53	6.21 6.21	19.74 19.74
						6.12 6.12

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the standalone and consolidated financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and on the Company's website www.sundram.com. The full financial results can also be accessed by scanning the QR Code provided below.
- The Statutory Auditors have carried out a limited review for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2024 and have issued an unmodified review report thereon.

Place : Chennai

Date : January 27, 2025



For Sundram Fasteners Limited
Suresh Krishna
Chairman

IN BRIEF



Amit Shah takes a dip at Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday visited the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh and took a dip at the Triveni Sangam. Clad in saffron and accompanied by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Mr. Shah took the dip at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati as sadhus stood around and poured holy water on him. "I am overwhelmed after taking bath in the presence of revered sadhus in 'Mahakumbh', a symbol of social harmony and goodwill at the sacred Triveni Sangam. I pray to Maa Ganga, Maa Yamuna and Maa Saraswati for everyone's well-being," the Union Minister wrote on X.

Indian Embassy rescues 67 from scam centres in Laos

The Indian Embassy in Laos has rescued 67 Indian youngsters from cyber scam centres in the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (GTSEZ) of the country. In a statement on Monday, the Indian mission maintained that the youngsters were "trafficked" and "duped" by dubious employment agencies. "Immediately after receiving their requests for help, Embassy officials responded to all of them promptly and extended assistance. A team of officials travelled to GTSEZ and worked closely with concerned Lao authorities to achieve required procedures and paperwork to enable them to travel to the Embassy in Vientiane," the Indian Embassy said.

MNS seeks commentary in Marathi on Disney+ Hotstar

The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) staged a protest on Monday at the office of Disney+ Hotstar in Mumbai, demanding that it provide commentary for cricket matches in Marathi. The party said commentary in other languages was available. Its workers led by party leader Amey Khopkar received a written assurance from the OTT platform's office that the streaming service would provide Marathi commentary for cricket matches in future. Reiterating that the party would "continue to fight for the Marathi language", Mr. Khopkar said it was disappointing to have to fight for the mother tongue while living in Maharashtra.

After 12 years, elephant found in Arunachal tiger reserve

An elephant has been camera-trapped in India's easternmost tiger reserve after 12 years, fuelling conservation hopes. Officials manning the 1,985-sq. km Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh said an adult male elephant was recorded in the Kathan region of Namdapha's northwestern part. The park's Field Director, V.K. Jawal, said elephants were known to forage in the fringe areas of the tiger reserve occasionally, but the presence of one deeper inside the forest was "momentous". A team led by Mr. Jawal and Biri Karba, Range Forest Officer, captured the male elephant on January 13.

Central team in Pune as man dies of suspected Guillain-Barre Syndrome

Solapur man is suspected to have contracted disease when he visited Pune; the number of cases of the disorder in the city has crossed 100; Rapid Response Team holds surveys in affected areas

Snehal Mutha

MUMBAI

The Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry on Monday deployed a high-level multi-disciplinary team to Pune in Maharashtra after a man suspected to have contracted the Guillain-Barre Syndrome died in Solapur district.

This may be the first death in the State suspected to have been caused by the immunological nerve disorder.

The 40-year-old man, a native of Solapur, had visited Pune, where he is suspected to have contracted the disease, health officials said. They said the number of cases of the disorder in Pune has crossed 100.

The central team will support the State health authorities in instituting public health interventions and management in view of a spurt in suspected and confirmed cases of the syn-



Health crisis: Residents standing in a queue outside the Kamla Nehru Hospital in Pune on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

drome in the city.

According to a statement, the team will comprise seven experts drawn from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Delhi, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, the Regional Office of Health & Family Welfare and the National Institute for Virology (NIV), Pune. Three experts from the NIV were already supporting the local authorities; the team has now been expanded.

According to the Pune Municipal Corporation

(PMC) officials, the State's Rapid Response Team visited the affected areas and conducted surveys.

Corporation survey

The survey included 2,55,578 houses – 1,57,611 in the Pune Municipal Corporation, 37,719 in the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), and 60,998 in rural Pune. It identified 146 patients with acute diarrhoea and dysentery.

Authorities from the Water Supply Department sent 183 water samples for testing, of which 182 were found to be potable and one was not. The Health Department also sent 21 water samples for testing, of which three were found to be potable and three were not. Reports on 15 samples are pending.

According to State Health Department officials, the National Institute of Virology in Pune tested 23 blood samples and 73 stool samples. All blood samples tested negative for Zika, dengue, and chikungunya, but 12 stool samples tested positive for Norovirus. Three stool samples tested positive for *Campylobacter jejuni*. Nine tested negative for the bacteria, and reports on 39 samples are pending.

State Health Minister Prakashrao Abitkar, who held a review meeting over the syndrome at Vidhan Bhavan, advised people not to panic as the recovery rate for GBS is high.

Cruel attempts to throttle MGNREGS must end: Congress

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi government's cruel attempts to throttle the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) must end, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said in a statement on Monday.



Jairam Ramesh

Pointing out that the scheme continues to be the only lifeline for crores of India's poorest families, Mr. Ramesh demanded that in the upcoming Union Budget, the linkage of MGNREGS wages to Aadhaar-based payment systems not be made mandatory. The Congress also demanded that the wages be increased with the goal of arriving at ₹400 a day as the national minimum wage.

"One of the earliest indications of Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi's uncaring attitude and shortsightedness was his mockery of MGNREGS on the floor of Parliament in 2015," Mr. Ramesh said. In the years since, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the MGNREGS conclusively demonstrated its utility as one of the few social security interventions that the government could execute, he said. As a share of the GDP, allocations to MGNREGS had been reduced to 0.26% in 2024-25, Mr. Ramesh said, adding that the World Bank recommended at least 1.7% of the GDP should be allocated to this programme.

He said a Standing Committee had to be established to evaluate the need for changes in the wage rate. Mr. Ramesh said the Aadhaar Payments Bridge System (APBS) must not be made mandatory. He also put forward the

Centre asks airlines to fly more Kumbh Mela services

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Amid complaints of skyrocketing airfares by pilgrims headed to the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, the Civil Aviation Ministry on Monday said airlines had been advised to add more flights for them.

In a press statement, the Ministry said 81 more flights were introduced in January, taking the total to 132. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation had asked airlines to add more flights during *Shahi Snan* on January 29 and February 3, and other key dates.

The Ministry said Akasa Air would fly from Ahmedabad to Prayagraj on January 28 and 29, and operate nine flights from Ahmedabad and 12 from Bengaluru. SpiceJet will connect Delhi, Chennai, Guwahati, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Jaipur and Hyderabad to Prayagraj in February.

Expert panel clears plan to rebuild washed away Teesta dam in Sikkim

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Fourteen months after a devastating glacier lake outburst flood in Sikkim washed away the Teesta-3 dam, the State's biggest hydropower project, killing at least 100, an expert committee of the Environment Ministry has recommended that the dam be reconstructed.

Instead of the older structure that was part rock and part concrete, the new dam will be entirely concrete – reportedly to increase its strength – and its spillway will be capable of managing a peak flow of 19,946 cubic metres a second (cumecs), thrice the capacity of the former dam, which was 7,000 cumecs. The project developer, Sikkim Urja Ltd. (SUL), has also been asked to implement an early-warning system in the upper catchment.

A major cause for the "overtopping" (dam breach) was that the flood



Expensive work: The additional costs of restoring the dam is estimated to be ₹4,189 crore. FILE PHOTO

gates could not be opened in time and this led to a deluge of water, debris and muck. "Had this been possible, even the previous rock-concrete dam would have survived. There would have been flooding, but it couldn't have been this bad," an official told *The Hindu*. He said there was no proposal to abandon the project in the aftermath of the accident.

The cost factor

A pure concrete and concrete-rock structure had its own inherent advantages, but "cost" also played a significant part, the person added.

The new design incorporated a "worst-case scenario" – meaning the maximum possible rain in the upstream glacier lake, modelled by the India Meteorological Department, in the South Lhonak region over the next 100 years influencing further downstream modifications.

"To enhance the safety of the personnel working during project operations, SUL has plans to shift the dam control room to a

CISF trashes man's claim of watch theft at Delhi airport

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

After a Gurugram-based doctor took to X to complain about his Apple watch being stolen at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, the CISF rubbished his claims, saying CCTV footage showed that the man strapped the watch on his wrist after completing security check.

Orthopaedic surgeon Tushar Mehta wrote a detailed post on X on January 25, alleging that a person walked away with his Apple watch at the airport after security screening before he nabbed him. He had also identified the alleged thief as belonging to a minority community.

"The review of the CCTV has contradicted the sequence of events. After security check, you were seen wearing your watch and heading for boarding gate," the CISF said.

FAITH

Tyagaraja's guidance

No other composer is celebrated to the extent that Tyagaraja is nor is any other composer's aradhana observed across the world by generations of musicians as well as other ordinary people seeking the way to God. Tyagaraja is the guide who shows everyone the path to attain God is through faith in Rama and by chanting Rama nama, said Suchithra Balasubramanian in a discourse.

Tyagaraja did not recommend elaborate rituals and ceremonies in order to experience God. Rather, he simplified everything by highlighting the impermanence of temporal goals. Leading a simple, austere and disciplined life, he became a Rama bhakta at an early age.

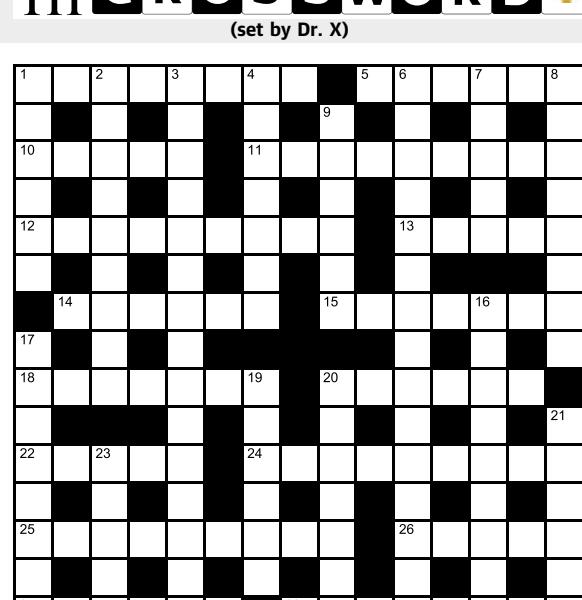
Hailing from the Telugu Brahmin sect of Mulakanadu of the Kakarla vamsa, he was born in Tiruvarur, (the land of mukti) and named as Tyagaraja, after the presiding deity of the temple there. When the family shifted to Tiruvaiyaru, Tyagaraja continued to flourish, endowed with knowledge of Rama through his father's discourses and through his nuanced understanding of music.

When he was barely 18, a sage who arrived from Kanchipuram asked Tyagaraja to recite Rama's name 96 crore times, reciting 1,25,000 namas every day. Lord Rama appeared to him many times during this penance, sometimes appearing to him after the poet completed chanting one crore nama.

In one pallavi, Tyagaraja sings, "Nee daya radhu" (why are you not coming), but by the time he sang the anupallavi, he says, "Ra, ra... rajeera Raghuvara putra," recording his vision of Rama.

Tyagaraja was also a recipient of Narada's grace.

TH CROSSWORD + 14393



Across

- 1 Praise master taking care of boy (8)
- 5 Grooved with stud on vacation capturing heart (6)
- 10 Finishing stroke of a letter in new fliers, not large (5)
- 11 Waste money in bars? Certainly not! (2,2,5)
- 12 Songstress changed tune in track (9)
- 13 A little upset with son breaking heart, remove your name from mailing list briefly (5)

Down

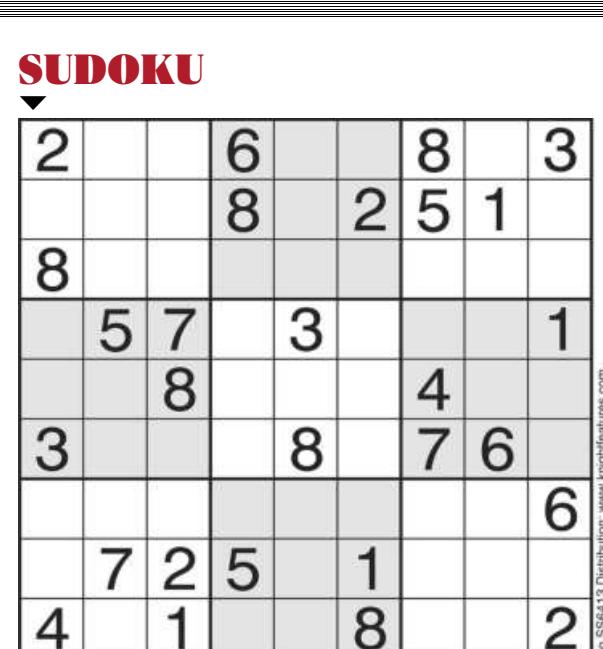
- 1 Bag grabbed by gangster close to unsafe French region (6)
- 2 Smoke surrounding container under ancient city's arch (9)
- 3 Chewing fingernail with teeth is harmful (4-11)
- 4 Seduce young socialite with endless desire, having drunk heartily (7)
- 6 Problem about old computers failing to meet required standards (4,2,7)
- 7 Wins revolutionary fight, conserving energy (5)
- 8 Defies, disregards conservative boss - dicey move (8)
- 9 Ready with ring, kiss date inside (2,4)
- 16 Fashion designer's posh outfit finally picked up by delivery man (9)
- 17 Astronauts frantically escape, having bit of malfunction close to moon (8)
- 19 One enthralled by course of a meal, almost perfect (6)
- 20 Oily liquid damaged coolers (7)
- 21 Proverbs by a sage, perhaps inspiring daughter (6)
- 23 Recurrent lumps of pale yellow colour (5)

SCAN TO PLAY



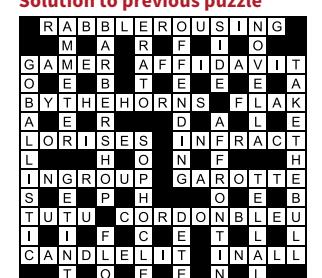
To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site.
<https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn>

SUDOKU

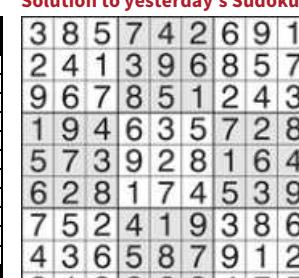


DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



No SS6413 Distribution: www.knightfeathers.com

M ND-NDE

INBRIEF



RBI chief tells banks to build robust systems against frauds

Flagging the rising digital frauds, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Monday urged banks to put in place robust and proactive systems to curb such misdoings as well as enhance their oversight of third-party service providers to mitigate the risks. Mr. Malhotra, along with his deputies M. Rajeshwar Rao, T. Rabi Sankar and Swaminathan J., met MDs and CEOs of public and private sector banks here on Monday. The meeting was also attended by RBI's executive directors in charge of regulation and supervision. PTI

Canara Bank posts 12% increase in Q3 net profit

Canara Bank on Monday reported 12.25% year-on-year growth in third-quarter net profit to ₹4,104 crore. Operating profit grew 15.15% to ₹7,837 crore. Domestic deposits stood at ₹12,57,426 crore, a 7.76% YoY increase. Domestic advances (gross) grew 9.55% to ₹9,87,591 crore. The quarter saw gross NPAs at 3.34%, an improvement by 105 bps, while net NPA improved by 43 bps at 0.89%. Global business stood at ₹24,19,171 crore, a growth of 9.30%.

Coal India Q3 net profit slides 17% to ₹8,491 crore

Coal India Ltd. (CIL) reported a 17% decline in its consolidated net profit at ₹8,491 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2024, as compared with ₹10,292 crore in the year-earlier period. Sales income for the quarter dropped 2% to ₹32,359 crore from ₹33,011 crore in the year-earlier period. The board has announced a second interim dividend of ₹5.60 per equity share and January 31, 2025 has been fixed as the record date.

Tata Steel Q3 PAT falls 43% to ₹295 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

T.V. Narendran

Tata Steel Ltd. reported a 43% decline in third-quarter consolidated net profit to ₹295 crore compared with ₹522 crore in the year-earlier period.

Consolidated sales income dropped 3% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹54,231 crore.

On a standalone basis, the company's net profit for the quarter declined 17% to ₹3,879 crore from ₹4,699 crore in the year-ago period. Standalone sales income fell 6% YoY to ₹32,306 crore.

"The global operating landscape continues to be shaped by geopolitics and continued economic slowdown in key regions. Steel exports from China, which averaged 9 million tonnes per month in 2024, dampened steel prices globally including in India," said

Sundram Fasteners Q3 net almost flat at ₹130.73 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sundram Fasteners Ltd. reported third quarter consolidated net profit of ₹130.73 crore as against ₹129.44 crore during the same period last year.

Consolidated revenue from operations rose 5% YoY to ₹1,441.12 crore from ₹1,367.25 crore.

On a standalone basis, the company recorded a net profit of ₹120.36 crore for the quarter as against ₹116.13 crore in the year-ago period, up 3%, it said.

IOC's Q3 PAT plunges 77%, with a 3% decline in revenues

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. reported third quarter consolidated net profit plunged 77% to ₹2,115 crore from ₹9,030 crore in the year-earlier period. Consolidated revenue from operations dropped 3% year on year to 2,19,522 crore.

On a standalone basis, the company's net profit for the quarter declined 64% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹2,874 crore from ₹8,063 crore last year.

Standalone revenue

SEBI: Govt. kicks off hunt for Madhabi Puri Buch successor

Department of Economic Affairs invites candidates with "high integrity, eminence and reputation" to lead the stock market regulator forward after Ms. Buch's tenure comes to an end next month

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday initiated the process to find a successor for market regulator SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch, who was involved in an alleged conflict of interest row.

The three-year term of Ms. Buch as Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairperson ends on February 28.

The Department of Economic Affairs under the Finance Ministry said the appointment would be for five years or till the candi-



Madhabi Puri Buch

date attains 65 years of age. Last date to file applications is February 17.

"The chairman should be a person who does not and will not have any such financial or other interests that are likely to affect prejudicially his function as

the chairman," the advertisement said. As per the advertisement issued on Monday, the candidate should have "high integrity, eminence and reputation preferably above 50 years with more than 25 years of professional experience". The candidate is also required to have a "shown capacity in dealing with problems relating to securities markets, or has special knowledge or experience of law, finance, economics, accountancy" which in the opinion of the central government shall be useful to the board".

Although, Ms. Buch-

made significant strides in areas like faster settlements in equities, enhanced FPI disclosures and increasing mutual fund penetration, the last year of her tenure saw heightened controversy, when she battled a series of allegations by short-seller Hindenburg and the Congress party, while simultaneously dealing with in-house employee protests against "toxic work culture".

The new SEBI chairperson will receive a pay equivalent to a secretary to the Government of India, the advertisement said.

Stocks tumble to a seven-month low

Reuters

Indian shares slid more than 1% on Monday, with the benchmark Nifty 50 and Sensex indexes finishing at seven-month lows, as a swathe of lacklustre earnings reports fuelled fears that a slowdown in corporate profits would continue.

The Nifty 50 fell 1.14% to end at 22,829.15, while the

BSE Sensex shed 1.08% to close at 75,366.17.

Small-cap stocks sank 3.8%, while mid-caps lost 2.75%, both posting their worst session in two weeks. All 13 major sectors logged losses.

Among the companies reporting earnings, IDFC First Bank fell about 9% after posting a lower quarterly profit, hurt by souring microfinance loans

RBI moves to ease liquidity crunch

Reuters

The RBI on Monday announced a host of measures to inject liquidity in the banking system, including bond purchases and dollar/rupee swaps.

The Reserve Bank of India will buy government bonds worth 600 billion rupees (\$6.96 billion) in three tranches and con-

duct a 56-day variable rate repo auction worth 500 billion rupees on Feb. 7, it said in a release.

It will also conduct a USD/INR buy/sell swap auction of \$5 billion for a tenor of six months on Jan. 31, the RBI said.

India's banking system liquidity deficit had widened to a one-year peak in the previous fortnight.

Wheels India Q3 net profit surges 79% to ₹22.57 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

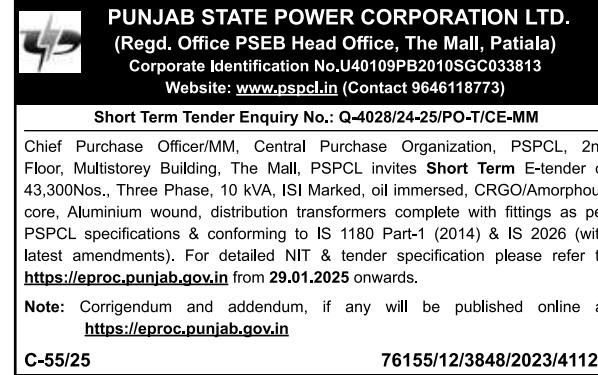
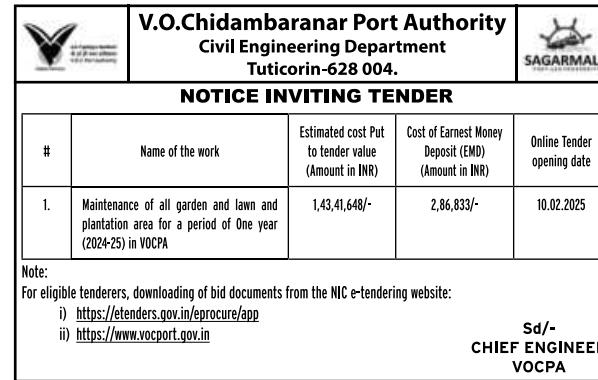
Wheels India Ltd. third quarter net profit surged 79% to ₹22.57 crore compared with ₹12.58 crore in the year-earlier period.

During the quarter, the company reported revenue of ₹1,058 crore as compared with ₹1,131 crore in the same period last year, down 6%. The board approved an interim dividend of ₹4.50 per share.

Srivats Ram, MD, Wheels India Ltd., said, "In terms of the strong profit growth in Q3, we continued to be benefited by lower raw material prices, favourable product mix and productivity and cost improvements."

"We expect the domestic demand to improve in the CV wheel segment in Q4. While our exports have fallen this year due to cyclicality in off-road product ranges, we hope to grow our exports in the coming year, through new product programmes," he added.

Executive director and chief financial officer Koushik Chatterjee said that Tata Steel's group liquidity position remained strong at ₹28,219 crore, with cash and cash equivalents of ₹13,119 crore.



HC proposes mediation in Lodha brothers' case

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	75,366	75,366	-1.08	
US Dollar	86.31	86.31	-0.10	
Gold	83,000	83,000	-0.12	
Brent oil	77.25	77.25	-	

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 27

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.14	86.46
Euro	90.56	90.90
British Pound	107.74	108.15
Japanese Yen (100)	55.96	56.17
Chinese Yuan	11.88	11.93
Swiss Franc	96.01	96.37
Singapore Dollar	64.13	64.38
Canadian Dollar	60.02	60.25
Malaysian Ringgit	19.66	19.75
Australian Dollar	54.27	54.48

Source: Indian Bank

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	2259.70	-55.40
Adani Ports	1082.00	-12.15
Apollo Hosp.	6695.45	-49.60
Asian Paints	2251.50	-10.90
Axis Bank	948.10	-0.40
Bajaj Auto	8384.60	-16.90
Bajaj FinServ	1711.60	-17.10
Bajaj Finance	7295.45	-143.15
Bharat Elec.	262.95	-7.20
Bharti Airtel	1602.60	-42.20
BPCL	261.30	-2.50
Britannia Ind.	1716.25	-74.70
Cipla	1396.10	-15.30
Coal India	375.75	-7.30
Dr Reddy's Lab.	1197.65	-26.75
Eicher Motors	5144.50	-61.80
Grasim Ind.	2458.05	-32.70
HCL Tech	1711.95	-80.90
HDFC Bank	1629.80	-20.00
HDFC Life	610.20	-10.90
Hero MotoCorp	4015.95	-35.95
Hindalco	586.90	-20.00
Hindu Unilever	2329.85	-24.75
ICICI Bank	1227.95	-18.75
IndusInd Bank	926.45	-24.35
Infosys	1822.00	-53.45
ITC	440.10	-1.50
JSR Steel	913.35	-13.10
Kotak Bank	1881.40	-4.80
L&T	3457.65	-0.55
M&M	2831.60	30.20
Maurti Suzuki	1193.85	-25.95
NestleIndia	2174.75	-33.15
NTPC	322.20	-1.45
ONGC	250.78	-5.73
PowerGrid Corp	287.00	-8.85
Reliance Ind.	1229.35	-16.95
SBI Life	1424.40	-16.00
State Bank	749.20	5.05
Shriram Finance	511.65	-15.80
Sun Pharma	1786.85	-35.35
Tata Consumer Products	965.80	-26.55
Tata Motors	713.05	-21.05
Tata Steel	126.37	-3.37
TCS	4065.15	-87.20
Tech Mahindra	1653.90	-69.15
Titan	3319.35	-82.80
Trent Ltd.	5412.60	-77.85
UltraTech Cement	11239.50	-46.35
Wipro	307.95	-12.15

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600),
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl.gov@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616
No.KMSCL/ED/100/20

COLOMBO

Mahinda Rajapaksa's son banned from leaving Sri Lanka in graft case



The son of Sri Lanka's former President Mahinda Rajapaksa was banned from leaving the island nation following his arrest for alleged money laundering. The case against Yoshitha Rajapaksa dates back years, but has received renewed impetus since President Anura Kumara Dissanayake won a landslide election victory. AFP

DOHA

Taliban envoy warns Rubio over threat of bounties against leaders



Taliban's envoy to Qatar Suhail Shaheen warned U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio against making threats after the latter said he would place bounties on Afghanistan's rulers for their detention of U.S. nationals. Mr. Shaheen said it was the regime's policy to resolve issues through dialogue, as he fired a warning shot at Mr. Rubio. AP

BRUSSELS

EU to agree easing sanctions on Syria imposed during Assad-era



EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said she expected the bloc to agree to begin easing sanctions on Syria after the ouster of Bashar al-Assad. The bloc imposed sanctions on the Assad government and Syria's economy during its civil war. The latest announcement came at a meeting of EU Foreign Ministers in Brussels on Monday. AFP

BEIJING

'Extremely unlikely' that COVID-19 came from lab leak, says China



China said it was "extremely unlikely" COVID-19 came from a laboratory, after the U.S.'s CIA said it believed the virus had more likely come from a lab rather than natural transmission. Beijing said the conclusion was arrived at by China-WHO joint expert team based on field visits to relevant laboratories in Wuhan. AFP

Gazans return to war-torn north as Israel lifts closure

Hamas calls the return 'a victory for our people, and a declaration of failure and defeat for the occupation'; opening was delayed for 2 days following disagreement between Israel and Hamas

Associated Press
GAZA CITY

Tens of thousands of Palestinians streamed into the most heavily destroyed part of the Gaza Strip on Monday as Israel lifted its closure of the north for the first time since the early weeks of the 15-month war with Hamas in accordance with a fragile ceasefire.

Massive crowds of people walking with their belongings stretched along a main road running next to the coast in a stunning reversal of the mass exodus from the north at the start of the war that many Palestinians had feared Israel would make permanent.

Palestinians who have been sheltering in squalid tent camps and schools



Reverse exodus: Displaced Gazans walk towards Gaza City after crossing the Netzarim corridor from the southern Gaza Strip. AFP

turned-shelters for over a year are eager to return to their homes – even though they have likely been damaged or destroyed.

Yasmin Abu Amshah, a mother of three, said she walked 6 km to reach her home in Gaza City, where she found it damaged but

still habitable. She also saw her younger sister for the first time in over a year.

"It was a long trip, but a happy one," she said. "The most important thing is that we returned."

Many saw their return as an act of steadfastness after Israel's military cam-

paign, which was launched in response to the Hamas militant group's October 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel. The return was also seen as a repudiation of U.S. President Donald Trump's suggestion that large numbers of Palestinians be resettled in Egypt and Jordan.

The opening was delayed for two days over a dispute between Hamas and Israel, which said the militant group changed the order of the hostages it released in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners. Mediators resolved the dispute overnight.

Hamas said the return was "a victory for our people, and a declaration of failure and defeat for the (Israeli) occupation and transfer plans."

Trump's border czar defends raids on schools, churches as officials target Chicago

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump's border czar on Sunday defended raiding churches and schools as part of a crackdown on illegal immigration, while six federal agencies launched a sweep aimed at "potentially dangerous criminal aliens" in Chicago.

Mr. Trump began his second term last Monday with a flurry of executive actions aimed at overhauling U.S. immigration.

His administration quickly moved to ramp up deportations, including by relaxing rules governing enforcement actions at "sensitive" locations such as schools, churches and workplaces.

Asked about the rule change, Tom Homan, who was tapped to oversee Mr.



Trump's hard-line immigration agenda, said on Sunday it sends a clear message.

"There's consequences of entering the country illegally. If we don't show there's consequences, you are never going to fix the border problem," Mr. Homan, who is also the former head of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), told ABC News's *This Week*

programme.

Mr. Homan was speaking from Chicago, a Democratic stronghold and a "sanctuary city" for migrants that Mr. Homan has viewed as "ground zero" of the deportation push.

Religious leaders

On Thursday, leaders of three Catholic organisations blasted the rule change that allows raids on churches and schools, saying in a joint statement that "turning places of care, healing and solace into places of fear and uncertainty... will not make our communities safer."

When pressed on the Catholic opposition, Mr. Homan stood firm.

"We are enforcing laws Congress enacted and the President signed. If they don't like it, change the law."

Colombia ready to take back citizens: White House

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The White House said on Sunday that Colombia backed down and agreed to accept repatriated citizens on military flights, after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened major sanctions. There was no immediate confirmation from Colombia.

Colombia has agreed to "unrestricted acceptance of all illegal aliens from Colombia returned from the U.S., including on U.S. military aircraft," a White House statement said.

Colombian President Gustavo Petro, a leftist, had infuriated Mr. Trump by refusing to accept military planes of Colombians deported from the U.S. He had earlier said he would take back migrants but "with dignity," including on civilian planes.

M23 rebels backed by Rwanda claim Goma, a key city in Congo

Associated Press
GOMA

Rwanda-backed rebels captured eastern Congo's largest city, Goma, on Monday, as the UN described a mass panic among its 2 million people and Congo's government said the rebel advance was a "declaration of war."

The M23 rebels announced the city's capture in a statement minutes before a 48-hour deadline expired that had been imposed by the group for the Congolese Army to surrender their weapons.

In a statement, the militants urged residents to re-

Congo government calls the the latest capture of Goma a declaration of war by the M23 group

main calm.

The M23 rebels' offensive in the heart of the mineral-rich region threatens to dramatically worsen one of Africa's longest wars and further displace civilians. According to UN, over a third of the population of North Kivu province where Goma is located are currently displaced and the capture of Goma will likely exacerbate the situation.

UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD
(A Central University established in 1974 by an Act of Parliament)
P.O. Central University, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500 046, Telangana.
Employment Notification No. UH/Recrt. /Teaching/2025-01 Dated : 20.01.2025
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION FOR FACULTY POSITIONS

The University invites applications from eligible candidates for Teaching positions (Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor).
Last date for submission of online application: 20/02/2025
Last date for receiving of hardcopy of application by post/courier is 24/02/2025.
For complete details, visit: <https://uohyd.ac.in/teaching-guest-faculty/>
Link for submitting online application: <https://curec.samarth.ac.in/>
Place: Hyderabad, Date: 24/01/2025

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E-TENDER
DESIGN, BUILD, TESTING, COMMISSIONING AND DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE CUM WORK BOAT (2 Nos.)
E-Tender Id : 2025_KMRL_728346_1
Last date of submission: 06.03.2025 UPTO 5:00 PM
(ONLINE SUBMISSION ONLY ON TENDER PORTAL)
Tender documents can be downloaded from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in / www.kochimetrol.org
Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on website

THE NATIONAL SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Corporate Identification No. U74140DL1955GOI002481
Advt. No. NSIC/HR/14/2025

The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (The premier Mini-Ratna Government of India Enterprise under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) invites applications from Professionals with suitable domain expertise to be engaged as Consultants (Part-time) in various fields and Lead – Procurement (Full-time) on contract basis in the Corporation and/or its subsidiaries. Interested candidates may visit Career Section of NSIC website www.nsic.co.in for further details. Any further notification, information, corrigendum/addendum/updates regarding Advertisement No. NSIC/HR/14/2025 will only be published on NSIC website.

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)
BESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for the Enquiry No.: BESCOM/2024-25/EU/WORK_INDENT314 for "Maintenance of LT AB Cable Network of Ramanagara Circle area, BRAZ, BESCOM for a period of One Year under Total Turnkey Basis".
Bid Documents available: 28.01.2025. Last date for Bid Submission: 27.02.2025, 17:00 Hrs. Opening of Bid Document: 28.02.2025, 17:15 Hrs.
The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprocelp.com.
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इंडियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002
Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL – SUPPLY, IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TRADE FINANCE CUSTOMER PORTAL FOR THE BANK
BID NO: GEM/2025/B/5860308 DATED: 23.01.2025
The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites www.iob.in & www.gem.gov.in For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website www.gem.gov.in

इंडियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002
Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL – SUPPLY, IMPLEMENTATION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS OF CENTRALIZED LOG MANAGEMENT SOLUTION (CLMS)
BID NO: GEM/2025/B/5860935 DATED: 23.01.2025
The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites www.iob.in & www.gem.gov.in For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website www.gem.gov.in

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, KBK-I, MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION No.- 01 ACE KBK-I MIC / 2024-25

1. Name of the Inviting Officer	Additional Chief Engineer, KBK-I, MI Circle, Bhawanipatna.
2. Name of the Work	Construction of Canal Lining of different Minor Irrigation Projects In Nabarangpur & Umerkot Block of Nabarangpur District under the Scheme "Mukhya Mantri Canal Lining Yojana" (MMCY).
3. No of Works	02 (Two) Nos.
4. Tender Amount	139.15 to 202.69 lakhs.
5. Period of Completion	11 (Eleven) Months
6. Date & Time of Availability of BID Document in the Portal for online Bidding	From 11.00 hrs. Dt.29.01.2025 to 17.00 hrs Dt.07.02.2025
7. Last date & time of receipt of Bids in the portal	17.00 hrs Dt.07.02.2025
8. Last Date & Time for Clarification up to	17.00 hrs. Dt.07.02.2025
9. Date of Opening of Technical Bid	11.00 hrs. onwards Dt.10.02.2025.

The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website : <http://dowrissa.gov.in>
Name & Address of the OIT : Additional Chief Engineer, KBK-I, MI Circle, Bhawanipatna Dist : Kalahandi, PIN-766001, E-Mail : sekkm1@yahoo.co.in

Further details can be seen from the E-Procurement market place : "<http://tenderorissa.gov.in>". * Subsequent Corrigendum/addendum if required shall be available in the above portal.
* The tender inviting authority reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Additional Chief Engineer, KBK-I M.I.Circle, Bhawanipatna. OIPR-32435/11/0001/2425

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'. The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short Description of the Immovable Property

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004.

SI. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 1371/2022)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	Present Sy.No.8, (old Sy.No. 09 and 8/1) PID No. 91-61-08, Good will residence, Cokborn Road, Bengaluru BBMP ward No. 91, measuring 766 sq.ft. Title: Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/N5PUABG15my2eYV8 Latitude and Longitude : 12°59'36.2"N 77°36'20.6"E	47,30,000/-	4,73,000/-	48,000/-
Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction	
27th February 2025, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visvesvariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	28th February 2025, 11 am to 5 pm	3rd March 2025, Before 5pm	4th March 2025, 11 am to 1 pm	
For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visvesvariah Towers				

SOLID SUPPORT

I don't think the runs have dried up: Kotak bats for Suryakumar



India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak said Suryakumar Yadav's form is not a concern. "There will be a time when batters get out because they are playing fearless cricket. He is playing for the team and that is what he is telling the other batters. I don't think the runs have dried up," said Kotak on Monday.

GO FOR IT

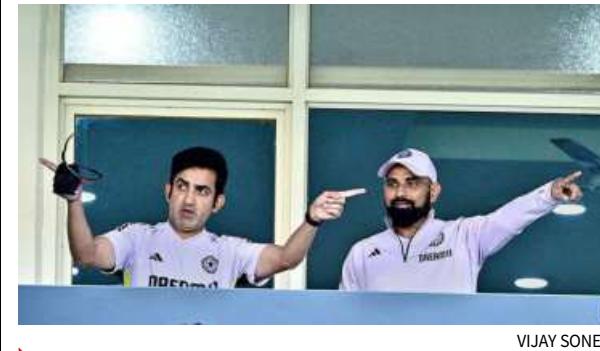
We'll just be trying to take wickets: Wood on England's strategy



Pacer Mark Wood emphasised England's strategy of going for wickets rather than trying to control the flow of runs. "We'll just be trying to take wickets. I don't think (Brendon) McCullum wants us to worry about the runs too much... he's all about how we can impact the game that way," Wood said on the eve of the third T20I.

GOOD NEWS

Shami is fit, but Gambhir and Suryakumar will take a call: Kotak



Mohammed Shami's non-inclusion for the first two T20Is had created doubts about his fitness. Kotak ended the speculation, saying: "Shami is fit. I am not the one who can answer why he is playing or not. That is something coach Gautam (Gambhir) and Suryakumar (Yadav) will take a call on."

TOO STRONG

Lopez excels as Barcelona steamrollers Valencia



Barcelona snapped its four-match winless streak in LaLiga with an emphatic 7-1 victory over Valencia on Sunday with Fermín López (second from left) scoring an impressive double and adding two assists. In the Premier League, a late strike from Lisandro Martínez earned Manchester United a much-needed 1-0 victory at Fulham.

Kotak looking forward to working with Rohit, Kohli

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
RAJKOT

Sitanshu Kotak was added to the Indian support staff as batting coach ahead of the England T20Is after the team's dismal show with the willow in Australia.

The inability of the India batters, including seniors Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, to adjust to the conditions Down Under was a major point of discussion.

Kotak, however, is not worried about the sudden nature of the call-up and is looking forward to working with the veterans and guiding the youngsters.

"Rohit and Virat are very senior players. The amount of cricket they have played and the way they have performed, it would not be unfair to say there might be a lot of things for me to learn from them. That is the way this game goes," said Kotak at the media interaction ahead of the third T20I at the Niranjan Shah Stadium here.

When asked if he has anything specific to convey to Rohit and Kohli, Kotak added: "If they are in a mindset to take any inputs, yes, I would have certain things in my mind and I will say it, but it has to be at the right time and they should feel that they are ready for that."

Run feast on the cards as the Men in Blue look to seal series

The visitor goes in with an unchanged side while Suryakumar's men hold their cards close to their chest about the final XI

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
RAJKOT

Different strokes for different folks!

Tuesday's third T20I will reveal whether India or England got its tactics right as a high-scoring encounter beckons at the Niranjan Shah Stadium.

While the Men in Blue found success with their deep batting line-up and a spin-heavy bowling attack, the visitor's decision to back its pace battery struck out in the first two matches.

England, however, remains committed to its strategy and has gone with an unchanged XI for the do-or-die battle. India, as expected, has held its cards close to its chest.

The conundrum in front of skipper Suryakumar Yadav will be Mohammed Shami's return to international cricket.

While the think-tank will welcome the veteran pacer getting more overs under his belt ahead of the Champions Trophy, India will be wary of tinkering with a winning combination and losing sight of the immediate task at hand –



Hoping for an encore: Last match's heroes Bishnoi and Tilak will be keen to continue the good work. VIJAY SONEJI

taking an unassailable 3-0 lead in the series.

Varun Chakaravarthy & Co. set up a modest run chase in Kolkata as the touring willow-wielders found it difficult to pick the Indian tweakers. The game's fate was sealed in the first innings as England's 132 was hunted down in 12.5 overs with opener Abhishek Sharma (79, 34b) firing on all cylinders.

The Englishmen, though, had their moments in Chennai. The heroics of Jos Buttler (45, 30b) and Brydon Carse (31 off 17 balls & three for 29)

were not enough as England let go of a golden chance to draw level. India was reeling at 78 for five in pursuit of 166 and it took a sensational knock from Tilak Varma (72 no., 55b) for the host to get past the finish line.

India's batters will have to sharpen up quickly as the England bowlers are not far from getting into their groove.

Buttler's one-man show with the bat (113 runs) is a cause for concern for England. The openers did not touch double digits in their two outings and will be hoping that the flat track

and short boundaries here will turn their fortunes.

Harry Brook – who was castled by Varun twice in a row – did not look at his best as he sweated it out against the net bowlers on the eve of the match.

The England vice-captain will be keen on finding better timing come match-day. A glance at the mammoth totals amassed in the recent ODI series between the Women in Blue and Ireland here is further proof that the contest will revolve around which team can outpunch the other.

An evening full of sixes is a safe bet.

The teams (from): India:

Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Axar Patel (vice-capt.), Sanju Samson (wk), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Shami, Varun Chakaravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Shivam Dube and Ramandeep Singh.

England XI: Jos Buttler (Capt.), Harry Brook (vice-capt.), Phil Salt, Ben Duckett, Liam Livingstone, Jamie Smith, Jamie Overton, Brydon Carse, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid and Mark Wood.

Match officials:

Umpires: K.N. Ananthapadmanabhan and Rohan Pandit; **Third umpire:** Nitin Menon; **Match referee:** Jagat Srinath.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

ICC Awards: Bumrah, Smriti bag top honours



Double delight: Bumrah was named men's Test Cricketer of the Year, while Smriti took the title in the women's ODI format. GETTY IMAGES, PTI

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was chosen for the men's Test Cricketer of the Year, while opener Smriti Mandhana bagged the honour in the women's ODI format as the Indian players dominated the International Cricket Council individual awards on Monday. Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai clinched the Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year award.

Bumrah was a standout performer in the last 12 months in which he dominated all opposition teams, grabbing 71 wickets from a mere 13 matches at a stunning average of 14.92.

Bumrah bowled a phenomenal 357 overs in Test cricket in the cycle, maintaining a strike-rate of just 30.1.

Bumrah, who was instrumental in India's home series victories over England and Bangladesh, was the fourth Indian bowler to

take 70 or more wickets in a calendar year after Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble and R. Ashwin.

"I am really happy to win the Test Cricketer of the Year award. This format is always close to my heart. The last year was really special," Bumrah was quoted as saying in an ICC release.

Smriti brought greater joy to the Indian fans as she was named the Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year. She earlier featured in the women's T20 International and ODI Team of the Year.

The India vice-captain, who was the ICC women's Cricketer of the Year in 2018 and 2022, racked up 747 runs in 13 innings in 2024.

"I thank the ICC for this honour. I was happy to contribute to the team. I would like to thank my coaches and family for all the support and, most importantly, the teammates who have been with me through all the ups and downs," Smriti told the ICC.

Dockier's day out as Tigers book semifinal spot

Aashin Prasad
ROURKEA

Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers pulled off a last-gasp 2-1 win over Delhi SG Pipers to become the first team to qualify for the Hockey India League (HIL) semifinal here at the Birsingh Munda Hockey Stadium on Monday.

Pipers, out of the semifinal race, held on for a major part after Tomas Domene fired a reverse hit into the roof of the net.

But as has been the theme with Pipers, who had lost five times after taking the lead this season, they were undone again in the final five minutes.

Tigers' persistence paid off when they won their third short corner in the 55th minute when a variation allowed skipper Rupinder Pal Singh the time and space to place his drag flick low into the corner.

With less than 120 seconds left, Gursukh Singh surged into the circle and relayed the ball to Sébastien Dockier, who diverted the ball home and sent the Tigers into a frenzy.

In the second game of the evening, a masterclass

Over 9500 athletes to be in action at the National Games



Telling blow: Dockier exults with teammates after netting the winner. M. VEDHAN

from Harmanpreet Singh set up a 5-2 comeback win for JSW Soorma Hockey Club over Vedanta Kalinga Lancers to move into third in the standings.

In their final game, Lancers threw everything at Soorma but came up short. They went ahead in the fifth minute through Dilpreet Singh as he reverse hit the ball into the net with as many as nine Soorma players in the circle.

After withstanding multiple forays, Soorma drew level after Harmanpreet, who found himself in space near the halfway line, slid a piercing pass along the ground for Prabhjot Singh to deflect the ball in.

The results:

Bengal Tigers 2 (Rupinder 55, Dockier 59) bt Delhi Pipers 1 (Domene 27).

Soorma HC 5 (Prabhjot 26, Harmanpreet 32 & 54, Keenan 33, Maninder 51) bt Kalinga Lancers 3 (Dilpreet 5, Brinkman 44, Gursahibjit 56).

Stan Rayan
DEHRADUN

For someone from the warm South, it's very cold out here in Dehradun. With such weather, one wondered how the swimmers would manage life during their competition in the 38th National Games which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will officially inaugurate here on Tuesday.

Olympian Srihari Nataraj, one of the top names in the sport, is yet to test the waters at Haldwani – some 270km from Dehradun – where swimming begins on Wednesday.

"I'm here in Delhi, waiting for my flight to Dehradun so I'm not sure about the weather there," said Srihari on Monday evening.

"I'll be competing in 10 events, five individual and five relays."

But Monal Chokshi, the Swimming Federation of India's general secretary, said the weather would not be a problem.

"That doesn't look like it because the temperature

control system is working well, right now the water temperature is 24-25 degrees," said Chokshi.

Basketball will start on Tuesday at the impressive hall in the Maharana Pratap Sports College complex, the Games main venue, and the female hoopsters from Kerala appeared confident.

"We're probably the favourite," said international R. Sreekala, the captain of Kerala which finished runner-up at the recent Nationals. A few years ago, whenever the National Games hit the headlines it mainly used to be to announce a postponement. After 2015 in Kerala, the Games' next edition was in 2022 in Gujarat. But now, we have the third Games in four years.

"That is something to be happy about, now we are looking how to time the National Games better," P.T. Usha, the IOA president, told *The Hindu*.

Usha said the current edition, which runs till February 14, has attracted over 9500 athletes in 35 disciplines.

Colaco's strike wins it for Mohun Bagan



Making the difference: Colaco takes off his jersey after his stunner. PTI

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant tightened its grip on top of the standings as it beat Bengaluru FC by a solitary goal in the ISL at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Monday.

Liston Colaco's spectacular volley in the second half made the difference. Bagan registered its 12th win of the tournament to tally 40 points from 18 matches and opened up a seven-point lead over second-placed FC Goa, which has played a match less.

Bengaluru has 28 points from 18 matches and remains in third spot.

Bengaluru controlled the pace of the action for a greater part of the opening session with captain Sunil

Chhetri having two good opportunities. The first chance for Chhetri came in the 18th minute when he tried a shot on the turn just to see his effort going inches wide.

Chhetri had another fine opportunity in the first half injury-time but failed to hit the target yet again.

The Bengaluru defence maintained its shape and held off the Bagan attacks which were relatively few in numbers.

But a breakaway move by Bagan in the 74th minute ended Bengaluru's fight when Colaco came up with a fantastic finish from just outside the box.

The result: Mohun Bagan SG 1 (Liston Colaco 74) bt Bengaluru FC 0.

Uzbek GM refuses to shake hands with Vaishali

Press Trust of India
WIJK AAN ZEE

Grandmaster Nodirbek Yaqubboev's refusal to shake hands with R. Vaishali stirred up a controversy at the Tata Steel chess tournament before the Uzbek apoligised. Yaqubboev posted a lengthy response on social media. "With all due respect to women, I want to inform everyone that I do not touch other women for religious reasons," wrote Yaqubboev, a practising Muslim. Vaishali did not offer her hand after beating the Uzbek player in the fourth round earlier in the tournament.

Praggnanandhaa played out a solid draw with D. Gukesh in round eight.

The results (eighth round):
Masters: R. Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 5.5) drew with D. Gukesh (Ind, 5.5); P. Harikrishna (4) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 3.5); Leon Luke Mendonca (Ind, 2.5) drew with Arjun Erigaisi (Ind, 2) drew with Alexey Sarana (Srb, 4.5).
Challengers: Arthur Pijpers (Ned) drew with R. Vaishali (Ind, 4.5); Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 1.5) lost to Nogerbek Kazybek (Kaz, 5).

IN BRIEF



Goa too good for Nagaland, emerges Plate champion

Goa beat Nagaland by 362 runs in the Plate final of the Ranji Trophy at Sovima on Monday. Goa's Snehal Kauthankar (63 & 202 n.o.) was the Player-of-the-Match and Player-of-the-Series (949 runs overall).

The scores: Goa 276 & 517/7 decl. bt Nagaland 216 & 215 in 69.3 overs (Hem Chetri 54, Darshan Misal 5/48).

Parthsarthy overcomes fifth seed Shaivi

Parthsarthy Mundhe fought her way past fifth seed Shaivi Dalal 7-6(5), 3-6, 6-2 in the girls first round of the ITF junior tennis tournament at the Indore Tennis Club in Indore on Monday.

The results (first round): Boys: Samarth Sahita bt Mannan Agarwal 6-0, 6-3; saurish Modi bt Aahaan Mishra 7-6(5), 2-6, 7-6(1); Kanishk Khathuria bt Om Verma 6-1, 6-3; Vishal Vasudev bt Om Patel 6-3, 6-1; Shrivet Shrifule bt Mahit Meikala 6-0, 4-6, 6-4; Aum Thakkar bt Vyom Shah 1-6, 6-4, 6-4; Aditya Mor bt Ayaan Choudhary 6-2, 6-2; Vivan Bidasaria bt Arnav Harshankar 6-2, 6-1; Adhiraj Thakur bt Abhinav 6-2, 6-0; Praneel Sharma bt Aarush Bhalla 6-0, 6-0.

Girls: Aahan Abt Aradhya Verma 7-5, 6-3; Anvi Punaganti bt Shreenu Chowdhury 6-3, 6-3; Pehal Kharadkar bt Apara Khandare 6-1, 6-3; Aahida Singh bt Disha Kumar 6-4, 6-2; Nandini Kansal bt Anushka Bholia 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; Parthsarthy Mundhe bt Shaivi Dalal 7-6(5), 3-6, 6-2; Prachi Malik bt Swasti Singh 7-5, 6-1; Jaya Kapoor bt Saanvi Misra 6-0, 6-1; Saiyette Varadkar bt Reet arora 6-4, 6-4; Aakruti Soonkusare bt Insiyah Mhowwala 6-3, 6-0; Harshini Nagaraj bt tanishca Bhatnagar 6-4 (retd.).

Elena Prindankina edges out Ankita Raina

Seventh seed Elena Prindankina overcame stiff resistance from Ankita Raina for a 6-7(6), 6-4, 6-3 victory in the first round of the NECC \$60,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at the Deccan Gymkhana, Pune, on Monday.

The qualifying event was also a hard nut to crack for the Indian players, as Zeel Desai, the only Indian to progress into the second round, was beaten by fourth seed Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan for the loss of three games. Three Indian players in the main draw, Sahaja Yamalapalli, Shravalli Bhamidipaty and Vaishnavi Adkar, will play qualifiers Naho Sato of Japan, Alana Smith of USA and Daria Kudashova respectively.

The results: First round: Panna Udvady (Hun) bt Priska Nugroho (Inda) 6-3, 6-4; Anastasia Tikhonova bt Linda Fruhvirtova (Cze) 0-6, 7-5, 4-6; Yuriko Miyazaki (GBR) bt Dalila Jakupovic (Slo) 7-6(3), 6-4; Eminia Bektas (USA) bt Mei Yamaguchi (Jpn) 6-2, 6-1; Tatiana Prozorova bt Vaidehi Chaudhari 6-3, 6-3; Elena Prindankina bt Ankita Raina 6-7(6), 6-4, 6-3; Lina Glushko (Isr) bt Petra Marcinko (Cro) 7-5, 1-0 (retired).

LIVE TELECAST

U-19 T20 Women's T20 World Cup: Hotstar, 8 a.m.; India vs Scotland, 12 p.m.

I-League: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 & 3.30 p.m.

India vs England: 3rd T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.

Hockey: HIL, DD Sports, Sony Sports 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.15 p.m.

Prithvi wins Australian Deaf tennis c'ship again



Prithvi with his reward.

"We won one match in super tie-break in doubles and lost two other matches in super tie-break. Doubles was round-robin format and we finished third," recalled Prithvi.

The results (final):

Prithvi Sekhar bt Oliver Grave (Fra) 6-3, 6-1. **Semifinals:** Prithvi bt Mariano Kegi (Slo) 2-6, 6-3, 7-6(6).

Quarterfinals: Prithvi bt Marco Carretta (Ita) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

Sports Bureau

NEW DELHI

Prithvi Sekar repeated his performance of winning the Australian Open deaf tennis championship as he beat Oliver Grave of France 6-3, 6-1 in the final at the Melbourne Park on Sunday.

"I am thrilled to win this event once again. The competition was a lot tougher this time," he said from Melbourne.

He gave credit to Anirudh Chandrasekar for the training he had with him for three days before the championship that particularly helped him get used to tackling a left-hander.

Prithvi's quarterfinal opponent was his doubles partner Marco Carretta of Italy, and thus it was a long drawn affair spanning two hours and 20 minutes.

Truth triumphs in the Qutab Shahi Million

RACING

HYDERABAD: Trainer S. Sreekant's ward Truth, ridden by Kuldeep Singh Sr., won the Qutab Shahi Million, the chief event of Monday's (Jan. 27) races.

The winner is owned by Mr. N.V. Rohin Kumar & Mr. G.K. Keshavamurthy.

1. SAROORNAGAR PLATE (DIV. II)

(1,200m): FORTUNE ART (G. Naresh) 1, Glimmer Of Hope (Gaurav) 2, Subhprak (Deepak) 3 and My Brother (R.S. Jodha) 4. 3-1/4, 6 and 3-1/2, Im, 14.5is. ₹31 (w), 13, 11 and 35 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 92, SHW: 12 and 10, FP: 86, Q: 35, Tanala: 708. Favourite: Glimmer Of Hope.

Owner: Mr. Narendra V. Shah. Trainer: N. Rawal.

2. SAROORNAGAR PLATE (DIV. II)

(1,200m): HAWK WING (Neeraj Rawal) 1, Country's Maximus (H.M. Akshay) 2, Deccan Ranger (Uday Kiran) 3 and Sadiva (Deepak) 4. 1-3/5s, ₹12 (w), 10, 15 and 21 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 58, SHW: 10 and 30, FP: 36, Q: 29, Tanala: 213. Favourite: Hawk Wing.

Owners: Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy & Mr. Kempegowda D.N. Trainer: N. Rawal.

3. KAMAREDDY CUP (1,800M): FE

DERER (P. Ajeth Kumar) 1, Black Dust (P. Sai KO) 2, Caraxes (Mukesh) 3 and Skyward

(Gaurav) 4. 3/4, 1 and 3. 1m, 56.15ss. ₹319 (w), 65, 17 and 33 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 47, SHW: 22, FP: 77, Tanala: 364, Tanala: 10, 551. Favourite: Black Dust.

Owners: M/S. Shaik Asif, Thota V.N.S. Prasad, Rajendra Babu Mathena, Pampalapati Srikrishna Rao, T. Rakesh Reddy & Yeram Srikrishnareddy. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

4. VEGAVATHI CUP (1,600M): CHINA TOWN (P. Ajeth Kumar) 1,

Ampere's Touch (Neeraj) 2, Sun Dancer (Afroz K) 3 and Just Incredible (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. Not run:

Yesterday. Neck, 2 and 1. 1m, 38.90s. ₹63 (w), 26, 33 and 107 (p). SHP: 93, THP: 253, SHW: 45 and 28, FP: 1,136, Q: 410, Tanala: 23,135. Favourite: Shah Of Iran.

Owner: Mr. Suresh Chintamaneni. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

5. JANGA PLATE (1,200M): EX

CLUSIVE BLACK (Md. Ismail) 1, Star Forever (G. Naresh) 2, Warwick (P. Ajeth K) 3 and Calista Girl (Gaurav) 4. Short Head, 2 and Head. Im, 11.89s. ₹409 (w), 28, 15, 36.22s, ₹55 (w), 15, 12 and 10 (p). SHP: 51, THP: 50, SHW: 20 and 42, FP: 264, Q: 141, Tanala: 954. Favourite: Champion Way.

Owners: Mr. N.V. Rohin Kumar & Mr. G.K. Keshavamurthy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

6. ROCK HEAVEN PLATE (1,400M): LAST WISH (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Huntingdon (Saglaine) 2, Hugh Capet (Akshay) 3 and Black Dust (P. Sai KO) 2, Caraxes (Mukesh) 3 and Skyward

(Gaurav) 4. 3/4, 1 and 3. 1m, 24, 16 and 10 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 77, SHW: 42, FP: 431, Q: 119, Tanala: 895. Favourite: Huntingdon.

Owner: Mr. Suresh Chintamaneni. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

7. QUTAB SHAHI MILLION (1,600M): TRUTH (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Siddhartha (Mukesh) 2, Champions Way (Suraj Narredu) 3 and Yukan (Akshay) 4. 3-1/4, 1 and 3, Im, 36.22s, ₹55 (w), 15, 12 and 10 (p). SHP: 51, THP: 50, SHW: 20 and 42, FP: 264, Q: 141, Tanala: 954. Favourite: Champion Way.

Owners: Mr. N.V. Rohin Kumar & Mr. G.K. Keshavamurthy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

8. SAROORNAGAR PLATE (DIV. I)

(1,200m): LADY JANE (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Taaliyah (Deepak) 2, Bien Pensant (Surya Prakash) 3 and Hoping High (Shivansh) 4. Not run: Balahaka 1, 1/2 and Neck. Im, 14.68s. ₹22 (w), 12, 16 and 11 (p). SHP: 49, THP: 58, SHW: 19 and 55, FP: 117, Q: 87, Tanala: 389. Favourite: Lady Jane.

Owner: Mr. Al Murugappan. Trainer: K. Sathesh.

9. ROCK PLATE (1,400M): JACKPOT 100% (Afroz K) 1, Planet Super (3) Kuldeep Sr. 59.5, 3. Alcahol Free (2) Rafigue Sk. 58, 4. Morning Mist (5) Deepak 57.5, 5. Char Ek Char (1) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 6. Nkalanzini (8) Akshay K 55.5, 7. Golden Inizio (7) P. Sai K 53.5, 8.

Favourite: Hawk Wing.

Owner: Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy. Trainer: Robin Reddy. Kondakalla.

10. ROCK PLATE (1,400M): JACKPOT 100% (Afroz K) 1, Planet Super (3) Kuldeep Sr. 59.5, 3. Alcahol Free (2) Rafigue Sk. 58, 4. Morning Mist (5) Deepak 57.5, 5. Char Ek Char (1) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 6. Nkalanzini (8) Akshay K 55.5, 7. Golden Inizio (7) P. Sai K 53.5, 8.

Favourite: Hawk Wing.

Owner: Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy. Trainer: Robin Reddy. Kondakalla.

11. ROCK PLATE (1,400M): JACKPOT 100% (Afroz K) 1, Planet Super (3) Kuldeep Sr. 59.5, 3. Alcahol Free (2) Rafigue Sk. 58, 4. Morning Mist (5) Deepak 57.5, 5. Char Ek Char (1) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 6. Nkalanzini (8) Akshay K 55.5, 7. Golden Inizio (7) P. Sai K 53.5, 8.

Favourite: Hawk Wing.

Owner: Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy. Trainer: Robin Reddy. Kondakalla.

12. ROCK PLATE (1,400M): JACKPOT 100% (Afroz K) 1, Planet Super (3) Kuldeep Sr. 59.5, 3. Alcahol Free (2) Rafigue Sk. 58, 4. Morning Mist (5) Deepak 57.5, 5. Char Ek Char (1) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 6. Nkalanzini (8) Akshay K 55.5, 7. Golden Inizio (7) P. Sai K 53.5, 8.

Favourite: Hawk Wing.

Owner: Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy. Trainer: Robin Reddy. Kondakalla.

13. ROCK PLATE (1,400M): JACKPOT 100% (Afroz K) 1, Planet Super (3) Kuldeep Sr. 59.5, 3. Alcahol Free (2) Rafigue Sk. 58, 4. Morning Mist (5) Deepak 57.5, 5. Char Ek Char (1) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 6. Nkalanzini (8) Akshay K 55.5, 7. Golden Inizio (7) P. Sai K 53.5, 8.

Favourite: Hawk Wing.

Owner: Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy. Trainer: Robin Reddy. Kondakalla.

14. ROCK PLATE (1,400M): JACKPOT 100% (Afroz K) 1, Planet Super (3) Kuldeep Sr. 59.5, 3. Alcahol Free (2) Rafigue Sk. 58, 4. Morning Mist (5) Deepak 57.5, 5. Char Ek Char (1) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 6. Nkalanzini (8) Akshay K 55.5, 7. Golden Inizio (7) P. Sai K 53.5, 8.

Favourite: Hawk Wing.

Owner: Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy. Trainer: Robin Reddy. Kondakalla.

15. ROCK PLATE (1,400M): JACKPOT 100% (Afroz K) 1, Planet Super (3) Kuldeep Sr. 59.5, 3. Alcahol Free (2) Rafigue Sk. 58, 4. Morning Mist (5) Deepak 57.5, 5. Char Ek Char (1) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 6. Nkalanzini (8) Akshay K 55.5, 7. Golden Inizio (7) P. Sai K 53.5, 8.

Favourite: Hawk Wing.

Owner: Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy. Trainer: Robin Reddy. Kondakalla.

16. ROCK PLATE (1,400M): JACKPOT 100% (Afroz K) 1, Planet Super (3) Kuldeep Sr. 59.5, 3. Alcahol Free (2) Rafigue Sk. 58, 4. Morning Mist (5) Deepak 57.5, 5. Char Ek Char (1) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 6. Nkalanzini (8) Akshay K 55.5, 7. Golden Inizio (7) P. Sai K 53.5, 8.

Favourite: Hawk Wing.

Owner: Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy. Trainer: Robin Reddy. Kondakalla.

17. ROCK PLATE (1,400M): JACKPOT 100% (Afroz K) 1, Planet Super (3) Kuldeep Sr. 59.5, 3. Alcahol Free (2) Rafigue Sk. 58, 4. Morning Mist (5) Deepak 57.5, 5. Char Ek Char (1) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 6. Nkalanzini (8) Akshay K 55.5, 7. Golden Inizio (7) P. Sai K 53.5, 8.

Older and wiser, Axelsen overcomes physical and mental roller-coaster

While admitting to a lack of motivation since the Paris Olympics, the Dane is eager to put it all behind him and embark on a new chapter under the guidance of Gade

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

In December last, Viktor Axelsen pulled out of the BWF World Tour Finals due to a persistent foot injury. That in itself wasn't out of the ordinary, even if it was disappointing for the five-time champion and his fans.

What made bigger news was Axelsen's open critique, through social media, of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) and its rules that mandated the Dane to route his reasons for the withdrawal and supporting documents through the Danish badminton federation even though Axelsen, since 2021, has shifted his training base to Dubai. He followed it up by slamming the BWF for its 'disconnect' with players and lack of consideration for players' health, both mental and physical, citing USA's women's World No. 15 Beiwen Zhang's struggles as an example.

Axelsen should know, having battled himself on both fronts since the Paris Olympics. Winning his first title of the year and only the second since the Paris Olympics at the recently concluded India Open, the 31-year-old had repeatedly stressed his struggles in the last few months and the complete lack of preparations or expectations coming to New Delhi.

Minimal preparation

"My preparations for this tournament were close to minimal because of injuries and there were no high hopes. I have been struggling a lot, physically and mentally, but that's sport," he said.

"It has been very inconsistent, both from a mental perspective and gamewise, for me... so to play a final like this in my current state is a very positive sign. I was in my first final here 10 years ago (2015) which is crazy and to win for the third time in six finals feels great," Axelsen added.

It was a roller-coaster for the double Olympic and World champion. For someone who was almost robotic at the peak of his career, especially between the two Olympic gold medals in 2021 and 2024, Axelsen was visibly human through the course of the five matches he played in New Delhi. He had to dig deep in three of those, fighting back from being a game down or losing his way midway through before pulling himself back from the brink to find ways to stay in the competition. In the semifinals against Jonatan Christie, his longest match of the



SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

week (one hour 11 minutes) that went on till almost midnight, Axelsen squandered a five-point lead at the interval before losing the first game 17-21, constantly talking to himself and venting his frustrations including a rare display of emotions by breaking his racquet on the court, earning a reprimand from the umpire.

"There were a few parts I am definitely not proud of, emotionally, on the court. But I am a human being, I am no machine and with me, what you see is what you get," he later admitted.

Undisputed crowd favourite

But if his invincibility was awe-inspiring, his struggles have only made his fans, specially in India, warm up to him even more. Throughout the week, Axelsen was the undisputed crowd favourite among foreign players with the loudest cheers, more than even some of the Indians in action.

"Since Paris, I have had a bit of issues with injuries and that has been affecting my motivation a little, so to win this title means a lot. I have been competitive this week and I am starting to feel my motivation coming back here," he said.

It isn't unusual for a high-achieving sportsperson to start questioning his continued involvement in competitive sports, lacking motivation after having won everything on offer in his sport, and it has been no different for Axelsen.

"Actually this title feels very special. I have had to struggle a little bit post Olympics with injuries and training and motivation but this week I felt competitive out there, I dug deep in every match and found a solution. To be winning gives me a lot of motivation which I have been lacking since the Olympics."

"Now I feel like I have some work to do. I have won a title here but titles are not everything for me, I want to keep getting better and find solutions under different

circumstances and I definitely managed to do that this week," he admitted.

His struggles with finding reasons to continue playing and staying in shape to do so, perhaps, resonated with Zhang's own struggles with finances and loneliness on the tour, prompting his outburst. The Dane, who speaks fluent Mandarin and is welcomed as their own everywhere he plays, has been lucky to find support in his struggles, with compatriot and former champion Peter Gade coming on board, joining long-time coach Henrik Rhode for the upcoming season.

"PK (Rhode) had very hard work this week because mentally I have been a little bit up and down. Peter Gade coming on board and giving me motivation is a good thing for me and we will have a very good training block together soon and I am excited about that," he signed off, the swagger finally back after a week of upheaval.

THE GIST

▼ It isn't unusual for a high-achieving sportsperson to start questioning his continued involvement in competitive sports, and it has been no different for Axelsen

▼ The Dane has been lucky to find support during his struggles as compatriot and former champion Gade has come on board, joining long-time coach Rhode

Vimal urges next-gen to prioritise quality over quantity

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

After some of India's big hopes faltered at the first step of the recently concluded India Open here, former national coach U. Vimal Kumar did not pull back in his criticism of the players' mindset, which he believes is the biggest hurdle to the next generation achieving greatness.

"Indian badminton is in a good space, there is no doubt about it. But we need to get more players to get better results because whoever is playing here could have definitely done better. (HS) Prannoy, I am not sure about his health status, he is still recovering. Priyanshu (Rajawat), I thought would do well but he disappointed because I thought his whole body language seemed to say he was happy just getting there. He could have taken the third game [against Kodai Naraoka], when he had an issue he could have taken a medical break. The desire to win is found lacking," he said categorically.

Talking tough

Although he said it with a gentle smile, there was no denying the toughness in his words. "Even Malvika (Bansod) should have closed the match in the second game. Her Chinese opponent [Han Yue] also didn't have any sharpness, she is a very defensive player and Malvika could have attacked a little more but she also doesn't hit. These things are



FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

stopping our borderline players from making it to the big stage and they are all stuck up there," he shrugged.

The main reason, he believed, was the lack of sincerity in working to get to the very top and being content with middling results.

"There are some good youngsters and if they train right and choose the right tournaments, they can be there. What I'm observing at the moment is that many next [in] line players are simply running after ranking points and more and more

tournaments, getting into the Top-40 and playing these big events. But who you beat is the key. Playing too many tournaments and getting ranking is not the real reflection, you should be able to show the good players you have beaten," he explained.

Quipped. Vimal, who is a member of the BAI senior selection committee, feels both the coaches and the players need to step up and take responsibility for their performance and growth if Indian badminton hopes to get its next rung of global stars. "I think the coaches need to put this across firmly to all players and the players also have to take responsibility for their performances."

"I've seen many youngsters just looking at how they can play more and more but who you beat makes a big difference. I've seen players entering one tournament and even before they play there, they are looking at the next tournament they can play and the draw there. Instead, concentrate on doing well in the tournament, then you can worry about the next. But if you don't learn, then it would be too late, many players have lost out that way."

"But often the coaches are also scared of losing a player if they push too hard. As a coach, you can't keep giving excuses and sob stories or a pat on the back, saying 'well played, bad luck'. You have to get tough and tell the players the hard truth and if they understand, it's better for them or they can get stagnant," he explained.

Cherry-picking

Having been in the hot seat for almost two decades and being the co-founder of the famed Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy,

Vimal insisted the way out was to play better tournaments against bigger players, not more events against ordinary opponents. "It's not a question of winning. There are tough tournaments in the Far East - Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Korea - and you choose events where good players participate. Several events in Europe, Africa, etc may be good for ranking points but many good players don't play there."

The 17-19 years is the age when you beat better players [and] create upsets because that's when you are playing fearlessly and many are not doing that."

"By 20-23, you should be an established player with good wins and I am not saying you can win tournaments but you should have reached quarterfinals or semifinals and beaten some good players by then. I don't know, maybe the players don't listen to the coaches or the coaches themselves don't have an idea or a combination of both," he added.

And although he welcomed the facilities available now, he cautioned that, perhaps, things were coming a bit too easily.

"I am not saying it's wrong, the facilities should be there, it's important. But, you know, maybe the players should also realise that and have a little more hunger, take a little more responsibility for the opportunities they are provided with. That is something I find lacking," he signed off.

SCIENCE

In Odisha, coal dust is clogging leaves, blocking carbon uptake

A recent study found that plants covered in mining dust absorbed 2-3 grams less carbon per square meter, emitting more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, potentially exacerbating global warming; the dust also diminished the plants' capacity to release water vapour through transpiration

Sayantan Datta

SRI CITY

The Bengal Nagpur Railway had been tasked by the British Indian government with developing rail networks in eastern and central India. In 1900, when its workers were digging in Jharsuguda, now a district in Odisha, they stumbled upon large coal deposits. Nine years later, Jharsuguda's first coal mine was established and a century later the region was producing more than 15 million tonnes of coal in a year.

Coal is a fossil fuel produced by the decomposition of dead plants trapped in layers of soil. Around three-fourths of India's electricity is produced by coal-fired power plants. It is also critical in the iron, steel, cement, and fertiliser industries. India is one of the largest producers and consumers of coal worldwide, second only to China.

A patina of dust

In Jharsuguda, most coal mines are open-cast. Miners here start at the surface of the soil, removing soil and rocks to expose the coal deposits. This is more cost-effective than underground mining, which requires digging tunnels to access the deposits.

But open-cast mining pollutes the air more. The dust from blasting rocks, drilling holes in the ground, and transporting the coal and rock waste disperses through the air and can choke lungs when inhaled. The dust also settles on the leaves of plants nearby. When this happens, stomata – the small pores on leaves through which plants exchange carbon dioxide, water vapour, and oxygen – are clogged, affecting photosynthesis and temperature regulation in the plants.

Estimating the impact of mining dust on nearby vegetation requires researchers to collect a large number of dust-laden leaves from plants spread in the area surrounding a mine. With the dust spreading as far as 30 km away from the mining site, this is a Herculean task.

In a October 2024 study published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences*, researchers from the University of Southampton in the U.K. and the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela, reported using freely available data from several satellites to investigate how plants are affected by mining dust.

"Use of satellite data provides a great opportunity to efficiently monitor larger areas," Jadu Dash, study co-lead and University of Southampton professor of remote sensing, said.

The data suggest the dust has significant effects on the ability of vegetation to absorb carbon dioxide.

Amit Kumar Gorai, professor of mining engineering at NIT Rourkela and the other lead, added, "The study emphasises the importance of tackling dust pollution to protect vegetation and promote sustainable urban and industrial development."

Eyes in the sky

The study was performed by Avinash Kumar Ranjan, who undertook the project as a part of his doctoral research at NIT Rourkela.

He began by estimating the amount of



An open-cast coal mine in Jharkhand. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON/SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

mining dust settling on leaves in areas surrounding coal mines in Jharsuguda. To do this, he used data from two satellites, Landsat-8 and -9, and two satellite clusters, Sentinel-2 and PlanetScope. The U.S. Geological Survey and NASA launched the Landsat satellites in 2013 and 2021 while the European Space Agency launched Sentinel-2B (which supplied data for the study) in 2017 and Planet Labs launched PlanetScope in 2016-2022.

Light falling on leaves is composed of different wavelengths: we can see some (blue, green, red) but not others (e.g., infrared). The leaves absorb some of these wavelengths and reflect the rest. Like a camera snaps our photographs by capturing the visible light reflected by our bodies, satellites can capture images of an area in different wavelengths using special instruments.

When dust settles on leaves, it changes how much of a certain wavelength of light the leaves reflect. This changes the images of an area captured by a satellite for that particular wavelength.

By comparing satellite images of areas farther from the coal mines with those that were closer, the researchers could estimate the amount of dust settling on leaves.

To validate their estimates, the team also visited two sites in Jharsuguda and collected 300 leaf samples with dust on their surfaces. In their laboratory, they weighed each dusty leaf, and brushed the dust off and weighed the leaf again. The difference between the two readings yielded another estimate of the amount of dust settling on plant leaves around the coal mines.

Finally, they used statistical methods to find that the actual readings were remarkably close to those calculated from

Around three-fourths of India's electricity is produced by coal-fired power plants. Coal is also critical in the iron, steel, cement, and fertiliser industries. India is one of the largest producers and consumers of coal worldwide, second only to China

satellite data, demonstrating that satellite images could be used to estimate the amount of mining dust settling on the local flora.

Narayan Kayet, a scientist at the Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute, Bengaluru, said the strength of the study lay in "the use of data from multiple satellites, which ensures comprehensive coverage and cross-validation of results."

Mr. Kayet has previously studied the amount of mining dust settling on plants surrounding coal mines in Jharkhand. He wasn't involved in the new study.

"Incorporating measurements from the field strengthens the credibility" of estimates derived from remote-sensing data, he added.

Dusty leaf, sick plant

The researchers also used statistical models to correlate the amount of dust on leaves with vital physiological processes. For the latter, they used readings from two other space-based instruments called ECOSTRESS and MODIS. Their data can be used to compute the temperature of plants in an area and the amount of water vapour they release, both in high resolution.

The team's models suggested that plants with one gram of mining dust on their leaves absorbed "approximately 2-3

grams less carbon per square meter of area," Mr. Gorai said.

While the amount might seem small for an individual plant, "when you multiply it across large areas of forests or vegetation near mining sites, the loss of carbon absorption becomes significant over time," he added.

Apart from being important for photosynthesis in plants, carbon absorption lowers the amount of carbon dioxide in the air. But when dust clogs the stomata, the plant absorbs less carbon and leaves more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This could worsen global warming over time.

Another effect of clogged stomata is that plants become less able to exude water vapour in a process called transpiration. Plants that transpire well are able to maintain their temperature better; those that don't become warmer.

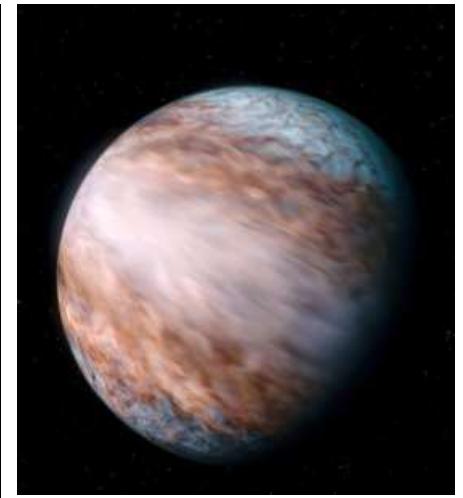
"When leaves are too hot, they struggle to photosynthesise efficiently," Mr. Gorai explained. "Over time, this can lead to stunted growth or even the death of plants." This then leads to long-term damage to local ecosystems.

Mr. Dash and Mr. Gorai also said their study provides a quick and effective way for governments to monitor dust pollution in and around coal mines, identify hotspots, and implement timely measures to prevent long-term damage to surrounding vegetation and local ecosystems.

Such measures could include water sprays and dust barriers, Mr. Dash said.

Mr. Kayet agreed: "We need stringent measures to reduce dust emissions in mining regions to mitigate vegetation stress."

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An impression of WASP-127b shows its newly discovered supersonic winds. REUTERS

Astronomers spot ferocious winds on alien planet

Reuters

In the earth's upper atmosphere, a fast-moving band of air called the jet stream blows with winds of more than 442 km per hour, but they are not the strongest in our solar system. The comparable high-altitude winds on Neptune reach about 2,000 km per hour. Those, however, are a mere breeze compared to the jet-stream winds on a planet called WASP-127b.

Astronomers have detected winds howling at about 33,000 km per hour on this large gaseous planet, located in our Milky Way galaxy approximately 520 light-years from the earth in tight orbit around a star similar to our sun.

The supersonic jet-stream winds circling WASP-127b at its equator are the fastest of their kind on any known planet.

"There is an extremely fast

WASP-127b is a type called a hot Jupiter, a gas giant that orbits very close to its host star. WASP-127b's diameter is about 30% larger than Jupiter, our solar system's largest planet

circumplanetary jet wind found on the planet. The velocity of the winds is surprisingly high," said astrophysicist Lisa Nortmann of the University of Göttingen in Germany, lead author of the study published on Tuesday in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*.

More than 5,800 planets beyond our solar system, called exoplanets, have been discovered. WASP-127b is a type called a hot Jupiter, a gas giant that orbits very close to its host star. WASP-127b's diameter is about 30% larger than Jupiter, our solar system's largest planet. But its mass is only about 16% that of Jupiter, making it one of the puffiest planets ever observed.

"WASP-127b is a gas giant planet, which means that it has no rocky or solid surface beneath its atmospheric layers. Instead, below the observed atmosphere lies gas that becomes denser and more pressurized the deeper one goes into the planet," said astrophysicist and study co-author David Cont of Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich in Germany.

It orbits its star every roughly four days at just about 5% of the distance between the earth and the sun, leaving it scorched by stellar radiation. Like our moon is to the earth, one side of WASP-127b perpetually faces its star – the day side. The other side always faces away – the night side. Its atmosphere is about 2,060 degrees Fahrenheit (1,400 degrees Kelvin/1,127 degrees Celsius), with its polar regions less hot than the rest.

Like Jupiter, WASP-127b is composed mainly of hydrogen and helium, but its atmosphere also contains traces of more complex molecules such as carbon monoxide and water, which were identified in this research.

The fact that a hot Jupiter's day side is highly irradiated is believed to be a major driver of atmospheric dynamics.

"Answering the question of what drives these intense winds is challenging, as several factors influence wind patterns in exoplanet atmospheres," Mr. Cont said.

"The primary source of energy for these winds is the intense irradiation from the host star," Mr. Cont added, but other factors also play an important role in shaping the wind patterns.

Higher atmospheric wind speeds have been detected on two other exoplanets, in winds from their day side to night side, but not in winds flowing around the entire planet.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Newly minted words for new experiences

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

A 2015 article in the journal *The Lancet* included X among the effects of climate change on humans. X is derived from the Latin for 'solace' and the Greek for 'suffering'. What is X?

QUESTION 2

What is the name given to modes of public transport whose proponents have said are futuristic but which are in reality less feasible or efficient than existing modes of transport?

QUESTION 3

In biological conservation, it is sometimes the case that efforts to

protect one endangered species lead to destruction of a different, but related, species. What is this phenomenon called?

QUESTION 4

Often, a species that lives in a city will develop adaptations to the urban environment that members of the same species living in the wild won't. What is this phenomenon called?

QUESTION 5

First-hand smoke is smoke inhaled through a burning cigarette. Second-hand smoke is smoke exhaled by a smoker plus emissions from the cigarette. What is third-hand smoke?



This English polymath coined the term 'pathetic fallacy' for when people ascribe human emotions to nonliving natural things, like when someone says 'nature abhors a vacuum'. Name him. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Please send in your answers to

science@thehindu.co.in

Answers to January 23 quiz:

1. Condition of which chromesthesia is a form – **Ans: Synaesthesia**

2. When a person sees colours in an image that aren't there – **Ans: Colour constancy**

3. Axis other colour temperature on a Krithof curve – **Ans: Illuminance**

4. Non-physical entity the opponent process offers to explain – **Ans: Impossible colours**

5. Eyes' tendency to see an image after it's been taken away – **Ans: Afterimage**

Visual: Ishihara

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Viswanadha Rao Batchu | Priya Dharmshikha

For feedback and suggestions

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